

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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Honoring the Past by Stepping Up in the Present

Federation Campaign 2018 kicks off on Super Sunday, May 6



Super Sunday Chair Ed Udel with a portrait of his grandfather, Howard Udel, who was director of Pittsfield's JCC from 1950 to 1954

Looking for a meaningful way to bring more goodness into our world? How about making a difference in the lives of seniors, young people, and Jews all over the world?

On May 6, the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires will host its annual Super Sunday phone-a-thon, an opportunity to give back to our community in so many ways. From 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., volunteers from across Berkshire County will be "making the call" at call centers in Pittsfield and Great Barrington, asking for support from every community member for the Federation's 2018 Annual Campaign for Jewish needs.

Funds raised will help feed the hungry, comfort the elderly, build Jewish identity, and inspire Jewish life and learning across the Berkshires and all over the world.

SUPER SUNDAY, continued on page 6

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"Crossing the Line: Anti-Semitism, BDS, and Civil Rights"

Jeffrey S. Robbins tackles a thorny issue at the May 11 Knosh & Knowledge

GREAT BARRINGTON – On Friday, May 11, Knosh & Knowledge welcomes Jeffrey S. Robbins, the former president of the World Affairs Council of Boston and the former chairman of the New England Board of the Anti-Defamation League of New England. His topic will be "Crossing the Line: Anti-Semitism, BDS, and Civil Rights."

This Jewish Federation of the Berkshires program will take place at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire at 10:45 a.m., and will be followed by lunch.

In addition to the aforementioned roles, Jeffrey Robbins served as a US delegate to the United Nations Human Rights Commission during the Clinton Administration, having been appointed in 1999 and then re-appointed in 2000. He served as Chief Counsel for the Minority on the United States Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, as well as Assistant United States Attorney



Jeffrey S. Robbins

CROSSING THE LINE, continued on page 4

Two Worlds Illuminated by One Another

Now on view in Lenox, works by Afula-Gilboa artist Tanya Friedman uses African textiles to explore Rwandan life in juxtaposition with her Jewish identity



St. Louis-born artist Tanya Friedman, who moved to Israel in 2011 and currently lives with her family on Kibbutz Shluhot in the Afula-Gilboa region, says she fell in love with the colors and patterns of Rwandan fabrics while volunteering at the Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village in 2009, and has created collages inspired by the stories and personalities of people she met there, as well as by her own Jewish heritage. Works from her Rwanda series and much more are on view at Cranwell Spa & Golf Resort through August. For more on Tanya and her participation in the Federation-sponsored Project Zug, please see page 24. (Above: A detail from "Closer Look.")

BERKSHIRE JEWISH ENTREPRENEUR

Still Thinking Big

Eiran Gazit reflects on the creation of Times Square hotspot Gulliver's Gate



Eiran Gazit and the miniature Jerusalem section of Gulliver's Gate

"I made a distinct decision – the path I would go on would not involve secrets."

That's how Eiran Gazit – proprietor of the Gateways Inn in Lenox and impresario behind the Times Square mega-attraction Gulliver's Gate – describes how he negotiated the fork in the road he arrived at after 13 years as a field intelligence officer in the Israel Defense Forces. The 9th generation Sabra from Jerusalem (the son of a diplomat, who was raised in England and lived in other countries, as well) had reached the point in his military career where he had to either recommit to the

IDF, a move that would have likely kept him serving until retirement in early middle age, or try something new. After many stressful years in what he describes as "sensitive positions," he opted for the latter, leaving the IDF as a major.

In the years since leaving that clandestine world, Gazit has fashioned a multifaceted career for himself in which engagement with the public has been central – his forte, "making a place into a destination." At Gateways Inn, which he runs with wife Michele, both Berkshire

EIRAN GAZIT, continued on page 10

Letters to the Editor

Berkshire Baby Box's Bodinger Belauds B'not Tzedek's Benevolence

To the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires:

Todah raba for providing the B'not Tzedek Youth Foundation with the opportunity to make grant awards to worthy non-profits. What a powerful exercise for them. It sounds like they took their task quite seriously and that they conducted thoughtful and thorough research in making their decisions.

We are so appreciative of this award, which will indeed

help us as we provide safe sleeping spaces and important connections for all new families in our county. We have given away more than 1,400 Berkshire Baby Boxes in our first two years.

