

Berkshire JEWISH VOICE

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

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jewishberkshires.org

Community Gathering in Commemoration of October 7



PITTSFIELD – On Thursday, October 9 at 7:30 p.m., join the Berkshire Jewish community and our special guest, Israeli singer-songwriter Micha Biton, for an evening of stories and images from those directly impacted by the October 7, 2023 terror attack.

Music, poetry, and prayer will help soothe our souls and remind us of the resilient spirit of Israel and Israelis. A candle lighting will provide a moment to mourn, honor survivors and heroes, and fill our hearts with strength and hope for the future.

This commemoration will take place at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield.

About Micha Biton and *Waiting for a Miracle*

Singer-songwriter Micha Biton is a pioneer in the ethnic-rock genre of Israeli music. He performs for sold-out concerts in Israel's most popular venues and has traveled the world to share his music, both solo and with his band.

On October 7, 2023, Hamas terrorists attacked his home, Moshav Netiv Ha'asara, which is close to the border with Gaza. Micha and 11 members of his family hid in their shelter for 13 hours, until they could escape. They were evacuated to Tel Aviv; one of the few items that Micha could take with him was his guitar. He learned that 20 of his friends and neighbors had been murdered in the attack.

Micha realized that he and his family were lucky to be alive – and blessed – and he realized that playing his guitar and singing his music helped him to heal. In October 2024, he released his album *Waiting For a Miracle*, which is a musical reflection on his thoughts and reactions to the events of October 7 and after.

Advance registration is requested. Appropriate security measures will be in place. A livestream of the event will be available at knessetisrael.org/livestream

This evening is presented by the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, Congregation Ahavath Sholom, Congregation Beth Israel, Knesset Israel, Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, Temple Anshe Amunim, Chabad of the Berkshires, Berkshire Hills Hadassah, and the Berkshire Minyan.

Celebrating Jewish Plays at Shakespeare & Company

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OF STAGED READINGS

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of the Berkshires**

LENOX – From Friday, October 10 through Sunday, October 12, Shakespeare & Company presents “Celebrating Jewish Plays: An Immersive Weekend of Staged Readings.” This is the first-ever series of its type for the venerable

theater group, and will feature readings of notable Jewish plays from the past and present, as well as one currently in development.

Shakespeare & Company will present the two Sunday readings in partnership with Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. Register and purchase tickets through the Shakespeare & Company website: shakespeare.org. Readings will be presented at the Elayne P. Bernstein Theatre and the Tina Packer Playhouse. See ad on page 14 for more info.

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Sunday Program

The Sisters Rosensweig, by Wendy Wasserstein at 2 p.m. This much-admired 1992 play tells the story of Sara, a representative for a major Hong Kong bank who lives in London and is about to turn 54 years old. Her sisters, Gorgeous Teitelbaum and Pfeni Rosensweig, arrive to help celebrate the birthday. Gorgeous is Dr. Gorgeous with a radio-advice program; Pfeni is a world traveler.

JEWISH PLAYS,
continued on page 6

New Year 5786

Federation wishes all a good and sweet New Year 5786!

From our friends and partners at the Mishkan Museum of Art in Kibbutz Ein Harod, Israel, this is “New Year, Old Us” by artist Noa Ironi (oil on canvas, 2024).

Currently on display in “Tish: Shabbat Tablescapes,”

curated by Dvora Liss. “The Mishkan Museum wishes a Shana Tova to the entire Berkshires community. May

it be a year of creativity, healing

and peace for all of us.” To learn more about new exhibits at the Mishkan and its social impact, visit www.museumeinharod.org.il/en.



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\$50,000

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CHALLENGE**

**DONATE TODAY AND
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Thanks to generous donors, all gifts to the Annual Community Campaign from now through October 15th will be matched, dollar for dollar, up to \$50,000!

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MA Special Commission on Combating Antisemitism Votes to Adopt Preliminary K-12 Findings and Recommendations



From Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey: “Antisemitism in any form is unacceptable. As a state, Massachusetts is committed to doing everything we can to address antisemitism. That starts in our schools. If we want to combat antisemitism and protect the members of our Jewish community, it starts with educating our children, building a better understanding of the Jewish experience, and making it clear that antisemitism has no place in Massachusetts.”

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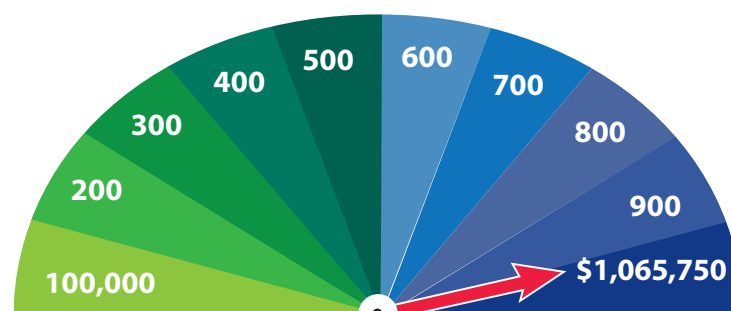
If you have not yet made your gift to the 2025 Annual Campaign there is still time to do so.

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

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OP-ED

IN MY VIEW

The MA Special Commission on Combatting Antisemitism’s Work Continues...

...but its momentum depends on legislative support and our community’s outreach

By Dara Kaufman / Executive Director, Jewish Federation of the Berkshires



As we approach the High Holy Days, a time for reflection and renewal, I want to share an exciting update on efforts to combat antisemitism in our Massachusetts schools, and also highlight two opportunities for you to make a meaningful impact in our community.

On August 7, the Massachusetts Special Commission on Combatting Antisemitism held its most significant meeting in a series of hearings that have drawn on public input, expert testimony, and months of rigorous discussions. After careful deliberations and feedback, the Commission formally approved final recommendations on combating antisemitism in K-12 education.

The commission members, representing members of the legislature, Jewish communal representatives and professionals from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), the Commission of Higher Education, the Mass. Superintendents Association, the Attorney General’s Office, the Mass. Commission Against Discrimination, the Mass. Municipal Association, and the associations of Police Chiefs and District, voted 18-0 to endorse systemic changes that will help combat antisemitism, bias, and hate in our schools.

This vote is a critical step toward establishing standardized protocols for preventing and responding to antisemitic incidents. It lays a foundation for ongoing collaboration and accountability between state agencies, schools, and the community partners who will need to implement them.

One of the most encouraging signs of this progress was the support from Massachusetts’ new Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), Pedro Martinez, who expressed appreciation for these recommendations when he spoke to the commission prior to the vote. He highlighted DESE’s commitment to allocating additional resources to combat antisemitism and societal bias, including at least one dedicated staff position to oversee this work.

The Commission also heard impactful testimony regarding the experiences of Jewish students on college campuses. Experts such as Dr. Eitan Hersch from Tufts University, Dr. Rachel Fish from Boundless, and Dr. Leonard Saxe from the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University (see page 13), provided valuable perspectives on issues related to student life, diverse viewpoints, faculty interactions, administrative obstacles, donor relations, and the role of federal involvement in addressing these concerns. They also explored how the state could contribute to resolving these challenges.

this sacred season, we pray for the safe return of the hostages and hold close in our hearts all those affected by violence and war.

May 5786 be a year of peace, healing, and renewal for Israel, for Gaza, and for all who suffer. And may it bring strength, hope and wholeness to you, your family, and our community as we strive to build a more compassionate and just world together.

Support the Work of the MA Special Commission on Combatting Antisemitism

Contact Your State Legislators

Massachusetts House of Representatives

- 1st Berkshire District: Rep. John Barrett III (D)
Email: john.barrett@mahouse.gov
Tel.: (617) 722-2012
- 2nd Berkshire District: Rep. Tricia Farley-Bouvier (D)
Email: Tricia.Farley-Bouvier@mahouse.gov
Tel.: (617) 722-2676
- 3rd Berkshire District: Leigh Davis (D)
Email: Leigh.Davis@mahouse.gov
Tel.: (617) 722-2400

Massachusetts State Senate

- Sen. Paul Mark (D)
Email: Paul.Mark@masenate.gov
Tel.: (617) 722-1625

As we prepare for Rosh Hashanah, we are reminded that none of us faces these challenges alone. We draw on the strength of generations, the resilience of the Jewish people, and a sacred responsibility to care for one another. Let’s meet this moment together.

Particularly powerful were the testimonies from Rabbi Aaron Fine, executive director of UMass Hillel, and student leader Skye Landau.

They spoke courageously about incidents where Jewish students were actively excluded from campus discourse, praised the support they have received from university leadership, and expressed concern about aspects of the federal government’s response. They highlighted the mental health toll, the difficulty of reporting disturbing but non-criminal incidents, and the need for resources to facilitate healthy, inclusive campus dialogue.

The Commission’s work continues, but our momentum depends on legislative awareness and support. It is vital that your elected representatives hear from you to know that their constituents value these recommendations and expect follow-through. To that end, I urge you to reach out to our legislators and let them know you support the Commission’s recommendations and want them to do the same.

The challenges facing Jewish communities today include rising antisemitism, safety threats, and the growing need for education, care, and advocacy, demand more than awareness. They require action.

Here in the Berkshires, Jewish Federation is rising to meet these demands with purpose and determination, offering programs, partnerships, and leadership that strengthen Jewish life from the ground up.

This essential work would not be possible without the generous support of our community. Thanks to donors like you, we’ve already raised more than \$1,065,000 toward our \$1.3 million goal for the 2025 Annual Campaign. Your generosity has made a real difference and we are deeply grateful.

But as needs continue to grow, so too must our response.

That’s why we’re excited to share an extraordinary opportunity to double your impact. A generous group of community supporters has created a \$50,000 Tzedakah Challenge Grant. Every donation made by October 15 will be matched dollar for dollar, helping us close the gap and extend our reach even further.

As we prepare for Rosh Hashanah, we are reminded that none of us faces these challenges alone. We draw on the strength of generations, the resilience of the Jewish people, and a sacred responsibility to care for one another.

Let’s meet this moment together.

Your support today will help ensure that the Federation’s vital work continues into the New Year and beyond. This is your opportunity to double your impact and double the good we can do.

On behalf of all of us at Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, I wish you and your loved ones a sweet, peaceful, and meaningful Rosh Hashanah. As we enter



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Please help us bring the sweetness of Rosh Hashanah Care Packages to members of our Jewish community in care facilities, hospitals, and at home.

Deliver Care Packages:
Wednesday-Friday, September 17, 18, 19



Sign up today!
Contact Heidi Katz at
(413) 442-4360, ext. 10
federation@jewishberkshires.org



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

OP-ED

Thank You, Voluntary Subscribers!

By Albert Stern / BJV Editor

I received the keenest bit of wisdom about the Berkshires experience from a gentleman I met at a Shabbat service some 15 years ago, not long after I moved to Pittsfield. “Living here full time,” he told me, “you will find that every summer will seem to pass faster than the last.”

It’s an insight I wish I could somehow forget, as not only does each short summer indeed seem to pass more quickly than the one before, the fact that I’m neurotically aware of it speeding by seems to rankle a little bit more each year, as well.

I’m writing this in mid-August. JT on July 4th seems far in the rearview mirror and we’re barreling toward Beethoven’s 9th. And although I’ve had a busy and fulfilling few months, I find myself scrambling to cram as much culture and nature as I can into the time left before the Berkshire summer disappears. It’s a feeling I remember from my days in New York City – with so much great stuff going on that I could be doing, every evening I spend at home registers like a minor defeat. I know what awaits – that sinking feeling when I notice that first branch with yellow and orange leaves, which somehow seems to happen on the way home from Tanglewood with the “Ode to Joy” still ringing in my ears.

Certainly, the summer months are essential to Federation’s annual campaign, the time when we are able to interact with all of our supporters in person at live programs and events. But Federation’s essential work continues throughout the calendar. The intensity of Federation’s year does not ebb in the off-season in quite the way it used to. We’ve always been kept busy fostering the vibrant Jewish life of a year-round community; providing support and social services to those in need; sponsoring kosher meals and holiday gift bags; supporting our congregational affiliates; hosting holiday celebrations; and representing Jewish interests in the wider community. What changed in the last two years is that we’ve had to direct considerable energy and resources toward combatting antisemitism, enhancing security in Jewish spaces, fundraising in response to crises both here and abroad, and forging collaborative partnerships with institutions in the region for our collective benefit.

The seasonal nature of the Berkshires is what it is. But something that Suzzy Fromm Shimelman said when I was interviewing her for the article on her Legacy Circle endowment (see page 8) made an impression. Speaking of her experience as a Federation executive director in New Haven, CT, she said, “And because New Haven was a year-round community and not a summer community, we had access to each other all year round.”

There was something about the turn of phrase “access to each other.” I guess I’d grown accustomed to focusing on the things we do together as a Jewish community, while not really considering all the things we *don’t* necessarily do together the way a year-round community might. Many of us go our own ways in celebrating holidays from Rosh Hashanah through Pesach. Economic pursuits may be centered outside the Berkshires. Jewish lives revolve around communities, leaders, institutions, and peers with no connection to our Jewish lives here. Kids and grandchildren don’t go to the same schools. We don’t all have the same

Your generous directed donations to the paper help this Federation put out a publication that is – from what people tell me, and why would they lie? – a source of pride for the community.

experience of the seasons. And so many members of our Jewish community are passionately committed to Jewish pursuits and philanthropy in places that have nothing to do with the Berkshires.

Yet during the summer season, we are a strong, unified Jewish community with a particular character and identity. No doubt most of you read Andrew Silow-Carroll’s recent JTA article celebrating the Jewish Berkshires. Although Andrew is a second homeowner here, he brought an outsider’s perspective to what is special and even unique about us. The fact that the story was reprinted in The Forward and the Times of Israel (among other outlets) is testament to how interesting our Jewish lives here are to others who were hitherto unaware of what we have going for us. We’ll see whether more people come to check us out in the year ahead. I predict they will.

