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

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 Miriel. 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 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.

NEW MOON RISING, continued on page 8

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

“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 campos buenos, 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 Arostoe 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 saraharoste.com/savor.
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 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.
People Like the Paper

Support our work by becoming a voluntary subscriber to the Berkshire Jewish Voice!

By Albert Stern / BJV Editor

A few years back, Federation conducted a survey of our community asking respondents to identify the things they valued most about this organization’s work. What came in nearly at the top was the Berkshires Jewish Voice. At the time, Margo Golos was our development director, the person who more than anyone else educated me on the ins and outs of philanthropy – the psychology of giving, the interpersonal dynamics of asking for donations, the cultivation of relationships, the communal importance of institutions, and, most meaningfully, the spiritual nature of tzedakah that underpins it all. And also, Margo was a confidante. When I had questions – about lots of stuff, work-related and well beyond work-related – Margo was someone I trusted to deliver the unvarnished truth.

So when this survey came out, I asked Margo what was going on. With all the things Federation does in this community, why did so many respondents single out the Berkshire Jewish Voice?

Margo didn’t call me a draykolef, but with the look she gave me, she didn’t have to.

“Albert,” she said, “people like the paper. That’s it. That’s the reason.”

“I said, ‘There must be some other...’

“Albert,” she interrupted. “People like the paper.”

“But it can’t really be ‘Albert! PEOPLES LIKE THE PAPER!’

Mercifully, Margo didn’t end the exchange by exclaiming “Genius shagel!” But with the look that was on her face, I had to have the Bel zero, people like the paper.

So before I get into all the reasons people had to like the paper over the last 12 months, here’s the spiel! Federation publishes this newspaper to enhance Jewish consciousness, to spread out geographically and diverse in its approach to Jewish life. We want you to know what members of the Jewish community are up to and share all the opportunities available to meet, to enjoy, and to do good work here in the Jewish Berkshires. And here’s the truthful portion of the spiel:

This publication’s revenues do not cover all its costs. Your financial help as a voluntary subscriber is essential to our efforts to bring you meaningful, positive, and entertaining stories both by and about your neighbors, as well as about Jews around the world. Your generosity as voluntary subscribers last year was phenomenal, and your support remains vital to sustaining this publication. Please see the insert in this paper for more on how you can support the Berkshire Jewish Voice.

There will be a little more spiel before the wrap-up, but first, let me share a production detail. I am a history major at Williams College) and

Dara Kaufman:
Publisher and Managing Editor

Rob Bildner and Elisa Spungen Bildner:
Honorary Publishers

Dr. Jonathan Kramer:
Honorary Publisher

Albert Stern: Editor

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

TERMS FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS:

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

$180 Sponsor

Mail check payable to:

$72 Patron

Jewish Federation of the Berkshires

$36 Friend

196 South Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201

$18 Supporter

(please add Berkshire Jewish Voice in the memo)

Please have the fee mailed to your home, please send a minimum donation of $18.

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

Next issue publication date: August 28, 2023 – October 15, 2023

Press deadline: June 29, 2023 • Advertising deadline: August 8, 2023

Berkshire Jewish Voice e-mail: stern@jewishberkshires.org

Phone: (413) 442-4300, ext. 11 Fax (413) 443-6070

Albert Stern and Z

PEOPLE LIKE THE PAPER, continued on page 5

continued on page 5
RAV 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 have, as a community and each of us as individuals, 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 Shabbat 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 destruction recorded 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 day of 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 hypercritical religion has sometimes been read as if Isaiah denounced ritual in general... But this is a complete misunderstanding 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 festivals, you might have had a point. But God said, ‘If God had said, I hate My festivals...’ If God had said, ‘I hate My festivals...’”

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 the 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, 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 and Rabbi Akiva (who lived in the 2nd century C.E.) to carry the dreams of Deuteronomy can be realized.

Yom Kippur, we each have the opportunity to begin the process of teshuva, to share responsibility for the evil in this world. Shabbat Chazon marks the beginning of the month of Elul, which is a time of preparation for Yom Kippur, that time of reflection and introspection.

To me, the challenging message of Shabbat Chazon and Tisha B’Av is: We all 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 2:158-16: When I look at the world both in terms of...  

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.

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 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.

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 Mead at (413) 442-4360, ext. 14
mmead@jewishberkshires.org

Jewish Federation of the Berkshires

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

Volunteers needed!