You helped make this possible.

With much appreciation,
Hinda Bodinger
Great Barrington

"Teaching Israel" in Israel – Thanks to You

Dear Jewish Federation of the Berkshires:

"Thank you" is insufficient to express the gratitude I feel for each of you, and your generosity in supporting the seven young women who traveled to Israel with me in March. As you may know, this was the first youth trip that Hevreh has sent to Israel in many years, and I hope to be able to say that this was the inaugural trip for what will become a benchmark experience for 8th graders in our congregation.

As a rabbi in the Berkshires, "teaching Israel" remains one of my greatest challenges: how can we really teach a connection to a land and people that are so far away? I believe that this trip was indeed life changing for the seven students (and four mothers who chaperoned) in that it awakened a curiosity and desire to know Israel from within.

In addition to your wonder-

ful financial support, I must also say that the partnership program with the Afula-Gilboa region is spectacular and I am so proud that our small Jewish community is able to sustain and support this connection. Through the partnership, we were made to feel at home: welcomed enthusiastically to Kibbutz Yizreel, hosted for meals, and invited to see the inner workings of this complex and diverse region.

Our community has much to be proud of, and I believe that your support of this youth trip to Israel is truly remarkable.

Fondly,
Rabbi Jodie Gordon
Great Barrington

For an in-depth account of the trip, please see Rabbi Gordon's story on page 15.



Hevreh's B'not Mitzvah and chaperones in Israel

Jerusalem's Yad LaKashish Artisans and Staff Thank You for Your Ongoing Support

Dear Jewish Federation of the Berkshires:

On behalf of all the elderly artisans, staff, and volunteers at Yad LaKashish, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires for another generous grant in support of our activities.

Since 1962, Yad LaKashish has been serving one of Jerusalem's most underserved populations – elderly persons who live below the poverty line. Thanks to your ongoing support, we are able to continue offering some of the Israeli capital's neediest residents creative work opportunities, a comprehensive package of financial benefits, and, perhaps most importantly, a renewed sense of belonging, purpose and self-worth in a warm, community environment.

Among the benefits our elderly artisans receive in exchange for participation in the Yad LaKashish program is an unlimited monthly travel pass valid on the public busses and light rail system in Jerusalem and the vicinity. We will be using the \$2,000 grant from the Federation to pay for 67 of these passes.

The importance of this benefit cannot be overemphasized. Many poverty-stricken older adults in Jerusalem, particularly immigrants, experience inactivity, social isolation, and disempowerment. The free monthly travel pass we are able to provide to our elderly artisans with your help covers the cost of transportation to and from Yad LaKashish on a daily basis, and beyond that, affords them easier access to essential services such as medical treatment and trips to the grocery store, as well as visiting friends and family and engaging in various cultural and enrichment activities around the city.

Thank you again for your loyal support. We look forward



Artisans at Yad LaKashish

to continuing our fruitful partnership for many years to come.

Sincerely yours,
Ariela Schwartz-Zur
Executive Director

Your Dollars Provide Meals, Dignity, and Companionship in Jerusalem

Dear Jewish Federation of the Berkshires:

We are very appreciative of the generous funding Meir Panim Jerusalem Free Restaurant received from the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. Your partnership in our mission of alleviating food insecurity among Jerusalem's citizens is of paramount importance to our success in promoting the health and well-being of Israel's impoverished population.

Your generous grant of \$3,500 will make an enormous impact by providing over 1,000 of the life-saving meals served daily at our Jerusalem restaurant-style soup kitchen. From this location, we also provide Meals-on-Wheels to Jerusalem's homebound, disabled, and elderly citizens, including Holocaust survivors.

In addition to providing hot meals to those who need it most, our restaurant and delivery volunteers form close relationships with our clients, inquiring into their welfare and overall state of health, and referring them to additional social services as needed. For many of our clients, the caring and friendly faces of our volunteers are their only social interaction of their day.

On behalf of the American Friends of Meir Panim organization, many thanks to the board



of directors of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, your allocations committee, and your donors. Your kindheartedness, compassion, and sense of humanity for those less fortunate is emblematic of your caring for the State of Israel, its citizens, and Jews all over the world.