Federation has been a key driver of our community’s evolution. Executive Director Dara Kaufman and our board have been successful in instilling a sense of commitment to Jewish life and engagement that connects full-time residents, part-time residents, and even seasonal visitors as stakeholders who believe in our mission. With programming such as our Jewish Literary Voices collaboration with the Jewish Book Council, Rabbi Daveen Litwin gives us the chance to gather and learn together virtually during the winter months. And, as editor of the Berkshire Jewish Voice, I try to ensure that the newspaper is also a source of connection and community throughout the year.

It would be easier – and much less expensive – to produce something more like a newsletter, or even to forego a print publication for an online resource. But that wouldn’t reflect the character of the community.

We appreciate the added backing you give to the BJV as voluntary subscribers. Your generous directed donations to the paper help this Federation put out a publication that is – from what people tell me, and why would they lie? – a source of pride for the community.

So thank you, voluntary subscribers. If you haven’t yet donated, please check out the house ad on this page or visit jewishberkshires.org to do so. No matter how quickly the summer season seems to pass, the Berkshire Jewish Voice is one of the ways Federation keeps this community connected 12 months a year. We are very grateful for your support.



Berkshire

JEWISH VOICE

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

Thank you to our supporters!

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

- There are 116 households that have given

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Your Federation Presents

Jewish Food Series with Local Chefs, Culinary Historians, and Cookbook Authors

Special in-person Connecting With Community lunches and an online demo this September

PITTSFIELD – This September, Connecting With Community will host special Thursday lunches in person at Knesset Israel at noon. We'll be joined by local chefs, culinary historians, and authors, who will create special pre-High Holy Day menus for the occasion.

Enjoy lunch and take home the recipes! At press time, the following meals had been planned.

Naomi Ross on September 11

We welcome Naomi Ross, Kosher chef, food writer and author of *The Giving Table* around our community table for conversation and enjoy a home-cooked kosher lunch featuring two of Naomi's favorite recipes for the pre-fast meal on Yom Kippur (Apricot Citrus Chicken and Rum-Cherry-Apple Cake).

Naomi writes articles and web content connecting the fun of good cooking with Jewish inspiration. She is a regular contributor to Fleishigs Magazine, OU Jewish Action, Kosher.com and Aish.com. Her website is naomirosscooks.com.

Full lunch menu: Apricot Citrus Chicken, Quinoa, Meadow Blend Vegetables, Salad, Multigrain Bread, Rum Cherry Apple Cake.

Susan Levine and Natalia Monahan on September 17



Natalia Monahan and Susan Levine

In preparation for the High Holy Days, join our very own stellar Kosher lunch chefs Susan Levine and Natalia Monahan (aka, "The Cake Lady") around our community table for conversation and a home-cooked kosher lunch featuring some of their favorite recipes for Rosh Hashanah. Enjoy lunch and take home new tips and recipes!

Full lunch menu: Momala's Brisket, Aunt Ethel's Tzimmes and Honey-Apple Cake.

Anna Gershenson on September 25

Join Anna Gershenson – professional cook, recipe tester and developer, healthy-eating educator and cooking show host and producer of *The Natural Cook* – online for a virtual cooking demo featuring her favorite Sukkot recipe, Braised Chicken with Onions, Olives, and Prunes, which will also be part of the takeaway lunch.

This online presentation will be on Zoom at 7 p.m. Please register on the calendar of events page at jewishberkshires.org.



Anna Gershenson

If You Go

Advance reservations required by 9 a.m. the day before the program (Wednesday).

Call (413) 442-2200 to register.

Sorry, no walk-ins. If you need to cancel, please let us know in advance, as we are preparing food based on the number of reservations.

All are welcome. Lunch is a suggested donation of \$3 for adults over 60 years of age. \$7 for all others.

Federation makes these programs possible through the generous support of our community.

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Berkshire

JEWISH VOICE

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

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Your Federation Presents

JEWISH PLAYS, *continued from cover*

Various friends and boyfriends also arrive for the party. In particular, Mervyn, a friend of Pfeni’s boyfriend Geoffrey, falls instantly in love with Sara. The New York Times review of the original production wrote that the play is: “...[a] capti- vating look at three uncommon women and their quest for love, self-definition and fulfillment. But underlying the comedy is an empathetic concern for the characters and for the prospects of women today.” *This production is generously supported by Beverly Hyman and Larry Birnbach.*

The Weight of Ink, by Rachel Kadish (work in development by Kate Kohler Amory and Tamara Hickey). Author Rachel Kadish will discuss her critically acclaimed novel *The Weight of Ink*, winner of the National Jewish Book Award, with author Letty Cottin Pogrebin. Joining them in the Tina Packer Playhouse will be Kate Kohler Amory and Tamara Hickey, who are currently developing a theatrical adaptation of the book, select scenes of which will be performed onstage. A talk-back follows. *The Weight of Ink* tells the story of two historians uncovering the secret history of a young Jewish woman living in London in the 1660s, and features alternating storylines set in the 21st and 17th centuries.

Additional Readings

The Price, by Arthur Miller, Friday, October 10 at 7 p.m. *The Price* (1968) is an engrossing story of two brothers, estranged for the last 16 years and confronting their family history, when they finally meet to dispose of the furniture accumu- lated in their deceased father’s apartment. The play explores family dynamics, the cost of success, and the enduring power of memory, with many critics calling it Miller’s best work.

Roz and Ray, by Karen Hartman – Saturday, October 11 at 2 p.m. Ray is a devoted single parent with one goal: to keep his twin sons with hemophilia alive. In 1976, this meant endless hospital visits, rigorous testing, and frequent blood transfu- sions. Then Ray meets Roz – a brilliant doctor who offers a cutting-edge treatment for his boys – and everything clicks, until they both discover the miracle treat- ment may lead to very dangerous results. Featuring Tony-nominated actor John Douglas Thompson (HBO’s *The Gilded Age*). This play was first staged in 2016.

Here There Are Blueberries, by Moisés Kaufman and Amanda Gronich – Saturday, October 11 at 7 p.m. In 2007, a mysterious album featuring Nazi-era photographs arrived at the desk of a U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum archivist. As curators unraveled the shocking truth behind the images, the album soon made headlines and ignited a debate that reverberated far beyond the museum walls. Based on real events, the play debuted at New York Theatre Workshop in 2023 and toured nationally in 2025. A 2024 Pulitzer Prize finalist, 2025 Lucille Lortel Award winner for Outstanding Play, two-time Helen Hayes Award winner, named one of the 10 Best Plays of 2024 by The Wall Street Journal, and featured on *60 Minutes*.

Special Event on Sunday, October 12 at 6 p.m.

A reception with Rachel Kadish and cast members of the weekend’s plays. This event is by invitation-only. Inquire at (413) 637-3353.

About Celebrating Jewish Plays

At a time when many cultural institutions are eschewing Jewish- themed programming, Shakespeare & Company has chosen to stage a compelling weekend of Jewish dramas. “Celebrating Jewish Plays” curates works from different eras that cover a broad range of the Jewish American experience and theatrical expression.

“Jewish tradition is known for storytelling as a way to bring commu- nity together and to tell stories, with themes that transcend the day-to-day bickering that seems to predominate in our world,” says Greg Lipper, a member of the Board of Trustees. “We want to share the voices of play- wrights whose Jewish identities inform their works, sometimes implicitly, sometimes explicitly, and especially in these unsettling times.”

Adds Artistic Director Allyn Burrows: “We are a language-based and a relationship-based and a community-based organization. This seemed like a good fit, so we started to explore certain plays. Then the idea of Rachel Kadish came up through Kate Kohler Amory,” who is adapting *The Weight of Ink* for the theater with Tamara Hickey. Burrows said that Kadish had a Shakespeare & Company connection – when she was researching material for her novel, she had reached out to company founder Tina Packer for historical information about Shakespeare and his milieu that was incorporated into the narrative about the hidden history of a 17th century Sephardic woman living in London, Esther Velasquez, whose story intersects with both the Bard of Avon and the philosopher Baruch Spinoza.

“Jewish tradition is known for storytelling as a way to bring community together and to tell stories, with themes that transcend the day-to-day bickering that seems to predominate in our world.” – Greg Lipper

Once Kadish was on board, says Burrows, “there was a synthesis of ideas that crystallized into doing this weekend. Our board chair, Beverly Hyman, was keen on having an immersive experience for people, so that they weren’t just coming to see a reading, which we’ve done before. It became a powerfully substantive way of celebrating language and organi- cally coalesced into a celebration of Jewish playwrights.”

The process the playwrights are employing to adapt *The Weight of Ink* is known as Moment Work, which was developed by Moisés Kaufman and Tectonic Theater Project to create plays such as *The Laramie Project* and *Here There Are Blueberries*, the latter also part of this festival. Tectonic describes the method as “a groundbreaking process [that] explores the theatrical potential of all the elements of the stage in order to create strong theatrical and dramatic narratives from the ground up. Moment Work gives us the freedom to create individual, self-contained theatrical units (Moments) and to sequence these units together into theatrical phrases that eventually become a play.”

Greg Lipper adds, “As Kate has said to me, she could spend two years trying to perfect the script, and she’s not going to accomplish what bringing a group of really brilliant, creative actors together for a few days in a studio to experiment with bare, bare number of props can accom- plish. And we’re going to show that at the festival. People are going to see that magic happening.”

“It’s not a playwright sitting in a dark attic, writing and imagining the story,” explains Burrows. “You take a measure of text and you see what happens right in the room. It’s very collaborative.” He says that the company is more accustomed to working with time-tested plays, but that working with innovative new material is “exciting for us, because Shakespeare was a deviser himself. You can imagine him bringing in text, all of which was expected to be learned by the actors before they showed up. They worked off of scrolls, so they only knew their lines. When they walked into the room, people would speak their lines and then their response was, ‘Oh, it must be my line now.’ And then all the lines were tossed because Shakespeare had no intention of publishing his works. It was only because of two stage managers that gathered up all the scripts and said, ‘Hey, this is some valuable stuff. Someone’s going to want to read this again.’ [The plays were] all done for the masses, and it’s in that spirit we are doing this. People have asked, ‘Why are you doing new plays? Why are you doing devised work?’ Well, Shakespeare was a new playwright who did devised work at one time. So, there’s your connection.”

Shakespeare & Company has presented Plays in Process for the last several years, a staged reading series that birthed another Jewish- themed play, Lawrence Goodman’s *The Victim*. That play, which debuted at a reading in 2024 and went on a successful monthlong run at the theater last July, hardly played it safe, with themes that touched on hot button issues like privilege and race, as well as the Holocaust. “I don’t know that I would have been able to do that play a year earlier given the themes, given the language,” says Burrows.

Lipper and Burrows both assert that Shakespeare & Company is exploring different ways to attract people to their campus – one example is *Circus & The Bard*, which ran in late August. Burrows said that 2025 was the first season since the Covid shutdowns and restrictions that he’s sensed “a robustness and activity that we really haven’t felt since 2020,” and that he wants to build on that momentum.

The company, he adds, will continue “walking that line between a desire to do thought provoking material and what people consider ‘entertainment in the Berkshires in the summer.’ Most of our audience is from the Boston area, the New York area, the Albany area, when they convene here, a lot of folks might say, ‘Gee, I just want some diversion. Why keep doing plays that have such a heavy lift thematically?’ We try to mix it up. Of course, we want to be entertaining, but we also want to be thought provoking.”



HATE HAS NO HOME HERE

Jewish Federation OF THE BERKSHIRES

THANK YOU TO OUR GROWING LIST OF PARTNERS

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Berk 12	Knesset Israel
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Berkshire Standing Together Alliance	Monterey Church, UCC
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Jewish Federation OF THE BERKSHIRES

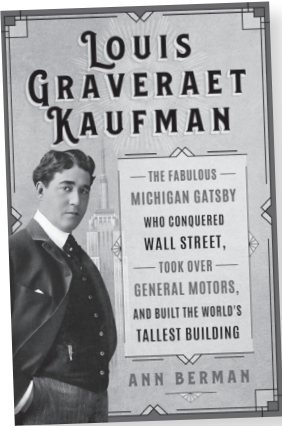
Download Poster, Social Media, and Resources at
[Jewishberkshires.org/Hate-Has-No-Home-Here](https://jewishberkshires.org/Hate-Has-No-Home-Here)



Your Federation Presents

Jewish Literary Voices Returns for a New Season!

Find out about the life and times of banker Louis Graveraet Kaufman



On Thursday, October 16 at 7 p.m., Jewish Literary Voices: A Federation Series in collaboration with The Jewish Book Council, returns for a third season with a presentation by biographer Ann Berman, who will discuss her book, *Louis Graveraet Kaufman: The Fabulous Michigan Gatsby Who Conquered Wall Street, Took Over General Motors, and Built the World's Tallest Building*.

This free Federation program will be presented via Zoom. Register on the calendar of events page at jewishberkshires.org.

For a full lineup of this season's Jewish Literary Voices series, see the insert in this paper.

Ann Berman's fascinating biography recounts the life and legacy of a titan of American banking, Louis Graveraet Kaufman (1870–1942), also known in his time simply as “LG.” This fastmoving narrative tells the story of a half Jewish, part Indigenous man from Michigan's Upper Peninsula who lived a wild, Jazz Age life, built one of the country's largest banks, built a 26,000 square-foot log lodge, 625 Park Avenue, and helped conceive and finance the Empire State Building.

He was a Gatsby-esque figure who married into great wealth and then amassed far more of his own. Under LG, New York's Chatham Phenix National Bank and Trust Company became one of the nation's largest banks and the first in New York to boast a network of branches. When he was denied entry into the exclusive, Protestant, old-money Huron Mountain Club, LG responded by building his own retreat: the world's largest log lodge, a 26,000-square-foot behemoth near Marquette, MI. Christened Granot Loma, it became the site of lavish Prohibition-era parties, attracting many celebrities who came in private rail cars to enjoy jazz and liquor at chez Kaufman.

A darling of the press, LG became a household name, making news by coordinating the famous takeover of General Motors in 1916, narrowly escaping death in the Wall Street Bombing of 1920, and financing the Empire State Building during the Great Depression. It's a Jazz Age story of anti-Semitism, debutante balls, racehorses, triplex apartments, and ill-advised marriages!

Author and cultural journalist Ann Berman highlights Kaufman's remarkable journey from “barefoot boy” to trailblazing branch banking giant, proving LG was not just a man of his time but one worth reading about over a century later.