Looking for Ways to Get Involved?

The Future of the Jewish Community is in Your Hands.

How will you ensure the Jewish Future?

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

Jewish Federation of the Berkshires
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. Walla’s columnist Tamar Haspel
gave a delightful interview to Federation board member Richard Slutsky. We spoke to Rabbi Kendall
Pinkney about The Workshop Artist Salon, a dynamic exploration of identity by JCOSIM (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
Fra 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
People like the paper. So here is part 2 of the
owner, she writes for the BJV because she wants to write for you – a fantastic,
appeared in many national publications. A longtime Berkshire second home-
and actually apologizes if her column comes in after deadline
and downs, Carol comes through with entertaining and informative Traveling With
People like the paper. So please consider sponsoring the Berkshire Jewish Voice
and the BJV are deeply grateful.
The staff of the Federation
Kramer, honorary publishers.
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 resi-
dents, 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 inter-
views 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 must likely will not person-
ally 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 Borowitz, a participating member of Berkshire Mitzvah in Great
Barrington, is Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Adath Shalom in River Edge, N.J. 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.
Dr. Joel Friedman

“Going with the Flow: Judaism and Tai-Chi Movement,” with 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 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 tai chi chuan (Tai-Chi) are based on the same three building blocks as the Sefirot.”

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 biophysical 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 j 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 suggested donation for adults over 60 or 87 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 Tyngburn and can be reached at sjr@adelphi.edu.

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

PITTSFIELD – On Thursday, August 10 at 10:45 a.m., join singer, songwriter, guitarist, recording artist, and Jan Peerce at a 1950 recording session

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

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

October Mountain Financial Advisors is a d/b/a of St. Germain Investment Management with an office in Lee, MA. A SEC Registered Investment Advisor

The Berkshires.

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

Portfolio Management ▪ Financial Planning ▪ Trust & Banking Services*
Your Federation Presents

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 Pittsbugh 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.”

Professor Hoberman will highlight some of the inter-connected ways that Newport’s earliest Jews, from the Touro Synagogue, changed over the years, and why these stories remain important today.

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

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 1796, 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).

In part one of this series, Professor Hoberman will discuss the story of the oldest synagogue in North America, concentrating on 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?

PITTSFIELD / Av / Elul 5783 Berkshire Jewish Voice • jewishberkshires.org Page 7

Laura is 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 Lumin and 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, Cantor Hall, Museum of Jewish Art, University of Pittsburgh, describing her childhood in Colombia and 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 Jewish Education Program for children.

Laura Wetzler

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

Here to help

“Lately, it’s been hard for me to keep up with the costs of my regular shopping and stay on top of my credit card bills.”

0% for 12 months for new cardholders

www.Greylock.org/creditcards
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 Yarrow, 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, facilitator, and practitioner 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 Expansive, 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 Reggae Roots to punk icon Art 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 $825, 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.
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 Knesset 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.

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.

** SEPTEMBER
MONDAY, 4 ..........Closed for Labor Day.
THURSDAY, 7 ............Truffle macaroni & cheese, stewed tomatoes, salad, garlic bread, and apricots.
MONDAY, 11 ............Meat loaf**, rice, baby corn salad, green salad, whole wheat bread, and pineapple.
THURSDAY, 14 ..........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.

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.
JEWISH EDUCATION IN THE BERKSHIRES 2023/2024

Jewish Federation of the Berkshires has a strong commitment to Jewish education. In an increasingly pluralistic community, the Federation is committed to providing Jewish education that is accessible and meaningful to families of all backgrounds and levels of observance.

**Knesset Israel**
Pittsfield

The Knesset 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 extraor- dinary faculty. In addition to teaching skills for meaningful Jewish living, the school also incorporates a ‘hidden curriculum’ helping students learn to value and prior- itize their own involvement in Jewish community life.

Knesset 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 passion- ately egalitarian and committed to the future of the Jewish people, no student or family is ever turned away for financial reasons. Knesset 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 holi- days 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 Knesset Israel community. Some sessions incorporate activities for everyone together; others separate the groups by age to enable targeted classes for adults and chil- dren. A Back-To-School barbecue takes place on Labor Day weekend – you may register at knessetisrael.org/event. 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 Jewish Heritage Shabbat mornings begin their studies of Hebrew, prayer, mitzvot and Jewish holidays. Purposeful Play gives our youngest pupils a chance to learn creatively and expe- rientially. A team of experienced primary school educators infuse this program with joy.