Sincerely,
David Roth, President
American Friends of Meir Panim

The Jewish Transportation Network

Discount Taxi Vouchers

for Jewish residents aged 65 years and older

Purchase \$50 worth of taxi coupons for \$5

(\$6 if requested via mail)

Coupons are valid for three months and can be used with Tunnel City Taxi of North Adams, Rainbow Taxi of Pittsfield or Taxico of Great Barrington and Lee.

Some restrictions apply. Limit 10 voucher booklets per person/per year.

**Purchase vouchers at the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires
196 South St., Pittsfield, MA 01201. (413) 442-4360, ext. 10**

This program is funded by the Jewish Women's Foundation of Berkshire County and administered by the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires

ADDITIONAL LETTERS on page 4

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The *Berkshire Jewish Voice* welcomes signed letters on subjects of interest to the Jewish community. Letters are printed upon space availability. The BJV reserves the right to edit all letters for content, length, and style. The BJV does not print anonymous letters, insults, libelous or defamatory statements. Published letters do not represent the views of the Federation, its board of directors, or the newspaper, but rather express the views of their authors. For verification purposes, please include full name, home address, and a day and evening telephone number. Send letters to: Berkshire Jewish Voice, 196 South Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201, or email: astern@jewishberkshires.org.

Rabbi Reflections

Continuing the Conversation from a Famous Pulpit, 50 Years Later

By Rabbi Neil P.G. Hirsch



In 1968, to protest unfair wages and hours, the African American Sanitation Workers Union of Memphis went on strike. To support that strike, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., made his way there, and delivered a sermon at Memphis's Mason Temple. His remarks would come to be known as his Mountaintop Sermon, and it would be his final public address, because he was gunned down the next day.

Here is the close of his remarks from April 3, 1968: "Well, I don't know what will happen now. We've got some difficult days ahead. But it doesn't matter with me now. Because I've been to the mountaintop. And I don't mind. Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity

has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the promised land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the promised land. And I'm happy, tonight. I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord."

Some have identified these words as prescient, and with reflections such as these, King secured his place in recent memory as a modern-day Moses. Although I doubt he would have put it this way, King lived by the teaching



Mason Temple in Memphis

from Pirkei Avot that one is not obligated to finish the task of repairing the world, though we cannot refrain from taking it on, either. And that striving certainly continues.

This April, I was honored to take part in the I AM 2018 Mountaintop Conference. The conference was hosted by American Federal, State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and by the Church of God in Christ. It was this labor union and this church that put on the '68 Memphis strike, and who brought King to speak at the Mason Temple, the church's spiritual headquarters. Thousands of people gathered together to commemorate the events that took place 50 years ago, and to continue the conversation on where we stand today around racial and economic justice. I currently serve as the co-chair for the Reform movement's campaign for racial justice, and so I was invited to offer a Jewish, spiritual reflection on those matters.

Addressing that particular congregation, on that particular pulpit on which King delivered his final sermon, was a humbling experience. And as is typical at these sorts of events, the speakers were impactful. We heard from a student from Parkland, Florida. The Reverends Lawson and Jesse Jackson both told about what it was like to be at the events of April, 1968. But the hands-down, most significant aspect of the conference was the particular collection of people who had gathered together. It was an event that crossed lines of difference in profound ways, and who were unified by an enduring vision. Everyone there believed that they could do their part to leave the world a bit more whole than it was the day before.

In my remarks from the pulpit, I shared a story about a sparrow and a lion. One day, a sparrow is in the middle of a meadow, lying on its back. It is sticking its legs straight up into the air, and keeping those legs there, even as the sparrow begins to fatigue. After a little while, a lion comes out of the jungle, heading to some other destination, when he comes upon the sparrow. "What are you doing?" says the lion. "You should be flitting about!" "I heard the sky was falling," the sparrow replies, "I'm doing my part to hold it up." We do what we can to hold up the sky. Everyone there at that conference continued to do their part to hold up the sky, and I believe, to work to repair the fissures they found in the atmosphere.

In March, we celebrated Passover, during which we said, "In every generation, one is obligated to see him or herself as if he or she was personally redeemed from Egypt." From Passover, we count through the Omer, and head to Shavuot, our mountaintop moment. This spring, we are redeemed from Egypt, and head into the Wilderness. We have not yet reached the promised land, but we get to stand at mountaintops, and affirm "Naasei v'Nishmah, We will do and we will understand." In our observance of mitzvot—both ritual and ethical—we come to better understand our world and our relationship with God. Standing with others at the I AM 2018 conference, I felt this spiritual message in the actions that these leaders were taking. I was honored to be a part of it. I was grateful for the opportunity.