Ann Berman is a writer and cultural journalist who has written for *The Wall Street Journal*, *Town & Country*, *Architectural Digest*, *Martha Stewart Living*, *The Art Newspaper*, *Traditional Home*, *Forbes*, and many other periodicals. She has also contributed to many books and television scripts.

Jewish Federation of the Berkshires Welcomes Paige Wright as New PJ Library Coordinator



Paige Wright

PITTSFIELD – Jewish Federation of the Berkshires is delighted to announce the hiring of Paige Wright as its new PJ Library Coordinator, a role dedicated to connecting young families raising Jewish children to meaningful Jewish experiences and community life in the Berkshires.

A proud Berkshire native, Paige's own Jewish journey was shaped in part by Federation's youth engagement programs – including transformative summers at Eisner Camp in Great Barrington. She now returns to her home community with a passion for Jewish life, deep leadership experience, and a strong commitment to supporting the next generation of Jewish families.

Paige is a graduate of Trinity College in Hartford, CT, and holds a bachelor's degree in American Studies with a minor in Religious Studies. She served on the executive board of Trinity College Hillel in multiple roles, including Vice President of Engagement and Vice President of Shabbat and Holidays, where she spearheaded inclusive programming and strengthened campus Jewish life. Her professional background includes work with children and families, as well as roles in hospitality and legal administration.

As PJ Library Coordinator, Paige will oversee the local administration of PJ Library book subscriptions and lead the development of inclusive, engaging programs for families raising Jewish children across the county.

Says Paige: “I'm incredibly grateful and excited to step into the role of PJ Library Coordinator. I believe education is one of the most valuable gifts we can give and I am honored to be a part of the PJ Library community. As a former PJ Library kid and someone who loves to read, I am so grateful that I can now create that excitement for other young children. This work is so important, especially now, for Jewish children to feel connected to their heritage, their faith, and their community.”



“We are thrilled to welcome Paige Wright back to the Berkshires in this vital role,” said Dara Kaufman, executive director of Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. “Paige brings a unique blend of warmth, creativity, and leadership, along with a deep personal connection to our Federation and our Jewish community. Her lived experience and dedication to Jewish life will be a true asset as we continue to build a vibrant, welcoming Jewish future for young families in our region.”

PJ Library sends free, high-quality Jewish children's books to families with children aged six months to eight years old, connecting families with Jewish values, traditions, and culture through engaging storybooks and local events.

PJ Library welcomes all families raising Jewish children, no matter their background, knowledge, or family make-up, or level of observance.

For more information about PJ Library and family engagement programs at the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, visit jewishberkshires.org.

Up Next: A Sukkot Celebration for Community Members in their 20s, 30s, & 40s



In August, members of our Jewish community in their 20s, 30s, and 40s – The Berkshire Jewish Collective – got together at the Barrington Brewery for the first of a series of planned events that will enable younger Jews to gather in laid-back meetups across the Berkshires.

“We welcomed about 15 attendees,” reports organizer Sarah Singer, “more than half of whom had never joined us before. That really speaks to the need for this initiative and the community we're building! People came from as far as North County to Hinsdale and South County. During the event, folks expressed interest in self-started activities, such as pickleball, and we welcomed a new steering committee member who's already helping to brainstorm ideas to expand the community building and future events.”

The next event will be a Sukkot Harvest celebration on Sukkot Harvest on Thursday, October 16 at 5:30 p.m. at Hot Plate Brewing Co., located at 1 School Street in downtown Pittsfield.

To find out more and get involved, contact Sarah Singer at sarah@lifesyouradventure.com or join the WhatsApp group by using the QR code on this page.



L'SHANA TOVA



We wish you a sweet and peaceful New Year



Jewish Women's Foundation / Jewish Federation of the Berkshires

L'SHANA TOVA TIKATEIVU!

May you be inscribed
for a sweet new year!

Find your people at

TEMPLE ANSHE AMUNIM

led by Rabbi Val Lieber

JEWISH EDUCATION + FAMILY
PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS AGES 3-18

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
AT HEVREH

2025-2026

We foster Jewish joy through meaningful social and educational programming for our students, ages 3-18. Students learn what it means to live Jewishly on Jewish time, learning Hebrew, Jewish values, Jewish texts, and more, while building relationships both in and out of the classroom. In addition to a full B'nai Mitzvah program, we offer 8-12 graders continued leadership, learning, and social opportunities.

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

CREATE A JEWISH LEGACY

Jewishly, You're Required to
Begin the Journey

Suzzy Fromm Shimelman on joining
Federation's Legacy Circle

It is not at all unusual to meet members of our Berkshire Jewish community who have had meaningful roles with the largest and most impactful institutions in the wider world of Jewish philanthropy – contributing as benefactors and fundraisers, volunteering on boards and committees, or working as professionals in leadership positions.

Suzzy Fromm Shimelman, who now divides her time between Lenox and Sarasota, FL, served the Federation in New Haven for seven years as its executive director before moving on to high-level positions with the State of Connecticut, where she had as many as 50,000 government employees reporting to her. “I’m an administrator,” she says of her career. “I have an economics degree, a public health degree, and a management degree – a lot of ivy growing out of my head. What I love to do is to create opportunities for organizations and for the people within those organizations.”

This year, Suzzy joined Jewish Federation of the Berkshires' Legacy Circle, a commitment to help ensure that opportunities for this Jewish community to grow and thrive will continue to accrue. “The legacy one leaves is really the future for a future generation,” she explains. “Jewishly, you're required to begin the journey – you cannot complete it. The Legacy Circle allows the Federation, the Jewish community, to complete a journey from generation to generation. I think it's a very exciting opportunity to leave a footprint.”

During Suzzy's tenure in New Haven, her intermediate-sized Federation was one of five in Connecticut, each with a large base that allowed for the development of an extensive infrastructure of Jewish institutions. “We had a JCC, we had a Jewish Home for the Aged, we had an ADL office, and Jewish Family Service,” she remembers. “We had a community relations office and a statewide organization that worked with the legislature. We had access to academic resources for our youth. We had access to New York in an easy fashion. And because New Haven was a year-round community and not a summer community, we had access to each other all year round. At the time, there were 25,000 Jews in New Haven.”

With that perspective, Suzzy says “my first impression was awe at Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. As an executive director, Dara Kaufman is head and shoulders above me. The things that this small Federation is able to do, the connections it has made on a relatively small fundraising base, are incredible. With a community that swells in the summer, it provides an array of programming that is very, very impressive, and this has fostered a sense of community that is impressive. I am awed by what the Federation does here.”

Giving back has been an ongoing practice not only for Suzzy, but for her family, as well. Her father, mother, and older brother all narrowly escaped Nazi Germany before the war and, after they resettled in New York City, focused on helping refugees and asylum seekers from all over the world. Her mother, Kate Fromm, was president of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, an organization that advocates for and provides vital services to refugees across the globe. Her brother, Gary Fromm, was the first in his family to go to college, completing degrees in industrial management and mechanical engineering before earning a PhD in economics at Harvard. He and Suzzy (who also earned an advanced degree at Harvard) together honored their parents by creating the Walter and Kate Fromm Endowment Fund to support the Harvard Chorus' programs focused on historically underrepresented groups.

In addition to joining this Federation's Legacy Circle, Suzzy established legacy endowments in both New Haven and Hartford. Her commitment to ensuring Jewish security and continuity was born of her earliest memories.

“I am the child of Holocaust survivors, and I grew up in Washington Heights in New York City, in a German-Jewish community,” she says. “I think I know that my early experience was very formative in creating the way I looked at the world in two ways. One is I that heard the tales of escape on Sunday morning at the coffee klatches that my parents hosted. And as a two-year-old – I was born in 1942 – I could hear their terrifying tales. So, one of the things I learned was to plan an escape route. If things went wrong, how could you correct them? How could you make them better? So I spent a career in administering large organizations and being quite rewarded for the skills that I learned as a two-year-old: scan the environment, experiment, figure out what could go right, what could go wrong, what would be your tactics for creating safety for a community or for a person.

“I also learned that people who were immigrants, who had given up a life that they'd known, were really the heroes of the story. They were certainly my heroes – not knowing the language, not knowing customs, and coming to the United States and creating a life for their children. Who would have thought that immigrant children could grow up to take advantage of all the opportunities and not feel the constant sting of antisemitism?”

She adds about the current crisis facing American Jews: “Today, the world has so totally changed. Physical safety was never an issue for me growing up, and even as a young married person. But now, physical safety, the ability to speak out, the ability to be Jewish has changed. It is scary, disappointing, and concerning.”

LEGACY CIRCLE,
continued on page 10

LOCAL NEWS

Ramblin' with the Rav Hikes Continue



Ramblers with Rav Weiner (third from left) and the azaleas in Pittsfield State Forest

Ramblin' with the Rav hikes feature a morning of enjoying the Berkshires – exercise, a beautiful view, good company, a bit of Torah, and fantastic conversation on the trail. This is a wonderful opportunity to build relationships and community while enjoying the outdoors. Rabbi David Weiner, spiritual leader of Kneset Israel in Pittsfield, leads the hikes.

Prospective participants must register in advance for each hike at knesetisrael.org/rsvp. Registrants will receive information about the demands of the route, what to wear, what to bring, where to meet, etc., and be added to an email list for communication before the hike. Each route is unique, with its own difficulty, distance, total elevation gain and approximate duration. Participants must be responsible and realistic regarding their fitness and stamina. Members and non-members of Kneset Israel are welcome, and there is no charge for the program.

Questions? Please contact Rabbi Weiner by email at rabiweiner@outlook.com.

On Sunday, October 12, try the Father Loop in Alford Springs, an easy/moderate, 4.3 mile hike. Celebrate Sukkot and autumn with a hike that abuts the Massachusetts-New York state line. The Alford Springs reserve includes reforested land – a

different sort of landscape from many hikes in the Berkshires – and surprisingly good views all the way to Mt. Greylock. Leashed dogs are welcome. Meet at KI at 10 a.m. to carpool to the trailhead. (It is also possible to meet there at about 10:45.). Rain date, Sunday, October 27.

Congregation Ahavath Sholom Partners with Simcha-Services to Launch Innovative Jewish Educational Programs for All Ages

GREAT BARRINGTON – Congregation Ahavath Sholom is proud to announce a new partnership with Simcha-Services to offer dynamic, flexible, and inclusive Jewish educational opportunities for children and adults, beginning this September.

New program offerings include:

Jewish Education for Children (Kindergarten – 5th Grade): Beginning in September and running through May, children will have access to engaging online classes held twice a month. Classes are offered three times each week at different times, allowing families to choose the day and time that best fits their schedules.

In-Person Social Justice Experiences: Four special in-person gatherings throughout the year will focus on Jewish values and social justice, building community and hands-on learning for young students and their families.

B'nai Mitzvah Preparation for Children and Adults: One-on-one guidance and preparation with Rabbi Jennifer Rudin ensures a personalized and meaningful journey toward becoming B'nai Mitzvah.

Hebrew Reading Instruction: Tailored one-on-one Hebrew instruction is available for both children and adults, helping learners of all levels grow in confidence and skill.

“This partnership with Simcha-Services reflects our deep commitment to inclusive, accessible, and meaningful Jewish education,” said Rabbi Jennifer Rudin of Congregation Ahavath Sholom. “We are especially excited to offer opportunities that meet people where they are – whether online, in person, young or old.”

Enrollment is now open. For more information or to register, please contact Rabbi Jennifer Rudin, rabbirudinahavathsholom@gmail.com.

Contemplative Shabbat Service at KI

PITTSFIELD – On Saturday, September 20, join Rabbi Pam Wax from 9:15 a.m. to 10 a.m. in the Kneset Israel library for an innovative service that will include contemplative prayer, meditation, time for reflection, poetry, and chanting. The service will conclude in time for those who wish to join the congregation in the sanctuary for the Torah service. All are welcome. Please try to arrive early enough to settle in before 9:15. Be curious, try something new! Pre-registration is encouraged at knesetisrael.org. Kneset Israel is at 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield.

Check out our website!

www.jewishberkshires.org

For calendar listings and events

Shana Tova!

Wishing you a good and sweet year filled with celebration and togetherness.

GREYLOCK
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

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Kosher Meals to Go—Meals on Wheels

ALL ARE WELCOME: Kosher lunch will be prepared on Mondays, Tuesdays (starting October 21), 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. Suggested donation of \$3 for adults over age 60; \$7 for all others

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY 9 A.M. THE DAY BEFORE THE LUNCH: Call Federation's kitchen at (413) 442-2200 the day before to reserve a meal for pick-up or to arrange delivery.

What's for Lunch?

(GF) Gluten-Free entree • (DF) Dairy-Free entree

SEPTEMBER

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Noon, in-person lunch...Apricot citrus chicken (GF) (DF), quinoa, meadow blend vegetables, salad, multi-grain bread, and rum-cherry-apple cake.

Special theme: Jewish Food Series with local Chefs, Culinary Historians, and Cookbook Authors with Naomi Ross. Pre-fast meal on Yom Kippur (Apricot Citrus Chicken and Rum-Cherry-Apple Cake). Enjoy lunch and take home the recipes!

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Noon, Lunch...Pierogies with mushrooms and onions, broccoli kugel, baby carrots, borscht, whole wheat bread, and raspberry bars.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Noon, in-person lunch...Brisket (GF)(DF), potato kugel, tzimmes, matza ball soup, challah, and honey apple upside down cake.

Special theme: Jewish Food Series with local Chefs, Culinary Historians, and Cookbook Authors with Susan Levine and Natalia Monahan. Erev Rosh Hashanah (Momala's Brisket, Aunt Ethel's Tzimmes, and Honey-Apple Cake). Enjoy lunch and take home the recipes!

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Noon, Lunch...Tuna casserole, steamed broccoli, salad, pumpernickel bread, and tropical fruit salad.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Noon, Lunch...Braised chicken with onions, olives, and prunes (Anna Gershenson recipe), California blend vegetables, couscous, salad, sourdough bread, and pineapple.