**Elementary School**

Grades 3 through 6 meet twice a week, on Shabbat mornings and on Wednesday after- noons. 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 accu- rately; 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 empowers students deeply in developing the skills and enthusiasm they need for lifelong leadership of Jewish religious life. Instruction includes chanting Torah and Hafarah 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 Knesset Israel’s Hebrew School takes place during the summer months. Hebrew School education is a benefit of membership at Knesset 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) 445-8872 or rabbi- weiner@outlook.com.

**Congregation Beth Israel**

North Adams

Congregation Beth Israel of the Berkshires and Jewish Journeys Havurah (formerly known as Kesher Shalom) are innovating a regional Jewish learning program, the Jewish Journeys School. CBI is a welcoming, inclusive, and inno- vative 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 educa- tional 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 in order to familiarize themselves with Hebrew songs and melodies. During the second period students are offered a variety of electives on subjects including Jewish Environmentalism, Yiddish, 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 celebra- tions, cooking meals for the hungry, celebrating Jewish holidays and cooking tradi- tions, and more.

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 feel ownership of their Jewishness. 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@cbitherkshires.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 engage a theme, such as “wandering in the desert” through age-appropriate activities. Through biblical and biblical studies, 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 fami- lies with children who are preschool through 5th grade. Parent engagement includes...
the Jewish Parenting Book Club and other social events. All offerings occur at the Temple, with a hybrid option available, or in the community (e.g., 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 student. 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/religiousschool.

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.

(413) 528-9700

Berkshire Radon LLC

www.berkshireradon.com

Radon Testing and Mitigation

NEA & NRSA CERTIFIED

Competitive Pricing
Prompt Service
Five-Year Warranty

Radon Testing and Mitigation

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.

(413) 528-9700

Berkshire Radon LLC

www.berkshireradon.com

Radon Testing and Mitigation

NEA & NRSA CERTIFIED

Competitive Pricing
Prompt Service
Five-Year Warranty

Radon Testing and Mitigation

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.

(413) 528-9700

Berkshire Radon LLC

www.berkshireradon.com

Radon Testing and Mitigation

NEA & NRSA CERTIFIED

Competitive Pricing
Prompt Service
Five-Year Warranty

Radon Testing and Mitigation

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.

(413) 528-9700

Berkshire Radon LLC

www.berkshireradon.com

Radon Testing and Mitigation

NEA & NRSA CERTIFIED

Competitive Pricing
Prompt Service
Five-Year Warranty

Radon Testing and Mitigation

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.

(413) 528-9700

Berkshire Radon LLC

www.berkshireradon.com

Radon Testing and Mitigation

NEA & NRSA CERTIFIED

Competitive Pricing
Prompt Service
Five-Year Warranty

Radon Testing and Mitigation

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.

(413) 528-9700

Berkshire Radon LLC

www.berkshireradon.com

Radon Testing and Mitigation

NEA & NRSA CERTIFIED

Competitive Pricing
Prompt Service
Five-Year Warranty

Radon Testing and Mitigation

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.

(413) 528-9700

Berkshire Radon LLC

www.berkshireradon.com

Radon Testing and Mitigation

NEA & NRSA CERTIFIED

Competitive Pricing
Prompt Service
Five-Year Warranty

Radon Testing and Mitigation

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.

(413) 528-9700

Berkshire Radon LLC

www.berkshireradon.com

Radon Testing and Mitigation

NEA & NRSA CERTIFIED

Competitive Pricing
Prompt Service
Five-Year Warranty

Radon Testing and Mitigation

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.

(413) 528-9700

Berkshire Radon LLC

www.berkshireradon.com

Radon Testing and Mitigation

NEA & NRSA CERTIFIED

Competitive Pricing
Prompt Service
Five-Year Warranty

Radon Testing and Mitigation

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.

(413) 528-9700

Berkshire Radon LLC

www.berkshireradon.com

Radon Testing and Mitigation

NEA & NRSA CERTIFIED

Competitive Pricing
Prompt Service
Five-Year Warranty

Radon Testing and Mitigation

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.

(413) 528-9700

Berkshire Radon LLC

www.berkshireradon.com

Radon Testing and Mitigation

NEA & NRSA CERTIFIED

Competitive Pricing
Prompt Service
Five-Year Warranty

Radon Testing and Mitigation

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.