May we each continue along our own journeys, traveling from strength to strength. For those of us called to pursue justice, may we do what we can to hold up the sky, continuing to strive for a better today than yesterday, and a better tomorrow than today.

Rabbi Neil P.G. Hirsch is a spiritual leader at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire in Great Barrington.

Thank you volunteers Ellen Rosenblatt and the BJV delivery team, Michael Albert, Jeff Kramer, Roman Rozenblyum, and Ron Turbin

Spend the Summer or the Year in Israel



ISRAEL TRAVEL & STUDY GRANTS FOR YOUTH

The Michael Nathaniel Shute Endowment Fund
provides grants to Berkshire area youth for educational travel or study in Israel.

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

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

 **Jewish Federation**
OF THE BERKSHIRES

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

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Your Federation Presents

CROSSING THE LINE, *continued from page 1*

for the District of Massachusetts. He has written on issues relating to Israel and the Mideast for the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, the *Boston Globe*, *The Observer*, *The Times of Israel* and the *Boston Herald*.

Robbins says his presentation, "Crossing the Line: Anti-Semitism, BDS and Civil Rights," will address the following issues, among others: Supporters of legislation penalizing those who boycott Israel argue that this legislation keeps government on the "right side" of discrimination. Opponents argue that such legislation violates the spirit, and the letter, of the First Amendment. What are the arguments on both sides? And when – if ever – does anti-Israelism cross a line into anti-Semitism?

His talk will be especially timely and locally relevant given the recent inability of the Massachusetts State Legislature to pass a proposed anti-BDS (Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions) bill.

On March 21, Jewish News Service (JNS) published a story titled "Why did anti-BDS bill fail in Massachusetts when it succeeded in other states?" by Rafael Medoff. A few of its key passages are excerpted below.

Legislation to combat the Boycott, Divestment and Sanction (BDS) movement against Israel has been adopted in more than 20 states in recent years, but it was derailed [in February] in Massachusetts. Pro-Israel activists are divided over the reasons why.

The Massachusetts bill, known as the Act Prohibiting Discrimination in State Contracts, would have

made it illegal for state agencies to do more than \$10,000 worth of business with companies that discriminate on the basis of national origin, including, by implication, Israeli national origin.

The bill was referred "to study" by a regulatory oversight committee of the state legislature on February 8. That froze the legislation for the foreseeable future.

Jeremy Burton, executive director of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston, which helped draft and promote the measure, told JNS that the bill fell victim to "the overall political climate in [heavily Democratic] states, where anti-BDS legislation is seen as conflicting with free speech."

He noted that since 2016, anti-BDS bills have been enacted almost exclusively in states where the legislatures are Republican-controlled or, in the case of New York and Maryland, where the governor used an executive order to combat BDS.

Last year, the American Civil Liberties Union came out against anti-BDS legislation, claiming it could "chill protected expression by scaring people into self-censorship." Although that position has been challenged by many legal experts, the ACLU has filed suit against anti-BDS measures in a number of states.

...

Some voices in the Boston Jewish community charge that the local JCRC did

not do enough to promote the proposed legislation. In its coverage of the hearings concerning the bill, the Boston-based *Jewish Advocate* reported that "no representatives of any non-Jewish groups with whom JCRC collaborates spoke in favor of the bill."

...

The JCRC's Burton acknowledged that "in retrospect, there was more we could have done to mobilize other groups, to make more public noise about the bill."

But, he emphasized, "I don't think it would have mattered because people who know the Massachusetts legislative process from the inside have told us that there were just too many obstacles to overcome."

Here's how Jeffrey Robbins weighed in on the BJV's questions about some of the issues surrounding the legislation.

BJV: Was there anything substantively different in the proposed Massachusetts bill than in anti-BDS bills that have passed in other states?

Robbins: I am not aware of any significant differences.

BJV: In your opinion, did the JCRC not do enough outreach to ensure the bill's success, as suggested in the news report? How valid is the ACLU's take?