No in-person lunch today due to High Holiday set-up at Knesset Israel.

Virtual Cooking Demo, 7:00 p.m.: Jewish Food Series featuring Anna Gershenson and her favorite Sukkot recipe.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Noon, Lunch...Potato knish, spinach, beets, butternut squash soup, multi-grain bread, and butterscotch pudding.

OCTOBER

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

Closed for Yom Kippur

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6

Noon, Lunch...Meatloaf (GF)(DF), mashed potatoes, zucchini and yellow squash, salad, white bread, and applesauce.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7

Closed for Sukkot

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

Noon, Lunch...Salmon loaf, peas and carrots, potatoes au gratin, lentil soup, croissant, and pear cobbler.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13

Closed for Indigenous Peoples' Day

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14

Closed for Shemini Atzeret

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16

Noon, Lunch...Turkey chili (GF)(DF), white rice, roasted Brussels sprouts, salad, and apricots.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20

Noon, Lunch...Spinach pie, roasted potatoes, stewed tomatoes, cream of mushroom soup, rye bread, and chocolate pudding.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21

Noon, Lunch...Spaghetti and meatballs (DF), green beans, steamed carrots, salad, whole wheat bread, and peaches.

Knesset Israel – 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield



ONGOING MINYANS

Saturday, 9:30 a.m.
Sunday, 8:45 a.m.
Friday, 5:45 p.m.

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

**For Erev Shabbat – Holiday times
on page 14**

Friday, September 12 6:50 p.m.
Friday, September 19 6:38 p.m.
Friday, September 26 6:25 p.m.
Friday, October 3 6:13 p.m.
Friday, October 10 6:01 p.m.
Friday, October 17 5:50 p.m.

MAZEL TOV!

Lanny Zuckerman on becoming a grandfather again.

Robyn L. Rosen and Vincent Higuera on the marriage of their son **Nathan Higuera** to **Kaitlin Martinez**.

Pittsfield High School slugger **Morrie Fried** on being recruited to play baseball at Brown University.

Michael and Joan Ury on the marriage of their daughter **Emily** to **Owen**.

Paula Almgren, Berkshire Law Group founder, on her new book, *ELDERCARE THE RULES – Navigating the Legal, Financial, Medical, Housing and Care Maze*.

Heidi Katz, Federation's coordinator of volunteers, on the birth of granddaughter **Phoebe Willow Roberts**. Parents are **Hilary Katz** and **Matt Roberts**.

Mushka Volovik on her bat mitzvah. Proud parents are **Sara** and **Rabbi Levi Volovik**.

LEGACY CIRCLE, continued from page 8

Suzzy says she supports Federation as a major donor and now a Legacy Circle participant because our work aligns with her values and the communal needs of the moment. "I think Federation's current Hate Has No Home Here program is a nomenclature that is understandable and digestible and important. I think the caring of the community that is here during the winter, the holiday support, the support of the Hebrew schools, and the support of the camping opportunities for young people are all very impressive. This Federation seems to do everything with very few personnel and a big heart."

In conclusion, Suzzy shared her philosophy for others who may be contemplating joining the Legacy Circle: "I've not earmarked my legacy gifts because I'm trusting each Jewish community to make its own decisions in their own best interest. Because as I've watched things change from my young adulthood to today, who would have guessed that our major challenge would now be antisemitism?"

Recovering from an illness or injury? Cooking becoming difficult?



KOSHER MEALS ON WHEELS:

Meals are available for delivery to qualified individuals to help extend their home independence and health. There is no income requirement, just a simple assessment through Elder Services will get your meal deliveries started, if you qualify.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Jill Goldstein at (413) 442-4360, Ext 17, j.goldstein@jfswm.org.

WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

Meals-on-wheels drivers are always appreciated. Contact Heidi Katz, (413) 442-4360, ext. 10, federation@jewishberkshires.org to inquire.

Meals and programs are made possible by the generous support of our community. The kosher lunch and meals on wheels program is in collaboration with Elder Services of Berkshire county.



THE **STRENGTH** OF A PEOPLE.
THE **POWER** OF COMMUNITY.

ENSURE A VIBRANT, CARING, & SECURE JEWISH COMMUNITY

HELP US REACH OUR GOAL OF \$1.3 MILLION BY

MAKING A GIFT TO THE 2025 CAMPAIGN TODAY

Your gift to Federation’s 2025 Community Campaign will bring dignity and care to the vulnerable, build and strengthen the Jewish identity of our youth and young adults, support vital community programs, confront rising antisemitism, and create meaningful and secure Jewish life across the Berkshires, in Israel, and around the world.



JEWISH LIFE FOR YOUNG FAMILIES

You help young families embrace Jewish values and traditions while building a supportive community with Jewish peers through family programming, PJ Library, and volunteer opportunities.



RESOURCES TO FIGHT ANTISEMITISM

You help young people stand up against hate through anti-bias education in our public schools. You also combat antisemitism and the BDS movement through community programming, local advocacy, and security resources.

DIGNITY & COMPASSION

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



JEWISH EDUCATION & VALUES

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



A SENSE OF COMMUNITY

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



A STRONG JEWISH IDENTITY

You help young people 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 and resources they need. You also provide a safety net of emergency assistance in our local community.



COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND ADVOCACY

You help provide a proactive voice in our community, schools, government, and media, as well as advocacy to address and respond to antisemitism and anti-Israel sentiment in our community.



A SECURE JEWISH COMMUNITY

You help keep our community and our institutions safe through ongoing security trainings, building assessments, security grants, a community alert system, and the sharing of best practices to ensure we can freely and securely celebrate Jewish life.



ISRAEL IN TIMES OF CRISIS

When crisis hits in Israel or around the world, you help mobilize local resources to respond with immediate relief, advocacy, and longer-term recovery. From the Israel Crisis to the war in Ukraine, you help deliver an SOS response.

A CLOSE & CARING RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL

You help connect the Berkshire Jewish Community with Israel through our Afula-Gilboa partnership. You also provide programs for at-risk students, shelter for abused women, and support services for disabled youth in Israel.



FOOD SECURITY, HEALTHCARE, & WINTER RELIEF

The war in Ukraine and safe resettlement of Jews fleeing the region has been difficult, but you help provide shelter, transportation, blankets, and heaters. You also bring food, home health aides, and medicine to those who need it most.



DONATE ONLINE AT JEWISHBERKSHIRES.ORG. THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

Your Federation Presents

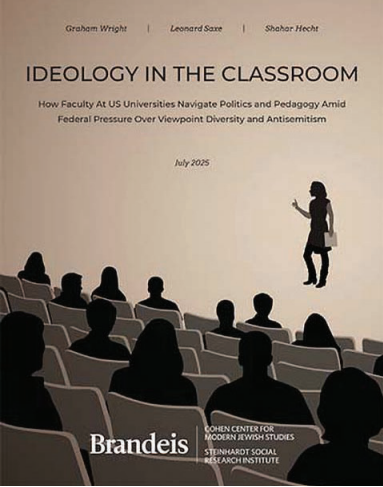
We Celebrated the Strength and Resilience of our Jewish Berkshires at Our Summer Concert!

On August 10, Michelle Citrin and her band delivered an electrifying performance that had the audience at the Duffin Theater in Lenox dancing in the aisles. We raised \$15,000 that will be directed toward Federation's Hate Has No Home initiative. Thanks to all who came out on this special summer night.



LOCAL NEWS

“Ideology in the Classroom”: New Study of Faculty at Top Universities Contradicts Narratives about Campus Antisemitism



Released in July, “Ideology in the Classroom: How Faculty at U.S. Universities Navigate Politics and Pedagogy Amid Federal Pressure Over Viewpoint Diversity and Antisemitism” attracted notice and commentary in the Jewish press and beyond for results that seemingly contradict public perceptions and media narratives about the nature of campus antisemitism.

The study was conducted by researchers Graham Wright, Shahar Hecht, and Leonard Saxe from Brandeis’ Steinhardt Social Research Institute and Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies, and “is based on a survey conducted in spring 2025 of more than 2,200 faculty at the 146 Carnegie-2021 classified R1 universities, who taught undergraduates in the 2024-25 academic year,” according to the report summary. As reported by eJewishPhilanthropy, the study revealed that “most faculty members at American research universities are not politically active, including on issues related to Israel, do not endorse antisemitic statements and hold a wide array of viewpoints on controversial issues. The one-dimensional portrayal of U.S. universities as bastions of the political left filled with ‘woke’ faculty who impose their views on students is at odds with the findings of this study,” wrote the authors of the study.”

“Ideology in the Classroom” found that around 72 percent of faculty self-identified as liberal. In an interview with Jewish News Service, Professor Saxe asserted that there is “very little evidence that [faculty members] are imposing their particular political positions on students, in particular, in the area of teaching about dealing with questions about Israel.”

In August, Professor Saxe (a member of our Jewish community in the Berkshires) spoke with the Berkshire Jewish Voice about the study, the third of three conducted by he and his colleagues at the Cohen Center analyzing the college campus environment after Hamas’ October 7, 2023 terror attacks in Israel. The first study focused on campus life. The second explored non-Jewish students’ attitudes about Jews and Israel; it concluded that most college students did not harbor antisemitic feelings and that a small, radicalized group of students were generating the headlines that dominated the news. “Ideology in the Classroom” studies the attitudes of faculty. Our conversation was edited for length and clarity.

The BJV Interview: Leonard Saxe

How was this study conceived? Did you and the other researchers have an idea that the image of faculty that’s being conveyed in the press was somehow inaccurate based on your own personal experiences working in academia?

When we finished [the] study [of non-Jewish students], I realized that a piece of the ecosystem that we didn’t understand, but was being blamed for the problem, was the faculty. And so last summer, we started to design this study. This was all before the election last November and the Trump administration coming back into Washington in January. The study that we designed looks at the political views of faculty to understand how [those views] influenced how they dealt with controversial issues in the classroom, and then the degree to which they had antisemitic attitudes, as well as attitudes about racial and diversity and a bunch of other issues. I was just trying to fill out our understanding of the ecosystem because my goal was not to completely document antisemitism, but to figure out how to address it.

When I read the results, your findings seemed counter-intuitive. Was that because I’m a heavy consumer of Jewish-related news or is it just the perception that has been conveyed to the general public?

So, you’re a journalist and you know that in journalism, ‘if it bleeds, it leads.’ If you pay attention to headlines, the headlines don’t reflect how many

houses didn’t burn down, or how many people didn’t get shot. The news is about the dramatic cases. Now, we also have a situation where the government has blamed universities and the so-called ‘woke’ faculty. I don’t know if I even want to get quoted saying this, but I’ll say it and then we can decide what to do with it. It bothers me that some people are disappointed that we didn’t find more antisemitism. We should be thankful for that.

I’ve lived my entire life, certainly my professional life, on college campuses, and the faculty are in their heads. They’re in their labs. They’re in their microbes and their microscopes and so on. Many are disconnected from lots of the problems of the world and they’re not overly political people. But by and large, they write their books and they do their experiments. What we also found, which is really important, is that most of them want to be really good teachers, that most of them want to offer multiple perspectives, help people weigh evidence on both sides of a case. There’s very little evidence that faculty see their job as inculcating in students some particular worldview.

The study found that there’s a minority, less than 10 percent, who are hostile to Jews, and those are concentrated in certain disciplines. Certainly, there is antisemitism within the universities, as we saw by the three presidents of MIT, Harvard, and University of Pennsylvania testifying before Congress, and maybe the problem is at the administration level. Is there a tension between administration and faculty regarding the issue of antisemitism? And how does that resolve itself in a real-world way?

There is a very interesting oped in the Boston Globe by two professors at Harvard who make the case that faculty are the key people in universities, not administrators. It’s true that faculty decide who is hired, who is fired, who is promoted. Faculty decide what the curriculum is. Faculty are responsible for violations of the conduct code. And let’s just say that 90 percent don’t express any hostility to Jews or Israel. Getting the support of that 90 percent is the way that you

LEONARD SAXE,
continued on page 19

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Located in the towns of Otis and Sandisfield, the Otis Wood Lands has great amenities including a swimming pool, fitness room, lodge, lake, beach, playground, and four tennis courts – two Nova Grass courts, and two hard courts that are also used for pickleball. Make your Berkshire memories here!

HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICES AND CELEBRATIONS IN THE BERKSHIRES



The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires wishes all a happy and healthy 5786

The schedules that appear were provided by local congregations, which should be contacted directly for more information, advance ticketing requirements, confirmation of times and events, online options, and details about other planned holiday season programming that may not be listed.

The congregational directory with contact information and addresses is on page 19. Services will take place at the locations appearing in the directory, except as noted in the listings that follow.

Candle lighting and Havdalah times are for Pittsfield and were taken from the Knesset Israel calendar.

I'shana Tova!

Temple Anshe Amunim



Pittsfield | ansheamunim.org

Temple Anshe Amunim, a Reform congregation, will celebrate the Jewish High Holy Days with a full schedule of services offering a blend of joy and meaning. High Holy Days provide a rich opportunity for reflection, community, inspiration, and learning. The congregation is led by Rabbi Val Lieber. Carlton E. Maaia II will provide musical accompaniment and direct the talented volunteer choir.

Services are highly inclusive and accessible. TAA represents a wide variety of family structures, identities, and backgrounds – lifelong believers, atheists and agnostics, New Age meditators, cultural Jews, non-Jewish partners, singles, couples, families, LGBTQ+, straight, Ashkenazi, Sephardi, Jews of Color, white Jews, and “just Jews.”

All services will be in person as well as available via livestream, unless otherwise noted. For more information, please visit the Temple Anshe Amunim website at ansheamunim.org, contact the Temple office at templeoffice@ansheamunim.org, or call (413) 442-5910.