(413) 528-9700

Berkshire Radon LLC

www.berkshireradon.com

Radon Testing and Mitigation

NEA & NRSA CERTIFIED

Competitive Pricing
Prompt Service
Five-Year Warranty

Radon Testing and Mitigation

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.

(413) 528-9700

Berkshire Radon LLC

www.berkshireradon.com

Radon Testing and Mitigation

NEA & NRSA CERTIFIED

Competitive Pricing
Prompt Service
Five-Year Warranty

Radon Testing and Mitigation

You can now read and share Berkshire Jewish Voice feature stories online! Visit jewis...
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’ Learn 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: Throughout the High Holy Days, we recite the vidui, a prayer in which we confess the sins we have committed in the past year. Rectifying those sins 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; enlivening 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.

Lowes of Torah: A Cholish 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 work shop by Rabbi Vanessa Harper ‘22, Instagram innovator (#Hevrehchallah) and author of Lowes 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 Linve, 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 communal Shabbat dinner. The evening will include a discussion about Jewish
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.

Trots 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.

Prelude, find the HUC-JIR area for School of Sacred Music). During the 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.

Tanglewood. Bring a picnic and the whole family to Tanglewood for an evening of contemporary music, beginning with Havdalah led by Cantor Jill Abramson. Advance registration encouraged.

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 Salons and Writing Workshop – Sunday, July 30 at noon. Hebrew 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.

To Die in Secret, which takes place in Salem, MA, and Yonah and the Mikveh, a children’s book about mikveh, continues on page 17.

Lunch n’ Learn with Rabbi Haviva Ner-David

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 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.

Local News continues on page 17
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

---

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.)

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.

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.

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 Dana Kaufman shared our accomplishments over the last 12 months. And Judy Usow, 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 Dareen Lutwin shared a blessing for the community and its holy work; and Rabbi Aaron Fine, director of UMASS Hillel, related 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 Anti-Defamation League’s No Place for Hate and gave back to the community as a committee member.

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 Rückerbund 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 “riveted” curiosity about Edward Whitten's M Theory unitifying all consistent versions of superstring theory in physics – leave many avenues open to her in the future.
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 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 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.

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.

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 aids, and medicine to those who need it most.

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.

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.

Donate online at jewishberkshires.org Thank you for making a difference!
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 9:30 p.m.

Write 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 Renzak 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

LENNOX – 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. Attendees have responded with laughter, tears and the ‘aha’ of recognizing their own life experience in the tales told on stage. Tickets: $92, $810 for students.

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 congregational 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

LENNOX – 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 will be served.

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 Renzak, 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 Renzak. 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 Knesset 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 Knesset 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.

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

Enlivening Jewish Practice Through Mindfulness

PITTSFIELD – Rabbi Marc Margolius will be the guest speaker for a lunch- and learn following services at Knesset Israel on Saturday, August 12. He will 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.

Klezmer Concert at Knesset Israel

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

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

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)

To learn more, contact Deb at 860.824.2625.
**LOCAL NEWS, continued from page 18**

**Ramblin’ with the Rav**

Get out your hiking boots and bug spray! This summer, Rabbi David Weiner of Knesset 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: knessetsrael.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 Knesset Israel. Carpool (35 minutes) to Williamstown. 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, 3.5 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 – ch-berkshires.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@ch-berkshires.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 rabbigreenfield8@gmail.com for location 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 mantras of the kabbalists.

Call 413-445-2481 today to speak with one of our experienced advisors. rigllc.com | 45 Walker St., Lenox, MA

**Renaissance Investment Group, LLC**

**Volatility Matters**

Did you know that if your volatility is too high or if your portfolio risk is too low, then your chance of achieving your long-term goals goes down? Controlling your portfolio’s volatility is one of the key tasks for your investment manager.

At Renaissance, we can help you achieve the right portfolio balance to meet your unique goals and tolerance to risk. And our senior leaders are always available to explain the often baffling moves in the market.
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 high-lighted 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 Corryvreckan, the new, delicious (95+) Alsia 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 1908, long before there were any whisky 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

for over 30 years, writing about education, religion, and the world 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.


Joseph Berger
Israel, First Congregational Church of Congregation Ahavath Sholom, Temple Berkshire, The Berkshire Minyan, Knesset Israel, Hevreh of Southern Berkshire have been generously co-sponsored by Pittsfield's Knesset Israel on Saturday Barrington on Friday evening, at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire in Great Barrington on Saturday morning, and 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 Ansche Anshin, 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 here.