Robbins: The JCRC has a complex task, much more than many understand, in navigating relationships with a variety of Massachusetts

public officials and civic leaders, and navigating those relationships for the benefit of the Jewish community and, for that matter, for Israel, often requires it to engage in a respectful give and take that is calibrated to serve the good of the community (and of Israel) but which may not be immediately visible. It is fair to say that in the case of this legislation, one of the challenges was the tepid reaction of some of the Jewish legislators themselves. Another was the First Amendment concern that was a factor for some in the Legislature and outside of the Legislature. A third is the set of problems that Israel has come to have among certain Democratic Party constituencies – and Massachusetts, after all, effectively has a one party Legislature. I am not one who believes that the JCRC is in a position to simply snap its fingers and overcome those challenges. I am someone, however, who is a big admirer of Jeremy Burton and the JCRC, and who sees how energetic and skilled they are on Israel's behalf in a place that is complicated when it comes to positions on the Middle East.

BJV: Is Jeremy Burton correct in asserting that the Massachusetts bill failed because of an anti-Israel political climate in heavily Democratic states?

Robbins: As I indicated, Jeremy is absolutely right when he asserts that there is a need to make the case for Israel among Democratic constituencies more vigorously,

more effectively, than perhaps all of us are doing it. He is also clearly right when he indicates that this is a national problem for Israel, as a number of polls, including a recent one by Pew, reflect, and as I believe from talking to Israeli officials they understand, as well.

BJV: What might the future hold for an anti-BDS bill in Massachusetts?

Robbins: My hope is that if all of us who understand the challenges that the pro-Israel community faces in redoubling (if not tripling and quadrupling) our efforts among Democratic constituencies recommit ourselves, we will be better positioned to demonstrate that the anti-Israel boycotts that have become so fashionable in certain quarters are in fact foul, rather than "progressive." If we do that, it may well be that we can bring about a revisiting of the legislation, and bring Massachusetts "in line" with other states who have seen anti-Israel boycotts for what they are more clearly.

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires

Date & Time: Friday, May 11 at 10:45 a.m.

Venue: Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Road, Great Barrington

Cost: \$11 with fresh buffet lunch. Program only, \$5.

Advance lunch reservations required for this event.

Email federation@jewishberkshires.org, or call (413) 442-4360, ext. 10

Donate • Volunteer • Make a Difference

Letters to the Editor, continued from page 2

Sar El, Anyone?

Dear Berkshire Jewish Voice:

My husband Jeff and I recently returned from three weeks on an army base in the Israeli Negev as part of the Sar El Program. We have been attending this program since 2011, and would like more people in Berkshires to know about how much it offers.

On the Sar El program, you work Sunday thru Thursday, generally 6-8 hours per day. Each army base on which volunteers are placed has different jobs to be done. This time we were stationed in one of the Negev army logistics bases. The first week, some of us had to work in an outdoor area with dozens of flatbed trucks that are used to transport tanks around the country. Our job was to paint the chucks on these trucks red.

The second week we were given different jobs. Now we were told to clean and inventory a number of warehouses. There was a warehouse filled with office supplies, one of fire extinguishers, another with duffle bags to be emptied, inventoried, and refilled. While

doing these chores we also had to sweep and clean the warehouses. This was complicated, as we were in the desert where the winds blew the sand back into the warehouses almost as fast as we'd sweep it out.

Our third week most everyone was back to their original jobs. But I was lucky enough to be placed in the kitchen. Here the hours are shorter and the work much easier. No cooking. Only cleaning after meals. We washed dishes, pots and pans and wiped down all the tables in the dining room. Then we'd sweep and wash the dining room and kitchen floors. Doesn't sound like fun? It actually was, as we could talk to the soldiers working there. They practiced their English while I was able to improve my Hebrew.

After dinner, there is a mandatory group meeting at which your *madrichot* (guides/counselors) provide lessons to teach you more about Israel. Often this is done with games and become a way for the group to get to

know each other better by interacting while they are learning. The rest of your evening is yours, so long as you stay on the base.

The work week ends at noon on Thursday, when you are bused to Tel Aviv for the weekend. From here you can stay at the soldier's hostel for free, take a room at one of the many fine hotels there, or go by bus or train anywhere in the country to tour or meet family and friends. About 9 a.m. Sunday morning, you get yourself back to the train station to meet up with your group, get bused back to the base, and start the work week again.