High Holy Day Calendar

Holiday	Date	Candle Lighting	Havdalah
Selichot	Saturday, September 13		7:20 p.m.
Erev Rosh Hashanah	Monday, September 22	6:32 p.m.	
Rosh Hashanah – First Day	Tuesday, September 23	7:31 p.m.	
Rosh Hashanah – Second Day	Wednesday, September 24		7:29 p.m.
Shabbat Shuvah	Saturday, September 27		7:24 p.m.
Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre	Wednesday, October 1	6:16 p.m.	
Yom Kippur	Thursday, October 2		7:15 p.m.
Erev Sukkot	Monday, October 6	6:08 p.m.	
Sukkot – First Day Yom Tov	Tuesday, October 7	7:07 p.m.	
Sukkot – Second Day Yom Tov	Wednesday, October 8		7:05 p.m.
Sukkot – Chol Ha'Moed	Thursday, October 9 to Monday, October 13		
Hoshanah Rabbah	Monday, October 13	5:56 p.m.	
Shemini Atzeret	Tuesday, October 14	6:55 p.m.	
Simchat Torah	Wednesday, October 15		6:53 p.m.

All are invited to attend any or all of TAA's High Holy Day services. The congregation welcomes non-members and offers Reform congregants reciprocal seating. Please see their website for non-member fee structure and to make reservations. All guests must register in advance.

SERVICES

- Selichot – Service at 8 p.m.
- Erev Rosh Hashanah – Service and dessert oneg at 7:30 p.m.
- Rosh Hashanah 1st Day – Morning service at 10 a.m. / Interactive intergenerational service at 9 a.m.
- Rosh Hashanah 2nd Day – Service in nature at 10 a.m. (in-person only) / Tashlich at 11:15 a.m.
- Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre – Service at 7:30 p.m.
- Yom Kippur Morning – Service at 10 a.m. Study sessions at 1:15 p.m. and 2:15 p.m. / Interactive intergenerational service at 3:30 p.m. / Yizkor and Ne'ilah at 4:45 p.m., followed by break-the-fast potluck.
- Erev Sukkot – Celebration in the sukkah at 5:30 p.m.
- Erev Simchat Torah – Study session at 7 p.m.
- Simchat Torah/Erev Shabbat – Friday, October 17 at 5:30 p.m., followed by dessert oneg.

OTHER EVENTS

- Candy Apple Bash – Sunday, September 21
- Sukkah Building and Decorating – Sunday, October 5 at 11 a.m.
- Erev Shabbat and Sukkot BBQ – Friday, October 10 at 5:30 p.m.

CELEBRATING JEWISH PLAYS
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THE PRICE
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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 7 PM
Elayne P. Bernstein Theatre

HERE THERE ARE BLUEBERRIES
by Moisés Kaufman & Amanda Gronich
Featuring Annette Miller

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 7 PM
Tina Packer Playhouse

ROZ & RAY
by Karen Hartman
Directed by Daniela Varon
Featuring John Douglas Thompson

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2 PM
Elayne P. Bernstein Theatre

THE SISTERS ROSENSWEIG
by Wendy Wasserstein

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2 PM
Elayne P. Bernstein Theatre

OCTOBER 10 – 12

SPECIAL EVENT: THE WEIGHT OF INK BY RACHEL KADISH
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 4:30 PM | TINA PACKER PLAYHOUSE
Featuring Annette Miller

Select scenes will be presented from a new theatrical adaptation of the National Jewish Book Award-winning novel *The Weight of Ink* by Rachel Kadish, developed by Kate Kohler Amory and Tamara Hickey. These excerpts will be followed by a talk and Q&A session with Kadish, moderated by Letty Cottin Pogrebin and a reception at 6 pm. This event is open to all A+ ticket holders to any of the four plays, those who've purchased tickets at any price to all four plays, and those making a donation of \$100 or more to the weekend.

SHAKESPEARE & COMPANY



The Sisters Rosensweig and *The Weight of Ink* are presented in partnership with the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. For more information, visit jewishberkshires.org. Celebrating Jewish Plays is presented in partnership with the Forward, the award-winning, independent Jewish news organization. Learn more at forward.com. Celebrating Jewish Plays is presented in partnership with the Yiddish Book Center, which preserves and shares Yiddish books and brings Yiddish culture to life through exhibitions, events, classes, translations, and stories. For more information, visit yiddishbookcenter.org

Tickets: 413.637.3353 • SHAKESPEARE.ORG • Donations: development@shakespeare.org

HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICES AND CELEBRATIONS IN THE BERKSHIRES

Hevreh of Southern Berkshire

Great Barrington | hevreh.org

Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, affiliated with the Reform movement, will be hosting services and events throughout the High Holy Days. Join the Hevreh community, led by Rabbi Jodie Gordon, to welcome 5786. Inspiring services feature participation from rabbinic intern Jamie Gottlieb, the Hevreh Choir under the direction of Amy Renak, and soloist Sarah Aroeste.

Families in the Berkshires and surrounding communities are welcome to join Hevreh's robust Religious School community for Family Services. Pre-registration is encouraged by contacting the Hevreh office. All other Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services are by pre-registration. Guest tickets for adult services are available. Services will be conducted in the sanctuary and most will be streamed. Please contact the congregation at info@hevreh.org for more information on how to participate.



- SERVICES**
- Selichot** – Service at 8 p.m.
- Erev Rosh Hashanah** – Service at 7:30 p.m.
- Rosh Hashanah 1st day** – Family service from 9 a.m.-9:45 a.m. Morning service at 10:30 a.m. Tashlich at Lake Mansfield at 4 p.m.
- Rosh Hashanah 2nd day** – Service at 10:30 a.m.
- Shabbat Shuvah** – Shabbat services and Torah study at 10 a.m.
- Yom Kippur / Kol Nidre** – Service at 7:30 p.m.
- Yom Kippur** – Family service from 9 a.m.-9:45 a.m. Morning service at 10:30 a.m. Spiritual Small Groups (Meditation and Study) at 1:30 p.m. Afternoon service at 2:45 p.m. *Yizkor* and *Neilah* at 4 p.m. A communal breakfast will follow immediately after the concluding service on Yom Kippur.
- Sukkot Events and Services** – Visit Hevreh's website for info.
- Simchat Torah** – Wednesday, October 15. Celebration of Simchat Torah, Consecration, and Re-Rolling the Scrolls at 6 p.m.

- OTHER EVENTS**
- Sukkah Raising Party** on Sunday, October 5 at 11 a.m.
- Soup in the Sukkah** on Thursday, October 9 at 5:30 p.m.

Congregation Ahavath Sholom



Great Barrington | ahavathsholom.com

Congregation Ahavath Sholom, an affiliate of Reconstructing Judaism, extends a warm invitation to all who wish to begin the Jewish New Year in a spirit of reflection, renewal, and community.

Services on Erev Rosh Hashanah and the close of Yom Kippur will be co-led by spiritual leader Rabbi Jennifer Rudin and Rabbi Emerita Barbara Cohen. "This collaboration brings together two deeply respected spiritual leaders in a meaningful partnership that honors tradition and welcomes the future," says Joan Burkhard, a member of the synagogue's Executive Committee. "Their commitment to working together has facilitated a smooth and inspiring transition for our community." Rabbi Rudin will lead all other services on the schedule.

Services will be held at Berkshire South Regional Community Center, 15 Crissey Road in Great Barrington. For more information about service times, locations, and registration, please contact the congregation.

- SERVICES**
- Erev Rosh Hashanah** – Service at 7 p.m.
- Rosh Hashanah 1st Day** – Service at 10 a.m.
- Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre** – Service at 7 p.m.
- Yom Kippur** – Service at 10 a.m. with *Yizkor*. Afternoon service and *Ne'ilah* at 5 p.m., followed by break fast.

Berkshire Minyan

Great Barrington | berkshireradon.org

The Berkshire Minyan is a self-organized group that provides a liturgically traditional, egalitarian davening experience in South Berkshire County.

Please visit berkshireradon.org for information on the congregation's holiday schedule.

Congregation Beth Israel



North Adams | cbiberkshires.com

Join the Congregation Beth Israel of the Berkshires community for the Days of Awe 5786! All are welcome. There are no fees or tickets for services, though CBI asks those planning to attend to RSVP ahead of time via our website's calendar. There will also be meaningful and robust experiences via Zoom for digital participants. Please register for each service / event at cbiberkshires.com/series/days-of-awe-5786.

Services at CBI will be led by Rabbi Rachel Barenblat and, on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur mornings, also Rabbi Jarah Greenfield of Nefesh, a havurah based in southern Vermont. Prayers will be uplifted by CBI's choir and musicians, directed by CBI member Adam Green. Expect song, poetry, harmony, and a balance of traditional nusach and new melodies. "Bring your open heart to connect with ours."

Families with children of all ages are welcome. On Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur morning, CBI we will offer childcare and holiday-oriented crafts and activities in the classrooms for our youngest attendees. Older children are encouraged to join the service in the main sanctuary, where kids from the Nefesh and CBI communities will accompany some of our prayers with string instruments and enthusiasm. Tashlich (casting our mistakes upon the waters) will take place immediately after first day Rosh Hashanah services, at the suspension bridge outside TOURISTS hotel in North Adams (across the street from the synagogue).

CBI observes two days of Rosh Hashanah. This year, the second-day service will again be a Four Worlds service, moving in stages from body (contemplative practice / walking meditation) to heart (prayer and song) to mind (Torah study) to soul (the sound of the shofar). Shabbat Shuvah (the Shabbat between the holidays) will be contemplative, featuring a stripped-down liturgy and ample silent meditation time. Rabbi Barenblat writes, "There are so very many words at this time of year. I always feel that Shabbat Shuvah is a good time to let the experience of Rosh Hashanah percolate in us amidst some holy quiet."

CBI will also offer a full day of Yom Kippur davening and learning. The evening service begins on the dot of 6 p.m. on Erev Yom Kippur with Max Bruch's Kol Nidre on double bass, followed by Kol Nidre services. *Yizkor* services will take place at the end of Yom Kippur morning services, probably sometime in the noon hour. There will be offer a creative retelling of the Book of Jonah at minchah services in the afternoon, as well as an encounter with the ethical mitzvot at the center of the Torah. Yom Kippur will culminate with *Ne'ilah* and Break-the-Fast at sundown. The meal costs \$20 for adults, \$5 for children ages 5 & older, and free for children 4 & under; the RSVP deadline is Thursday, September 25.

- SERVICES**
- Selichot ("Forgiveness") Service** at 8 p.m., onsite & online.
- Erev Rosh Hashanah** – Service 7 p.m., onsite & online.
- Rosh Hashanah 1st Day** – Service 9:30 a.m., onsite & online. Children's service, childcare, and activities. *Tashlich* (casting bread upon the waters) to follow at TOURISTS suspension bridge.
- Rosh Hashanah 2nd Day** – "Four Worlds" Morning Service at 9:30 a.m., onsite & online.
- Shabbat Shuvah contemplative, chant-based service**, 9:30 a.m., onsite & online.
- Yom Kippur / Kol Nidre** – Service at 6 p.m., onsite & online.
- Yom Kippur** – Service at 9:30 a.m., onsite & online. Children's service, childcare, and activities. *Yizkor* / at the end of the morning service. All afternoon, all are welcome to enjoy the CBI labyrinth and pollinator garden. Yom Kippur *Mincha* and *Avodah* service, 4 p.m., onsite & online. *Ne'ilah* service, 6 p.m. onsite & online. Break-the-fast follows – Please RSVP by September 25 (\$20 for adults, \$5 for children, free children under 5).
- Shemini Atzeret & Yizkor**, 10 a.m., online only.
- Simchat Torah Dance Party with Community Band**, Wednesday, October 15 at 6 p.m., onsite only. Potluck vegetarian/dairy dinner (please RSVP).

- OTHER EVENTS**
- Service of Remembrance**, CBI Cemetery, 512 Walker Street, Clarksburg, Sunday, September 14, 2-2:30 p.m., onsite only.
- Harvest Moon Sukkot & Potluck Supper** around the campfire, Friday, October 10 at 5:30 p.m., onsite only. Bring a vegetarian dish to share and musical instruments to play, if you'd like. RSVP by October 6.

HIGH HOLY DAYS,
continued on page 16

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HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICES AND CELEBRATIONS IN THE BERKSHIRES

HIGH HOLY DAYS,
continued from page 15

Kneset Israel



Pittsfield | knesetisrael.org
Kneset Israel is an innovative congregation known for tremendous lay participation and leadership, deep spiritual experiences, opportunities for lifelong learning, social action, and inclusivity. All services at this Conservative synagogue will take place in the main sanctuary and will

also be available for viewing at knesetisrael.org/livestream and on the Kneset Israel channel on the Boxcast App (Roku, Kindle FireTV, Apple TV). Children's programming will take place on the first day of Rosh Hashanah and on Yom Kippur in the congregation's chapel. The congregation gathers for the symbolic casting away of transgressions – Tashlikh – on the first afternoon of Rosh Hashana at a local stream.

Tickets for in-person attendance at High Holiday services are included with Kneset Israel membership and are also available for purchase by non-members. Kneset Israel offers reciprocal tickets for people who are members of other synagogues yet find themselves in the Berkshires this autumn. Advance registration helps Kneset Israel ensure a safe space for prayer and reflection during the holidays. For more information about Kneset Israel's services, please visit www.knesetisrael.org. To register, please call the Kneset Israel office at (413) 445-4872 or email office@knesetisrael.org.

Kneset Israel celebrates Sukkot, the fall harvest festival, and its concluding celebration, Simchat Torah, with services, meals, and programs for the entire family. The weeklong celebration begins with a Families Together program exploring the holiday and dinner in the congregation's sukkah – for school-age children and their families, Wednesday, October 8, at 5 p.m. RSVP required to knesetisrael.org/rsvp. This is a joint program for Kneset Israel and Anshe Amunim. Additionally, festive morning services featuring the psalms of Hallel take place on the first two days, intermediate Shabbat, Sunday morning, and last two days of the holiday. A Simchat Torah celebration including dinner, live klezmer music, dancing with the Torah scrolls, an aliyah for the children, and root beer floats, will take place on Tuesday, October 14, at 5:30 p.m. RSVP required to knesetisrael.org/rsvp.