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 “Torah for Parashah 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 cbkerkshires.org/event/shabbat-messinger/.

The beautiful outdoor labyrinth at CHI 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 organization. For general information about the weekend, you may contact Rabbi Pamela Wax at pwax@bcn.net.
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 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 Newton, 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, 1979, 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 Poly cystic 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, Michali Kronick of Baltimore, MD; four great-grandchildren, Yehuda, Ari, Cohen, and Tsemila; daughter-in-law, John Kronick of Pittsfield; two nephews and one niece, James Robbins, Rick and wife Renee Robbins, and Tammy Rotz. She was preceded in death 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


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 Southwestern College in Kansas City and graduated as an engineering major from the University of Pennsylvania in 1956. 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 D.S. Grumman & Associates, and then to Je Burnis and Associates. He returned to Grumman, which became Cowen & Company and then SG-Cowen Securities Corp. He retired as managing director of SG-Cowen in 2003.

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 Altmann Weber; daughter, Meredith Weber Blistein and son-in-law, Alexander Blistein of Somerville; and brother-in-law, Dr. Lawrence K. Altmann 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 – Rads 4 Harmony.

Robert Saltz, 83, family man, teacher, swim coach, and Chadab’s shofer-blower extraordinaire

STEPHTOWN – 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, Robert and Eliza, and stepsons, Andy and Ian, and two daughters-in-law, Dawn and Vickie.

Throughout his 36-year career as a teacher and coach, Bob had a lasting impact on many of his students and swimmers who still remember the 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 the many 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

THE MONTESORRI

SCHOOL OF THE BERKSHIRES

Learning what matters.

Toddler through 8th-grade

BerkshireMontessori.org
OBITUARIES

OBITUARIES, continued from page 21

Born September 25, 1936, son of Bertie and Walter Yohelem and raised in Mount Vernon, NY, he was a track star at All 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 Nestangepower.

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. Not 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, Sox fan and, for many, held season tickets to their spring training games in Fort Myers, FL.

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 both of 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 nephews, Cara, Kate, Clara, James, Rony, Declan, and Mary Hamrick.

Burial was held on Friday, June 23, at Knesset Israel Cemetery in Pittsfield. Donations may be made to Arov 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 Civil Engineering. After working in that field for a short time, his career shifted to real estate and insurance where he 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 Andrew, sons-in-law Jonathan 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 Guttermann and Musicant, Hackensack, NJ. The family invites contributions to the Barrington Stage Company in Pittsfield at barringtonstageco.org/support/ways-to-give/.

Care for a Lifetime

The health and wellbeing of you and your family—at all ages and stages—is at the heart of CHP.

Our multiple locations and mobile health clinics make getting the care you need easy. From medical and dental to behavioral health, physical therapy, and nutrition services, we have you covered. Visit chpberkshires.org for more information.

CÉCILE MCLORIN SALVANT
ECLECTIC JAZZ VOCALIST AND VISUAL ARTIST
THU JUL 20 AT 8PM
JESSE COOK
AWARD-WINNING CANADIAN GUITARIST
SAT JUL 29 AT 8PM
BELA FLECK
PREMIER BANJO VIRTUOSO
FRI AUG 4 AT 8PM
DEVON ALLMAN
& DONAVON FRANKENREITER
WED AUG 9 AT 7:30PM
SUTTON FOSTER
TONY AWARD-WINNING ACTRESS & SINGER
SAT AUG 19 AT 8PM
ALAN CUMMING & ARI SHAPIRO
OCT 4 & 5 AT THE CONRAD CARNES
FRI OCT 27 AT 8PM
SEE ONLINE FOR MORE!
Berkshire Jewish Film Festival Continues with In-Person Screenings

The Berkshire Jewish Film Festival (BJFF) continues its in-person screenings, offering a variety of films that reflect on the experiences of Holocaust survivors and the ongoing efforts to honor their memory. The festival, running from July 17 to August 7, features a range of programs that explore different aspects of the Holocaust and its impact on survivors, as well as on the world community.

**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 was the only voices heard in the film, as they allow us a glimpse into his complex personality and personal life.

**7 p.m.**

*Shttl*  
Shttl is the story of the inhabitants of a Jewish village before it disappears.

**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. In recent years, she has been based in the United States and Europe with 46 countries (2009) and the agreement with over 40 countries on Best Practices.