If you are interested in knowing more about how to be involved in this program, feel free to contact me.

Ethel Kramer
(iambobie@gmail.com)
Housatonic



Sar El volunteers Ethel and Jeff Kramer, their uniforms stained by the red paint used to paint the chucks on flatbed trucks.

Your Federation Presents

Connecting With Community Programs / Kosher Hot Lunch

Programs in the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires' Connecting With Community series are free and start at 10:45 a.m. most Mondays and Thursdays at Kneset Israel (16 Colt Road, Pittsfield). Programs are followed by a kosher hot lunch. Lunch is a \$2 suggested donation for adults over 60 years of age or \$7 for all others. Advance reservations are required for lunch and can be made by calling (413) 442-2200 before 9 a.m. on the day of the program.

For further information on all programs, please call Nancy Maurice Rogers, program director, at (413) 442-4360, ext. 15. **For lunch menus and a chronological list of all scheduled programs, please see page 19.** Note that lunch menus are subject to change. Also note that beginning on June 1 and continuing through the summer months, the *Tuesday kosher lunch program will be on hiatus*. Tuesday lunches will resume in the fall.

Current Affairs: Contemporary American and International Politics

On Thursday, April 26 and Monday, May 14 at 10:45 a.m., join Professor Steven J. Rubín for "Current Affairs: Contemporary American and International Politics." This course will meet once a month to discuss and explore current issues that influence our lives and society at large. This free program at Kneset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield is part of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires' Connecting With Community series.

Topics will be chosen by Professor Rubín in consultation with the class and in view of the issue's relevance. Members will be encouraged to participate in discussions to express views and opinions in a supportive and informal atmosphere.

Steven J. Rubín is profes-

sor emeritus of international studies and former dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Adelphi University, Garden City, NY. He is the author of numerous books and articles and frequently lectures both here and abroad on such topics as international anti-Semitism, Jewish history, popular culture, and literature. His radio play "Dem Bums: The Rise and Demise of the Brooklyn Dodgers" was broadcast live on National Public Radio in December 2017 and can be currently heard online.



Professor Steven J. Rubín

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community

Venue: Kneset Israel

Date & Time: Thursday, April 26 and Monday, May 14 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 19).

The Process of Aging, with Maggie Bittman

On Monday, April 23 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires presents "The Process of Aging" with therapist Maggie Bittman. This free program at Kneset Israel, 16 Colt Road, in Pittsfield, is part of the Federation's Connecting With Community series.

This program will provide an opportunity to be part of a group dialogue, created and facilitated by Bittman, who will explain her outlook and approach, emphasizing that aging begins at birth. She will discuss how all of us are confronted with four existential truths as we age – the search to find meaning and purpose; facing mortality; experiencing aloneness; and engaging free will.

Bittman will highlight how this is a lifelong process, and the ways people return to

these existential truths at each stage of life with the added wisdom that comes with aging. Within this context, participants will discuss, share and offer support, as they explore these existential truths.

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community

Venue: Kneset Israel

Date & Time: Monday, April 23 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 19).



Therapist Maggie Bittman

Get Connected

Visit **CULTURE CONNECT** for a complete listing of Jewish arts, culture and education programs in your community! Sign up for our free monthly e-bulletin!

JEWISH CULTURE CONNECT .COM

A PROJECT OF THE HAROLD GRINSPOON FOUNDATION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH JEWISH FEDERATION OF WESTERN MA & JEWISH FEDERATION OF THE BERKSHIRES

Easy Chair Yoga for Flexibility, Mobility, and Peace of Mind

On Thursday, May 3 at 10:45 a.m., join Linda Novick for "Easy Chair Yoga for Flexibility, Mobility, and Peace of Mind." This free program at Kneset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield is part of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires' Connecting With Community series.

Linda Novick says: "Chair Yoga is appropriate for people of all levels of mobility. It is a series of breathing and stretching exercises done in a chair, which increases mobility of the joints, flexibility, strength and stamina. Some of the exercises are performed standing behind the chair, while holding on. Participants will learn breathing techniques to enhance lung capacity, as well as easy stretches and yoga postures. Yoga is good for *all bodies*. Beginners are welcome."