SERVICES

- Selichot** – *Maariv*, *Havdalah*, and *Selichot* at approximately 8:15 p.m.
- Erev Rosh Hashanah** – Service at 6:15 p.m.
- Rosh Hashanah 1st Day** – Service at 8:30 a.m., Torah and shofar at 9:45 a.m., approximately. Families programming 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Babysitting (please RSVP) 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. *Tashlich* at 4 p.m. (at Pomeroy Avenue Bridge).
- Rosh Hashanah 2nd Day** – Service at 8:30 a.m., Torah and shofar at 9:45 a.m., approximately. No family service. Babysitting (nursery and playroom; please RSVP) 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre** – *Mincha* at 6 p.m., followed by instrumental Kol Nidre, Kol Nidre, and *Maariv* at 6:10 p.m.
- Yom Kippur** – Service at 9 a.m. Torah service and *Yizkor* after 10:30 a.m. Families programming 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for ages 5 to 12. Babysitting (please RSVP) 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Afternoon service at 4:30 p.m. and *Ne'ilah* at 5:50 p.m. Concluding services at 7:15 p.m.
- Sukkot Yom Tov** – Services both days at 9:30 a.m.
- Shemini Atzeret** – Service at 9:30 a.m. (with *Yizkor* at 11 a.m.) Erev Simchat Torah celebrations begin with a light meal at 5:30 p.m., followed by *Maariv*, *hakafot*, and ice cream beginning at 6:30 p.m.
- Simchat Torah** – Service at 9:30 a.m.



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Chabad of the Berkshires

Lenox | jewishberkshires.com

Chabad of the Berkshires – “Traditional. Contemporary. Welcoming.” – invites all to friendly and inspiring High Holy Day services at its expansive new Jewish Center in downtown Lenox. Co-directors Rabbi Levi and Sara Volovik say membership is not required: “We are all one Jewish family, and family is always happy to see you.”

Donations and sponsorship opportunities are encouraged – please call Chabad for more information. Readings from the machzor (holiday prayer book) will be in Hebrew and English.

While purchasing tickets is not required, an RSVP to attend services will be required for admittance.

SERVICES

- Selichot** – Service at 9 p.m.
- Erev Rosh Hashanah** – Service at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner (RSVP required – \$60 per person, \$36 children under 12).
- Rosh Hashanah 1st Day** – Service at 10 a.m. Shofar at approximately 11:30 a.m., followed by kiddush. Children's program at 11 a.m.
- Rosh Hashanah 2nd Day** – Service at 10 a.m., followed by kiddush. Children's program at 11 a.m.
- Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre** – Service at 6 p.m.
- Yom Kippur** – Service at 10 a.m. with *Yizkor*. Children's program at 11 a.m. *Mincha* and *Ne'ilah* at 5 p.m., followed by break-the-fast.
- Erev Sukkot** – Service at 6 p.m., followed by “Sushi in the Sukkah” celebration (RSVP required).
- Sukkot Yom Tov** – Services both days at 10 a.m.
- Shemini Atzeret** – Service at 10 a.m. with *Yizkor*. Erev Simchat Torah *hakafot* and deli dinner at 6 p.m.
- Simchat Torah** – Service at 10 a.m.
- For Chol Ha'moed Sukkot, Hoshanah Rabbah, and more information on ordering lulav and etrog, visit Chabad's website or call.



A Taste of the Holidays Food Series

Join local chefs, authors, culinary historians, and foodies for one or all of these special home-cooked kosher lunches featuring their favorite High Holy Days recipes and conversation around our community table.

Thursday, September 4 at noon

Lunch with Tina Wasserman, author of *Entrée to Judaism: A Culinary Exploration of the Jewish Diaspora*, featuring her favorite Yom Kippur Breaking-of-the Fast recipes for **Kugel Deluxe** and **Almond Poppy Seed Pound Cake**.

Thursday, September 11 at noon

Lunch with Naomi Ross, author of *The Giving Table*, featuring two favorite recipes, **Apricot Citrus Chicken** and **Rum Cherry Apple Cake** for the Pre-Fast Yom Kippur Meal.

Thursday, September 18 at noon

Lunch with Susan Levine and Natalia Monahan, our Kosher Lunch Chefs featuring their favorite Erev Rosh Hashanah recipes including **Momala's Brisket**, **Bubbie Ethel's Tzimmes**, and **Honey Apple Cake**.

Thursday, September 25 at 7:00PM VIRTUAL

Join Anna Gershenson for a virtual cooking demo of her favorite Sukkot recipe **Braised Chicken with Onions, Olives and Prunes** (also featured in the take-home or delivered kosher lunch).

ADVANCED RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY 9 A.M. THE DAY BEFORE THE PROGRAM. Call (413)442-2200 TO REGISTER.

Sorry no walk-ins. Suggested donation for lunch: \$3 over 60; \$7 all others.



THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE.
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LOCAL NEWS

Elul/Tishrei Study at KI

PITTSFIELD – This autumn, KI offers opportunities to learn and engage with holiday themes.

Martin Buber and The Way of Humanity

Rabbi Pam Wax, Director of Adult Education and Programming at Knesset Israel, will teach Martin Buber’s book *The Way of Humanity* as spiritual preparation for the Days of Awe. Each chapter begins with a Chasidic story that Buber unpacks, offering his deep spiritual insights on topics such as Self-Awareness, Resolution, and Preoccupation with Self.

Come prepared to think deeply and reflect on your own spiritual lives through the questions raised by Buber’s guidance. The book is available in a new, accessible translation by Rabbi Bernard Mehlman and Gabriel Padawer, but any translation will be fine. All classes will take place on Zoom only, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., on the Tuesdays of September 9, 16, & 30, and October 21. Please pre-register at knesetisrael.org/RSVP to receive the Zoom link and the reflection questions for each week. \$36 for non-members of KI and TAA. Come to any or all the sessions.

Walking the Labyrinth into 5786

A labyrinth serves as a wonderful “right-brain” meditative or spiritual tool to help prepare hearts and minds for the Days of Awe. Join Rabbi Pam Wax at Kripalu on Friday, September 12, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. to learn about the labyrinth and experience walking it. RAIN-DATE: Monday, September 15. Please pre-register at knesetisrael.org/rsvp.

In the Beginning: The Poetry of Genesis

After kiddush on Saturday, October 18 (*Parashat Breshit*), Rabbi Pam Wax will share a variety of contemporary poems that revision Creation, Adam, Eve, and the Garden of Eden in new, enlightening, and often humorous ways. Join Knesset Israel at 9:30 a.m. to begin reading Torah anew, then stay for kiddush and study afterwards! (Or join just for study at approximately

Runway to the High Holidays

On the Tuesdays of September 9 and 16 at 7 p.m., join Rabbi Rachel Barenblat of Congregation Beth Israel of the Berkshires and Rabbi David Evan Markus of Congregation Shir Ami (Greenwich, CT) for the last two sessions of a seven-week journey to the High Holy Days!

Participants will be immersed in core teachings on how to live ethically and with integrity. With materials from Torah, Talmud, Mussar (character development) and your own lives, each week explore a life-wisdom’s Jewish origins, spiritual qualities, and how they can shape our own journey of *teshuvah* (repentance).

This class will be presented via Zoom. No advance reading required. Members of CBI and Shir Ami can attend for free. To attend either session and for the cost of the remaining classes, please register via Shir Ami’s website (congregationshirami.org).

Elul Lunch and Learn with the Rabbis: Awakening the Heart

GREAT BARRINGTON – On the Wednesdays of September 10 & 17, from noon to 1:30 p.m., Hevreh of Southern Berkshire invites all to participate in preparation for the holidays upcoming in the weeks that follow.

As we journey through Elul, Jews are invited to pause, take stock, and gently turn inward. This sacred season calls us into *cheshbon ha’nefesh* – an honest accounting of the soul – to prepare us to step into the new year with clarity and intention.

This year, Hevreh is honored to be guided by voices from within its own Hevreh community. Each teaching offers a fresh lens on the inner work of return and renewal, helping to approach 5786 with open hearts and thoughtful purpose.

“Bring your lunch, your questions, and your full self – we’ll bring the learning and community.”

On September 10, Rabbi Shira Stern will lead the group, and on September 17, the leader will be Rabbi Peter Levy.

Visit Hevreh.org for more information.

Heavenly Torah – Thursday Morning Adult Education with Rabbi Weiner at KI

PITTSFIELD – In 5786 / 2025-26, Rabbi David Weiner’s Thursday morning adult education class at Knesset Israel will explore the foundations of rabbinic Judaism.

Rabbi Weiner writes:

Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel’s Heavenly Torah: *As Refracted Through the Generations*, the class textbook, is an encyclopedic resource. This book expounds at length on the fundamental tension between the teachings of Rabbi Ishmael, who believed that the Torah was written in human language, and those of Rabbi Akiva, who chose a more mystical approach. In Heschel’s hands, these and other ancient arguments become thought-provoking, challenging, relevant, and inspiring.

Heschel introduces his readers to core rabbinic concepts, inviting students into conversation with generations of our sages: What is God? How does God speak? What is Torah? Where does it come from? What was the relationship between God and Moses? God and Akiva? Why do bad things happen? There is almost never just one authoritative answer. The English edition, published twenty years ago with notes from Heschel, as well as introductions and notes from Gordon Tucker, offers innumerable opportunities for further exploration.

In class, Rabbi Weiner will expand on Heschel and Tucker’s footnotes to highlight primary sources – Torah, Tanakh, Midrash, Talmud, and beyond – and help students explore the main ideas of each assigned chapter. Students should expect an accessible, dynamic, engaging, complex, and energizing class. Readings from Heavenly Torah that are assigned between classes will help students prepare for and reinforce the learning.

All reading and texts will be in English. There are no prerequisites, and the background every student brings – secular studies, Jewish studies, life experience – will add to the conversation. Everyone – including members and non-members of Knesset Israel and Temple Anshe Amunim – is welcome to participate.

Class Materials: All readings from the book will be provided online to students a few days before each class. All source packets (not from the book) will be provided to students in class and online

Class Schedule: Most Thursday mornings, 10:45 a.m. to noon. First class October 16; then October 23 & 30; November 6, 13, 20; December 4, 11, & 18. Class continues most Thursdays through May 2026, dates TBA!

Class Location: KI Library (in-person) AND on Zoom (bit.ly/thursdaymorningadulted).

High Holiday Family Band Practice

LANESBOROUGH – On the Saturdays of September 13 and 20 (Time TBA), Congregation Beth Israel of the Berkshires invites musical children and parents to bring your instruments and learn a few musical pieces to play together in the upcoming High Holiday Family Services with CBI and Nefesh.

Instrument players ages 7 and older who are able to follow musical notation or chords are invited to gather with their parents for the rehearsals, which began on September 6. Younger children who do not study an instrument are welcome to join in for the third rehearsal where we’ll integrate rhythm instruments. Rehearsal gatherings take place at a private home in Lanesborough, and High Holiday services will take place at CBI in North Adams. For further details, please contact learning@cbiberkshires.com.

RSVP for all services and programs at cbiberkshires.com/calendar-of-events

Please RSVP so you can be notified of any changes & check our calendar for updates.

Learning Opportunities with CBI

Congregation Beth Israel of the Berkshires offers two online learning opportunities this fall.

CBI Book Club

On Thursday, September 11 at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom, the CBI Book Club, facilitated by Dr. Suzanne Levy Graver, Professor Emerita at Williams College, will discuss *Mona in the Promised Land* by Gish Jen, award-winning author of *Thank You, Mr. Nixon*. All are welcome! This book is available to purchase online in multiple formats. Those who plan on joining should RSVP via the CBI website; Zoom information will be sent to all who RSVP once the date gets closer.

Zoom Torah Study

On Saturday mornings at 10 a.m. beginning October 18, join CBI for a new, Shabbat morning Zoom Torah study, with Mourner’s Kaddish at the end, jointly led by Rabbi Rachel Barenblat and by Rabbi David Markus, for CBI and for the Shir Ami community in Greenwich, CT, that Rabbi Markus serves. In 5786 explore the weekly *parsha* through the lens of women’s commentaries and midrash. The RSVP link for this series will be posted on the CBI website and weekly announcements.

Apple Cake & New Beginnings: A Rosh Hashanah Celebration at the Market



BENNINGTON, VT – On Saturday, September 20, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., join Congregation Beth Israel of the Berkshires to celebrate the sweetness of the Jewish New Year at the Bennington Community Market!

Bake delicious apple cake using freshly picked, local apples. Then, head outdoors to the farmer’s market to share the spirit of Rosh Hashanah with others – offering samples of our homemade apple cake and filling the air with joyful Rosh Hashanah and Shabbat melodies at the mic.

All ages welcome – come ready to bake, taste, sing, and celebrate a sweet start to the year! Please RSVP via cbiberkshires.com if your family plans to attend.

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LOCAL NEWS

Hadassah to Host Author Shulamit Reinharz at its Annual Meeting



Shulamit Reinharz

PITTSFIELD – On Sunday, October 19 (time and location TBA), Berkshire Hills Hadassah will hold its annual donor luncheon. This year’s theme is “Hope and Resilience.” The event will bring together members and friends to honor this Hadassah chapter’s past presidents. The special guest speaker will be Shulamit Reinharz, who will speak about her latest book, *Hiding in Holland: A Resistance Memoir*, which is a 2025 finalist for a National Jewish Book Award in Holocaust Memoir and Autobiography. Reinharz is a scholar in sociology, Jewish feminism and women’s studies. Additionally, she is the founding director of the Women’s Studies Research Center and the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute, both situated on Brandeis University’s campus. For more information, call Ellen Masters at (413) 443-4386.

Hiding in Holland Tells a Holocaust Story in Two Voices – and Redefines Resistance

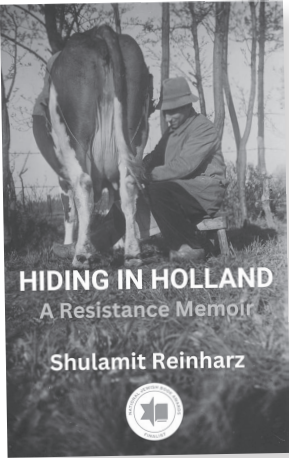
Scholar Shulamit Reinharz and her father, Max Rothschild, share a haunting, dual memoir of love, survival and defiance in Nazi-occupied Holland.