**8 p.m.**

*Barbarossa*  
In one unflinching shot, this film presents a day in the life of a Jewish village before it disappears.

**July 31**

**4 p.m.**

*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线条 that loves hosting karaoke parties in his posh penthouse.*

**8 p.m.**

*Eizenstat is scheduled to speak (see BJFF Film Synopses 2023 for more information).*

The festival continues with a variety of programs that highlight the resilience and strength of Holocaust survivors. Each summer, Esther travels with her French Ultra-Orthodox family to a farm in California to harvest pomegranates for Sukkot. Trapped by the suffocating rituals of her faith, the despairing and curious Esther sees the pomegranate farm as a path to a better future. At the end of the summer, Esther finds her path.

**Information on the festival**

The Berkshire Jewish Film Festival (BJFF) offers a platform for discussions and events that honor the memory of Holocaust survivors and their experiences. The festival, running from July 17 to August 7, features a range of programs that explore different aspects of the Holocaust and its impact on survivors, as well as on the world community. The festival continues with a variety of programs that highlight the resilience and strength of Holocaust survivors. Each summer, Esther travels with her French Ultra-Orthodox family to a farm in California to harvest pomegranates for Sukkot. Trapped by the suffocating rituals of her faith, the despairing and curious Esther sees the pomegranate farm as a path to a better future. At the end of the summer, Esther finds her path.

**Information on the festival**

The Berkshire Jewish Film Festival (BJFF) offers a platform for discussions and events that honor the memory of Holocaust survivors and their experiences. The festival, running from July 17 to August 7, features a range of programs that explore different aspects of the Holocaust and its impact on survivors, as well as on the world community. The festival continues with a variety of programs that highlight the resilience and strength of Holocaust survivors. Each summer, Esther travels with her French Ultra-Orthodox family to a farm in California to harvest pomegranates for Sukkot. Trapped by the suffocating rituals of her faith, the despairing and curious Esther sees the pomegranate farm as a path to a better future. At the end of the summer, Esther finds her path.

**Information on the festival**

The Berkshire Jewish Film Festival (BJFF) offers a platform for discussions and events that honor the memory of Holocaust survivors and their experiences. The festival, running from July 17 to August 7, features a range of programs that explore different aspects of the Holocaust and its impact on survivors, as well as on the world community. The festival continues with a variety of programs that highlight the resilience and strength of Holocaust survivors. Each summer, Esther travels with her French Ultra-Orthodox family to a farm in California to harvest pomegranates for Sukkot. Trapped by the suffocating rituals of her faith, the despairing and curious Esther sees the pomegranate farm as a path to a better future. At the end of the summer, Esther finds her path.
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 build.

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. It’s not the production we’re doing. It’s the new production, with new actors, staging, and music,” she said.

Miller asserts, however, that the new production will not be a nostalgia fest. “Nostalgia – it’s very boring. It’s not the production we’re doing. It’s the new production, with new actors, staging, and music,” she said.

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 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 had looked up to. I remember when she came to Broadway, and I was a student there. I graduated in the class of ’56. Golda had always been an idol. And there was no young Jewish girl growing up then that didn’t know 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, it’s just that 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 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? It’s not 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.

This is not a revisionist take on Golda Meir. This is still the golden Golda. 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 a different place. And this is 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, you 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 Jews向往来看。Golda’s Balcony will be at Shakespeare & Company’s Elayne P. Bernstein Theatre, 708 North Street in Lenox from August 5 through August 20. Written by William Gibson and directed by Daniel Gitron. For more information and tickets, visit shakespeare.org/shows/2023/goldas-balcony/.
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

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 and support. 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 unfortunately 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, the terrifying 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 is still the same. 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 gallery.

By providing such a wealth of information, the exhibit lays bare the complexities of emigration from the US to 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 complexities and differences of the exhibit. 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 say, danger is danger; asylum is asylum; and human hearts are human hearts.

In 1950, twelve years after the Vienna psychoanalysts became strangers in a new land, Anna Freud, who had escaped with her father, gathered the emigrees 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.

Sadl, 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 home was searched and thoroughly burned 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 panelists explore a wide range of issues relating to the psychoanalysts’ story: how their refugee experience earlier in psychoanalytic practice, and how 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, as we move forward to welcome our neighbors and the many tourists who visit the Berkshires to ‘Organized Escape,’ so they can learn the fascinating history behind the emigrees’ 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.
“Immersion: Defiant Music”

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

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 where the Nazis had targeted as part of what they called their degenerate music and degenerate art policies. These polices 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 surrealistic and brutal. We look at the genesis of how these cultural policies were enacted coming into conflict with the Nazis when they rose to power.