By Judy Bolton-Fasman / JewishBoston.com

In an email interview with JewishBoston last April, Shulamit Reinharz, a 2025 finalist for a National Jewish Book Award in Holocaust Memoir and Autobiography, said she did not initially recognize her book as a “resistance memoir.” On the advice of her publisher, she cut a third of the word count. “As a consequence of reducing the book so radically,” said Reinharz, “the book’s bones showed through. I could see patterns and themes I had not noticed before. One of these was resistance. And so, I reshaped the book to make that idea more prominent.” As she revised, she noted there were many forms of resistance in the Holocaust, and her father, Max, had participated in almost all of them. “Resistance is what people perceived they were engaged in; it is what gave people the satisfaction of not giving in to despair,” she said. Reinharz extended the concept of resistance from the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising to the creation of a Jewish children’s sports arena in her father’s hometown of Gunzenhausen in Bavaria, Germany. Max Michael Rothschild was born in Gunzenhausen in 1921. The small town had been

home to a Jewish community since the 1700s. His father was one of two physicians in town. Max had all the advantages of a comfortable, cultured life. He studied piano as a child and, at one point, had hoped to become a concert pianist. He also received a solid Jewish education, which informed his strong Jewish identity. Yet antisemitism was also part of his growing up when he attended school in Gunzenhausen. When Max was 12 years old, his synagogue invited a young Zionist leader to give a talk, and it changed Max’s life. From that talk, he took away the idea that Zionism was the only solution for Jewish survival. The next year, he went to Munich to live with his grandmother and attend high school. He also continued his piano lessons and studied Judaism at an institute. At the same time, he participated in a Jewish socialist youth group. Max was attending a Zionist training camp related to his youth group activities when it was interrupted by Kristallnacht in November 1938. He was deported to Buchenwald but eventually extricated from the concentration camp with other Jewish boys by their Zionist organization in Berlin. The organization had worked out a plan with their Dutch counterpart to bring the boys to work on Dutch farms for practically no money. In return, the Dutch government allowed them to stay for two years. “Holland was considered a good place to find refuge because it was far better than going east where the Second World War had already begun,” Reinharz said. “Holland and Germany shared a border, so it was easy getting to and from Germany. And Germany did not invade Holland during the First World War.” Reinharz said that despite assurances from Germany that it would not invade Holland again, they crossed into the Netherlands in May 1940. “My dad’s supposed refuge was not a refuge at all, and in many ways was worse than his experience of Nazism in Germany,” she added. Max survived the war in Holland in myriad hiding places from 1942 to 1945. In “Hiding in Holland,” Reinharz stated that her goal in writing the book was “to convey something about the disappearance of nearly the entire Jewish community of the Netherlands, the importance of Zionist organizations, the necessity of not cooperating with the oppressor, the significance of hiding as a form of resistance, and the fact that alongside the six million Jews who were murdered during the Holocaust, three and a half million Jews survived.” Max was intent on protecting his girlfriend, Ilse, who would later become his wife and Reinharz’s mother. Ilse had her own places to hide, but most of the time she lived out in the open. Her blonde hair and blue eyes enabled her to pass as someone not

Jewish. Reinharz is tender about her parents’ young love but not overtly sentimental. Their love story is a strong current throughout the book. In 1946, Reinharz, their first child, was born in Holland. Max was unequivocal about immigrating to America, where his parents and sisters had settled in Massachusetts at the beginning of the war. But Ilse wanted to be near her surviving relatives in Israel. It was a tension in the marriage, and one that was never completely resolved. The Rothschilds lived in Israel for only 10 months before settling in northern New Jersey in the late 1950s. In the basement of that New Jersey home, Reinharz found an extensive archive of her father’s documents and handwritten journals from the war in 1974. With her father’s permission, she packed up the boxes and brought them to Ann Arbor, Michigan, where she was living at the time. What started as curiosity about this historical treasure trove became a multi-year project of organizing the material in binders. But after all that work, the makeshift archive was untouched for decades until Reinharz had the papers and journals translated. They proved to be invaluable source material for *Hiding in Holland*. It also underscored the pulsative story of her parents’ survival through determination and a network of rescuers who put their lives on the line to hide Max and, when needed, Ilse. By the end, Reinharz leaves her readers with new and profound insights into what it meant to survive the Holocaust through hiding. She has crafted an exceptional and multi-layered story. Her book is a wonderful addition to Holocaust literature. And knowing the obvious end does not detract from appreciating this extraordinary book told in two voices.



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LOCAL NEWS

LEONARD SAXE,
continued from page 13

change the environment on campus. I don't want to get in a position of denying how bad the problem is. The problem is bad. We studied some of these issues when the Tree Of Life murders occurred in 2018. One person who killed nearly a dozen Jews made virtually the entire Jewish community of America fear for their lives, whether it was going into a JCC or a synagogue or whatever. One person. Now, he's not the only person who has antisemitic hatred, who has violence in his heart or whatever. But it doesn't take a lot of people to create fear in Jewish students, to poison and change the environment. My position, though – and this is why I do the research that I do – is identifying the epidemiology of the disorder, figuring out how large a group it is, and specifically, what are their attitudes. *That* is really important if we want to do something about it, not just yell and scream about how terrible it is.

Our research documents that you're not going to fix the problem unless you have faculty working with you to create the norms and to do the education that's necessary.

You have been quoted as saying not only that faculty are the ones who have to solve the problem, but that part of doing so is just enforcing the existing rules. Your goal is to help university faculty do that. What does faculty need to do in order to fix the problems?

So most faculty, again, want to write their books, to convene with their microscopes. Many don't understand enough about the Israel/Palestine dispute to get involved in it. [For this study,] we asked about five specific issues and how they dealt with them in class – democracy, racism, climate change, Ukraine,

and Israel. Israel was the issue that was least likely to even be discussed in a classroom. A lot of people don't want to touch it. It's also a really complicated, nuanced discussion. The fact that there is such a political split within the American Jewish community and within Israel itself about the appropriate policy and how to deal with the aftermath of 10/7 makes it really complicated for people who don't understand the history, don't understand the political system, don't understand, if you will, the geography and a bunch of other issues. And so they stay uninvolved. My sense is that given what has gone on with Israel and subsequent protests, and now the punishment, the fines, the withdrawal of grants, and so on that are being enacted by the Trump administration, that people actually have to get involved in it. They can't stay outside of it anymore.

At this point, I think the external pressures may actually backfire, that people may blame Jews. I was surprised by some evidence in this study that there were as many people that we found who endorse traditional anti-Semitic stereotypes, like Jews in America have too much power, et cetera. One of the issues is for people in the sciences whose labs are being destroyed, whose research programs are being undermined. It would not surprise me if many of those people were the ones who are saying 'Jews have too much power because look what they've done – they've caused me to lose my research grant that's going to solve tuberculosis treatment forever.' That's one of the dangers.

The JNS article about your research quoted the scholar and writer Thane Rosenbaum, who was very harsh on faculty, saying that too many are moral cowards who are not going to speak up even though

they see their students and other students on campus being ostracized or facing the pressure of being in an antisemitic environment.

I wouldn't characterize it as moral cowardice. Each of us does what we can. Faculty are in a pretty harsh situation – there are fewer and fewer full-time positions, certainly tenured positions, available. It's an up or out system. You either get tenure after six or seven years or you have to leave. Your number of publications, your number of citations, et cetera, is what you live and die by, along with your student evaluations. So we've set up a reward system that on the one hand is designed, if you make it, to protect you so that you can exercise free speech and have radical views. But a piece of that is to you have to stay within your subject matter lane. So if I'm a physicist or if I'm a biologist or whatever, I'm not legitimately allowed to comment on whether the policy of Hamas is justified or not. That's not a physics problem.

One thing is the ideology of the faculty member. The second is whether they impose that on the students, which I mean, negatively treat students who don't agree with them. And then the third thing is what that does to students. There's not a lot of evidence that even if a faculty member takes a position that students disagree with, that they're there as empty vessels. In fact, many of the Jewish students that we interview who have been exposed to professors who took positions that they didn't agree with said because of that, they went out and learned more, and they learned how to argue against that position.



BERKSHIRE JEWISH CONGREGATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS

Welcome to the Jewish Berkshires

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

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

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

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Jewish War Veterans
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Jewish Women's Foundation of the Berkshires
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OBITUARIES

Wesley LePatner, 43, pillar of Jewish community, top executive

NEW YORK CITY – Wesley LePatner, 43, was tragically killed in a mass shooting in Midtown Manhattan on Monday, July 28.

Wesley and her family have been part-time residents of the Berkshires and beloved members of Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, where they were active participants in Jewish life.

An executive at Blackstone Real Estate Income Trust, Wesley was part of the New York Jewish community as an active synagogue member, parent, and board member. The daughter of two attorneys, she grew up in New York City and graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Yale University, where she regularly brought friends together for Shabbat dinner.

Wesley met her husband, Evan, on their first day of college in 1999. After graduating from Yale with a degree in history, she worked in banking at Goldman Sachs for a decade before joining Blackstone in 2014 to run the firm's \$53 billion real estate fund.

She was a member of the board of the UJA-Federation of New York, which awarded her the Alan C. Greenberg Young Leadership Award at their annual Wall Street Dinner in December 2023. At the awards ceremony, she shared how, growing up, her parents always reminded her that she “was an American, but first and foremost Jewish.” In a statement, UJA noted her commitment to Israel, writing that she led a “solidarity mission” to the country in the wake of the attacks of October 7.

Wesley was a board member of the Abraham Joshua Heschel School, a pluralistic Jewish day school in New York City. The Park East Synagogue in New York City awarded the LePatners the Youth Enrichment Center

Award in 2019. She was also involved in the founding of the Orthodox Altneu congregation on the Upper East Side.

Jewish Federation of the Berkshires honors Wesley, as she brought vision, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to strengthening the Jewish people.

Wesley is survived by her husband Evan; children Emerson and Jonathan; parents Larry and Ellyn Mittman; relatives and countless friends.

Arthur David Rutstein, 87, history teacher, dedicated to service and recognition of others

GREAT BARRINGTON – Arthur David Rutstein, 87, passed away on Monday, May 26.

Born in Burlington, VT on April 24, 1938, David attended Burlington High School (class of 1956). He attended the University of Vermont where his studies were interrupted when, as member of the National Guard, his unit was activated during the Berlin Crisis in the summer of 1961, though he was not sent overseas. He completed his degree met his wife Amy (nee Zall). The two moved to Brookline, MA, received their teaching certificates, and both received jobs in the Berkshires in 1967. David taught history at Mt. Everett High School for nine years. Leaving in 1976, he completed a Master's of History over the next year from the University of Albany.

His next adventure, in 1981, was to start the antiques shop “As Time Goes By,” which specialized in ephemera, located at Belcher Square in Great Barrington. It was in business over the next 25 years. He also published a book on the Searles High School of Great Barrington. During this time David participated in various community activities including the Great Barrington Historical Society, where he served as president for a

number of years, the Council on Aging as a participant and later as chairman, lecturing at the Claire Teague Senior Center of Great Barrington as well as work with various synagogues and Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, where he and Amy were active members.

He also enjoyed working at Domaney's where he learned to create the perfect Martini. Those of you who knew David know he was a man dedicated to service and recognition of others. Be it as an educator, local historian, or purveyor of ephemera, his life was an engagement with others learning their stories and passing them on. He was the happy warrior of the Passing Parade.

David is survived by his wife Amy; brother James; and six nieces. He was preceded by his parents, Milton and Dora, as well as his brother Joel.

A celebration of David was held at Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home, Great Barrington, on Friday, June 13. Donations may be made to the Great Barrington Historical Society directly or c/o Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home, 426 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230.

Arya Fraenkel, 29, adventurous spirit and a compassionate soul

PITTSFIELD - Arya Fraenkel, 29, beloved daughter, passed away.

Born July 10, 1995 in Boston, she was blessed with many gifts, an adventurous spirit and a compassionate soul, although she also faced multiple challenges throughout her life. Arya loved music, reading, fashion, traveling, and especially being near the ocean.

She graduated from New York University, with a bachelor of arts in Individualized Study, with a concentration in Visual Culture.

Gloria Friedman, 79, educator, social worker, owned Applegate Inn for many years

PITTSFIELD – Gloria Friedman, 79, died Tuesday, July 15, at her home.

Born April 20, 1946, the daughter of Morris and Golda Fleischman, she attended local schools in Brooklyn, NY. Gloria earned her BA in Education from Adelphi University, studied one semester in Spain, touring Europe during that time. She later earned two master's degrees, one in Education from Queens College and another in Social Work from NYU.

Gloria started and operated, for many years, a Montessori School in Staten Island, where she also had a private therapy practice. In 1999, she relocated with her husband to Lee, purchased the Applegate Inn, and operated it for the next 23 years. While in Lee, she was a member and later president of the Lee Chamber of Commerce. She and her husband had made their home in Pittsfield since 2022.

Gloria and her husband, Leonard Friedman, were married June 12, 1966.

Gloria is survived by her husband Len; son Mark; and five grandchildren. She was predeceased by her daughter Lisa.

A funeral service was held Friday, July 18 at the Roche Funeral Home in Lenox with Rabbi Barbara Cohen officiating. Burial followed on Sunday, July 20, at Beth David Cemetery in Elmont, NY.

Lorraine Feldman, 98, deeply engaged in community life, strong belief in Jewish traditions

LENOX – Lorraine Feldman (nee Motel), 98, died peacefully in the early morning of August 3 from a heart attack suffered the previous weekend.

Born March 25, 1927, in Chicago, Lorraine graduated

from the University of Illinois, where she met Herb Feldman while watching him play baseball with friends. Lorraine loved baseball and was a big Cubs fan. They married on August 26, 1949, at the Sherry Hotel in Chicago and later moved to Fresh Meadows, Queens, NY.

They became proud parents to three boys, Daniel, Martin, and Roy. The family eventually settled in Westfield, NJ, where their daughter, Jewel, was born. Herb and Lorraine moved to Lenox in 1989. After Herb died in 2008, she moved to Kimball Farms Life Care Community.