In the second program, we actually go into cabaret and Terezín, because cabaret artists ended up in Terezín 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 as 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 racists 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 just here in the United States, but throughout the world today. 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 you have an understanding not only of 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.

“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 engage myself on the image. 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.
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. Gelîfish fish may be among the most malign dishes in the Eastern European repertoire of foods. And frankly, if you insist on eating the stuff from a jar with thaticky jelly, then yeah, the stuff deserves your disdain. But home cooks have made their own for generations (my bubbe was terrible), 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 thaticky jelly

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-preserved. Kipper is a word from the German that 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.

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 tablespoons tomato paste

DIRECTIONS:
1. Carefully place the fish filets into the pot, and spoon making sure to cover them. Whether in wine sauce, tomato sauce, or sour cream, in chinks or chopped, herring in any form is comfort food for many. I include myself among its fans, even as it makes my feet swell.

Jewish first encountered herring as early as the 1400s, courtesy of the Dutch who salted fresh fish to preserve it, then exported it to cities all across Europe. Eastern European Jews embraced it as a cheap source of protein. When they came to America, they probably the Moroccan Chraime (pronounced hray-me), 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 eat fish on Fridays. Authorities closely scrutinized the conversos, many of whom continued as crypto-Jews, practicing their Judaism secretly. The conversos figured that they could have their fish on Irev 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 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.

For the more liter-al-minded, you can’t beat the Israeli version of gelîfish fish. At my first Sukkot dinner while living on a kibbutz, I found on the plate before me an actual fish skin stuffed with ground fish, breadcrumbs, and seasonings. It was called dag mermen. In English, an actual (stuffed) fish.

For Sunday brunch, do you really want to be that person who invites guests to your house and nothing except bagels and cream cheese appears on the table? Or is that what you’re going for? For the more liter-al-minded, you can’t beat the Israeli version of gelîfish fish. At my first Sukkot dinner while living on a kibbutz, I found on the plate before me an actual fish skin stuffed with ground fish, breadcrumbs, and seasonings. It was called dag mermen. In English, an actual (stuffed) fish.

For Sunday brunch, do you really want to be that person who invites guests to your house and nothing except bagels and cream cheese appears on the table? Or is that what you’re going for? 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. Gelîfish fish may be among the most malign dishes in the Eastern European repertoire of foods. And frankly, if you insist on eating the stuff from a jar with thaticky jelly, then yeah, the stuff deserves your disdain. But home cooks have made their own for generations (my bubbe was terrible), 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 thaticky jelly

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-preserved. Kipper is a word from the German that 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.

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 lb of cans 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 mingled 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 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 Goodwin, Pirate Ships and Shouting Niños is written in rhyme, and its lively starans 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.
The Torah in the Tarot: Hidden Secrets of the Crypto-Jews

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 Abraham, Abraham – notice how the figure's hands are held in a way that resembles the letter 'Aleph.' On the table are the tools of circumcision, which Abraham underwent at the age of 99. In his left hand, he holds a... oh, 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 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?

That's really funny about that absence is that a lot of Jewish people played a central role in the creation of contemporary tarot culture. [Scientific fiction and comic book writer] Rachel Pollack, was a very famous writer who popularized and reimagined tarot in a book titled "The Tarot in the Tarot," which is a classic of its type, 78 Degrees Of Wisdom. Stuart Kaplan from US Games was central to the popularization of tarot cards, which means 'parade' – yet somehow Judaism is never mentioned in the conversation. There's no connection between tarot and Judaism, which is really weird.

I believe there was kind of a community of people 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 why. The second thing is that the number of tarot cards was 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 'trump' cards, which means 'parade' [and from which the word 'trump' is derived]. So the idea was that you could have a miniaature 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 'tarot' cards, and then they started being called 'Tarot de Marseille.' Nobody really knows why. The other is that the number of picture cards became standardized to 22. That standardization of the number 22 and the name 'tarot' 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 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 Judaeic 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 Eliphas Levi. He came up with this new mystical tradition 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. Levi 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 soteriarchies, they were 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 Eliphas Levi 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 knew 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?

The Doctrine and Ritual of High Magic