While raising four children, Lorraine was deeply engaged in civic and community life. She worked the polls for the Democratic Party, volunteered for Hadassah, sold World Book Encyclopedias, and worked in market research. She later found lasting success in real estate, both in New Jersey and the Berkshires.

Lorraine was a force. She was opinionated – a talker, not a great listener, and always ready to laugh. She showed her love by knitting voraciously for family and charity, and cooking one phenomenal meal after another. She loved games, from Boggle to Bridge, and read like there was no tomorrow, even as her eyesight declined. Crafty, handy, a DIY pioneer, she loved creating, refinishing furniture, and making mosaic tables. At age 80, creating jewelry became her specialty. She had a fine sense of style and an eclectic and discerning taste in art and collectibles.

Lorraine was quite an organizer. In Lenox, she was the property manager at Fox Hollow Lakeside Condominiums. She made sure that Jewish traditions were upheld at Kimball Farms, and led many social activities.

Lorraine is survived by her sons Daniel of Jerusalem, Israel, Martin and wife,



As my parents planted for me before I was born, so do I plant for those who come after me. – Talmud

Thank you to these individuals who through their gift to the Legacy Circle will ensure that the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires thrives long into the future. May your name be a Blessing, and may the example you set inspire others to create their own Jewish Legacy.

Anonymous (10)
Ed Abrahams
Norman Avnet*
Barbara Bashevkin*
Robert Bashevkin*
Linda J. L. Becker
Robert Berend*
Shelley Berend
Helene Berger
Helene Berke
Lawrence Berke*
Lee & Sydelle Blatt
Betty Braun*
Cipora Brown
Barbara Cohen
Mark Cohen*
Mimi Cohen
C. Jeffrey & Judith Cook

Gerry & Lynn Denmark
Jonathan & Lara Denmark
Sheila K. Donath
Melva Eidelberg
Monroe England,* in memory of Monroe B. & Isabel England
Dr. Armand V. Feigenbaum*
Dr. Donald S. Feigenbaum*
Steven Feiner
Diana & Stanley* Feld
Lynn & William* Foggle
Larry Frankel & Elisa Schindler Frankel
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Sylvia Silverberg, in memory of Jerome Silverberg
Richard A. Simons & Marcie Greenfield Simons
Mark & Elisa Snowise
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Alexandra Warshaw
Florence Wineberg*
Rabbi Deborah Zecher & Rabbi Dennis Ross

*Of blessed memory



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OF THE BERSKSHIRES

OBITUARIES

Diana, of Ripton, VT, and Roy of Burlington, VT; daughter, Jewel, and husband, Erin, of Colchester, VT; grandchildren Claire and husband, Joel, of Petaluma, CA, Gus and wife, Jacqueline, of Oakland, CA, Madelyn and partner, Leo, of Burlington, VT, Rachael and partner, Dexter, of Louisville, KY, and Isaac of Saint George, UT; and great-grandchildren, Cash, Josie, and Zakari.

Lorraine was predeceased by her husband, Herb, her parents, Louis and Jennie Motel, and her brothers, Seymour and Harold.

A memorial gathering will be held at Kimball Farms, to be announced. Donations are kindly suggested to HospiceCare in the Berkshires, P.O. Box 572, Pittsfield, MA 01202.

Phyllis Francine Jaffe, 94, much-loved teacher, traveled the world, loving spirit
LENOX - Phyllis Francine Jaffe, 94, of Brooklyn, NY, Lenox, and Sarasota, FL, died peacefully at home among family on Wednesday, August 6.

Born to Sarah and Harry Gross, she grew up with her beloved brother Joel, attended Brooklyn College, and earned an MA at New York University. Phyllis married Joseph Jaffe, and they lived an abundant life together surrounded by family and friends, for more than 50 years.

Phyllis was a mom extraordinaire to Rosalind, Harriet, and Robert. She was a much-loved teacher of English in Brooklyn high schools and was named a NYC Teacher of the Year. In retirement, Phyllis deepened her passions, researching authors and the classics, leading book discussion groups, providing care as a cuddler of babies in an intensive care unit, and volunteering with hospice. Phyllis was a force in the kitchen and hosted many dinner parties and holiday celebrations.

She attended countless theater and dance performances and traveled the world. Throughout her life, she made many devoted friends, deeply loved her husband, and inspired her children and grandchildren with her boundless energy and loving spirit.

Phyllis was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph Jaffe, and brother, Joel Gross. She is survived by children Rosalind (Pat), Harriet (David), and Robert; grandchildren Angelica, Julia, Owen, and Annalise. A celebration of her life is planned for the fall.

Beverly Fay Greenfield, 93, compassionate, independent, passionate advocate for human rights
GREAT BARRINGTON – Beverly Fay Greenfield, 93, passed away peacefully on Monday, June 2. A brilliant, compassionate, and fiercely independent woman, Beverly devoted her life to healing others and standing firm in her values.

Born in Jamestown, NY, on March 31, 1932, Beverly defied the expectations of her era.

She graduated from Cornell University in 1954 with a bachelor of science in Nursing and began her career as a visiting nurse in Harlem during the 1950s and 1960s. Her work brought much-needed care to underserved communities, and her passion for service never wavered.

She later earned a graduate degree in nursing from UVM, at a time when few women pursued higher education or careers in the sciences. She became a stewardess for the Flying Tigers when only nurses could fill that role. Foreshadowing her adventurous inclinations, she combined her nursing with flying. Beverly's determination was emblematic of her life – she never let anyone tell her what she could or couldn't do.

Beverly married Byron Greenfield in 1956, and together they had three children, Brian, Lisa, and Susan. The family lived in Manhattan until they divorced in 1975. She and the children moved to Woodstock, VT, a place that became cherished to her and her children.

Once her children were grown, Beverly joined the U.S. State Department as an embassy health officer providing health-care to military personnel, diplomats, and local communities around the world. She often spoke fondly of her time in Morocco, sharing vivid memories with her grandchildren after returning to the U.S.

In 1996, Beverly settled in Great Barrington, where she served as a nurse at the Berkshire School for more than 15 years. After retiring, she remained active in her community and cherished time with her family in the Berkshires and Hudson River Valley.

Beverly was a lifelong reader and very proud that she had studied with Nabokov. She was well-read in politics and had strong and thoughtful opinions. She was a lover of dogs and horses, and a passionate advocate for human rights and healthcare access. Her elegance, intellect, and fire left an impression on everyone who knew her.

For her grandchildren, a visit to 'Nana's' house meant there would be delicious food and desserts, a lively conversation, and a feeling of being surrounded by love. She showed her care to those around her in innumerable ways (home-made care packages, sending notes with newspaper clippings of articles that reminded her of them), and it was always clear just how fiercely she loved those close to her.

She is survived by her daughters Lisa (Chris) Avildsen and Susan (Tony) Pupo; grandchildren Tyler Greenfield, Kelsey Greenfield, Isabelle (Max) Chapados, and Zachary Pupo; and great-granddaughter Adelaide Chapados. She was predeceased by her son Brian Greenfield. She was deeply loved and will be profoundly missed.

A private memorial will be held on October 11 for the family.

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

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CULTURE & ARTS

Berkshire Super Couple Update

Paul Graubard & Karen Chase's latest endeavors



CHESTER, MA – This autumn, check out Lenox artist Paul Graubard's recent work in a gallery show titled "Athletes & Comedians" at A Reason to Pause, 25 Main Street in the Pioneer Valley town of Chester. Graubard's folk art

creations have been on view in solo and group exhibitions in the Berkshires and beyond, and appear in the permanent collections of the American Visionary Art Museum (Baltimore), Sanskriti Foundation (Delhi, India), and the Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe, NM. Paul explains, "There is a Chassidic belief that one can thank The Lord for the gift of life and its bounties by singing, dancing and engaging in joyful creation. This philosophy is a guiding force behind my paintings. My work comes out of a need to celebrate life." The two images here are "Practice" and "C Chaplin."



Karen and Paul

The show runs through October 15 – an artist's reception takes place on September 27, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Karen Chase's recent book of poetic storytelling *Two Tales: Jamali Kamali and ZundelState* (covered by the BJV last spring) is now an audiobook narrated by Golden Voice narrator Vikas Adam. Available on Audible and other streaming outlets.



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CULTURE & ARTS

TRAVELING WITH JEWISH TASTE
Etrog: A Botanic Love Story

By Carol Goodman Kaufman / Special to the BJV

Like hundreds of thousands of Jews around the globe, we buy a lulav and etrog every Sukkot. Because I like nothing more than a good experiment, I have several times planted the etrog’s seeds post-holiday with the hope of growing my own citron tree. Silly, really. After all, I live in New England, a place known for record-setting snowfall. Having an etrog here requires moving the tree out to the patio in late spring, then schlepping it back to the sunroom every fall before the cold weather can kill it.

Then there is the practical side of the fruit itself. Aside from having one to shake with a lulav and one to use as a sachet, what is one to do with a bushel of citrons? Although it certainly is not among the most widely used of fruits, it turns out that fans of this citrus have incorporated it into candy, jam, and even salad. My energetic rabbi, Aviva Fellman, makes a potent limoncello-like liqueur, cedrello. And an intrepid group of women from the Beth Israel Sisterhood once managed to prepare – and sell – etrog marmalade. It was a gooey, sickly-sweet concoction.



From Carol’s etrog tree...

onto the kitchen windowsill, where I could keep an eye on my charges. After about a week, the brown and shriveled plant began to revive. But strangely, neither of the plants was growing toward the sun, as is the habit of every other plant I’ve ever owned. They were growing toward each other, arching their tender, narrow stems in a manner suggesting that they were whispering in a secret language, reminiscent of twins who had once shared a crib.

Both trees were now healthy. They grew branches and have been repotted again and again. Like siblings, one began to grow taller, while the other was a bit more stout, and I pruned both several times to prevent their hitting the ceiling. They stood next to each other night and day, outdoors in summer, indoors in winter. And they continued to lean toward each other, no matter how many times I rotated them to face the sun.

Every season, the two produced lovely bunches of blossoms that emitted a heavenly scent reminiscent of my Israeli family’s citrus trees. Their perfume complemented the tangy fragrance of the leaves. But I still had no useable fruit. At one exhilarating point, a microscopic citron did appear on the tip of a branch. I was so excited that I visited it several times a day, kvelling and excitedly posting a photo on my Facebook page. Unfortunately, my helicopter parenting must have annoyed the tree, because one morning I found that the miniscule fruit had fallen – jumped? – off its branch.

Now, everything I had read about citron cultivation warned me not to expect anything for at least seven years. As if that alert weren’t enough, my Israeli exotic fruit-growing cousin Reuven told me that growing from seed would yield nothing important, and that if I wanted an etrog like its parent, I would need to graft. Yet I remained hopeful. And patient. My optimism remained strong that one day I would harvest the bright yellow fruit.

Alas, after twenty years, I gave up. I removed the two trees from the sunroom, cut them to the quick, and set them outside for the lawn guy to take away. Oddly, he only took one tree and never took the other.

So, I brought the remaining stump back into the house, with a stern warning: Produce or I will throw you out. Really.

The tree grew back and yet again produced flowers, but no fruits. Given its attachment to its sibling tree, I was surprised that it managed to grow at all. Perhaps it had completed its mourning period and was ready to live independently.

But another four years went by when suddenly this past year, I was surprised – nay, shocked – to find nine fruits. Orange, round, and the size of golf balls, these etrogim seemed to have nothing in common with the traditional citrus fruits we find in foam-lined boxes at Sukkot.

Just as Reuven had warned, these were nothing like the parent fruit. No matter, I was over the moon.

But what to do with them, now that I had them? They’re not edible on their own. I decided on two recipes. First, with the peels I made a very potent cedrello that brought back memories of sultry Mediterranean evenings. Then I made marmalade with the rest of the fruit. The nine tiny fruits only yielded half a cup, but it was delicious, probably because these

So, back to my experiment. Twenty-five years ago, on my third attempt at growing an etrog tree, I resolved to pay closer attention to the agricultural project, and we got two lovely trees. How they came to be is a tale of botanic love.

About two weeks after scooping the seeds from my etrog and carefully placing them in brand new potting soil, we noticed tiny green shoots popping out of the deep brown earth. Within a couple of months, we had three seedlings. After another few months, I threw out the runts of the litter and repotted the two heartiest plants. I placed them in opposite spots in the sunroom, about 12 feet apart. Within a week, one of the plants had begun to shrivel and turn brown, while the other was still green and healthy.

It was time for an intervention.

I brought them both



...and from the internets

fruits had not been treated with either pesticides or coated with wax. Once the experiment came to its successful conclusion, I cut the tree down again, thinking I was done. It had taken twenty-five years, but I had had success. Don’t you know it’s growing back. If it takes another twenty-five years, my grandkids can write the next story.



Cedrello

An etrog’s take on limoncello. L’chaim!

- INGREDIENTS:
- 5-to-6 citrons, thoroughly scrubbed and dried
 - 1 (750 ml) bottle 100-proof vodka
 - 2 cups superfine sugar (if you don’t have any, just zap some regular sugar in a food processor)
 - 2-1/2 cups water

- DIRECTIONS:
- Pour 1/2 the vodka into a large glass jar. With a vegetable peeler or grater, remove yellow peel only, avoiding the white pith.
- Add the lemon zest directly to the jar. Cover the jar and let sit at room temperature for a full month.
- After the first month:
- In a large saucepan, combine the sugar and water. Cook, stirring frequently, until sugar is dissolved. Cool syrup before adding it to the vodka. Add the remaining vodka. Allow to rest for another month.
- After the second month:
- Strain the mixture, discarding the lemon zest. Pour into bottles. Place bottles in the freezer until ready to serve.



Carol Goodman Kaufman, has just published her second mystery book, *Crak, Bam, Dead: Mah Jong Mayhem* (Next Chapter Press). The collection of cozy mystery short stories features food writer/ aspiring investigative reporter Kiki Coben and her Mah Jong group as they follow clues from a “Black Widow” murder at sea to a suspicious death at a senior home charity event. Armed with a curious mind and her formidable group of friends, Kiki is ready to prove that the only thing you need to catch a killer is persistence – and maybe just a little bit of luck. *Crak, Bam, Dead* is available in stores and online.