Linda Novick, MFA, is an author, teacher, artist, and professional level Kripalu Yoga teacher. She currently teaches yoga at Berkshire West Fitness Center and Kimball Farms, and all over the Commonwealth with the Massachusetts Housing Authority.

She explains that her approach to yoga encourages everyone to listen and love their body. Her yoga classes encourage gentle stretching, proper breathing, strength and



Linda Novick

balance. She attended Pratt Institute in Brooklyn and has a BFA in art education, and has taught art for 50 years.

She's been teaching yoga since 1997, and lately has been focusing on easy yoga for elders. She taught on staff at Kripalu Center for 7 years, and is now a regular presenter, offering programs that combine painting and yoga. She's the author of the book, *The Painting Path: Embodying Spiritual Discovery through Yoga, Brush and Color*.

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community

Venue: Kneset Israel

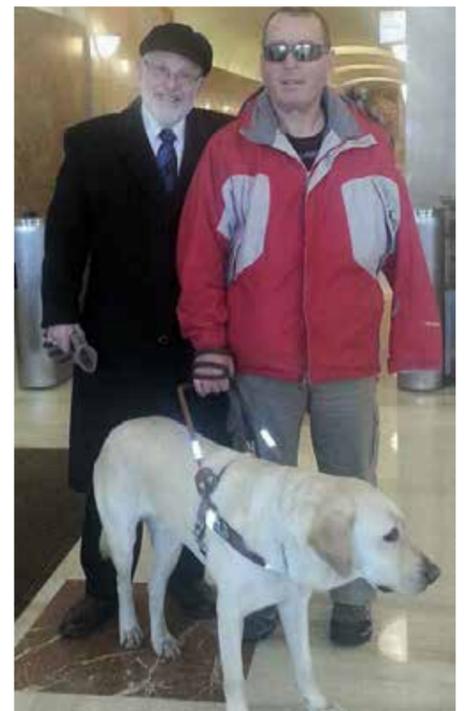
Date & Time: Thursday, May 3 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 19).

Our Dogs Understand Hebrew

On Monday, April 30 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires presents "Our Dogs Understand Hebrew," about the Israel Guide Dog Center for the Blind. This free program at Kneset Israel, 16 Colt Road, in Pittsfield, is part of the Federation's Connecting With Community series.

Join Jeff Lambert, professor and director emeritus of the Disabled Students Support Services at Long Island University-Brooklyn, and his wife, educator Ellen Lambert, who will use multimedia, discussion, and canine goodwill ambassador, Shannon, to showcase the work of the Israel Guide Dog Center for the Blind in Beit Oved.

For the past 10 years, Jeff and Ellen have been raising guide dog puppies for the Israel Guide Dog Center for the Blind. They have also fostered Shannon, a breeding dog who had four litters with a total of 33 puppies, several of which have become working guide dogs.



Jeff Lambert with Guide Dog User Eli Yablonek

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community

Venue: Kneset Israel

Date & Time: Monday, April 30 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 19).

Donate

Volunteer

Make a Difference

Your Federation Presents

SUPER SUNDAY, continued from page 1

"At a time of great uncertainty in our world," says Executive Director Dara Kaufman, "your gift to the Federation is an expression of our shared values to create a more compassionate and just world. Our work transcends age, gender, geography and levels of religious observance."

Adds Kaufman: "No one asks about observance before we offer food and blankets to families in the wake of natural disasters, like the hurricane we saw in Houston. We didn't check synagogue affiliations before we assisted with rent for a local single mother struggling with job loss. We don't insist that a person keep kosher to find nourishment and companionship at our kosher lunch program. We don't even ask if they're Jewish."

"When people are in need, our differences quickly disappear. Everyone counts and we are compelled to be there for one another."

Introducing our 2018 Super Sunday Chair

Continuing his lifelong commitment to this Jewish community, Edward Udel has taken on the role of 2018 chair for the Super Sunday campaign kickoff, the third

time he has stepped up as a leader of this event. To the job, this Berkshires native brings a thoroughgoing personal knowledge of the history of Jewish life in this county, as well as insights about the nature of our community today garnered from his leadership roles within Federation and Knesset Israel, which he served as president for two terms.

"All my involvement has a direct connection to the pride I feel about my grandfather's involvement in our community," says Ed, referring to his grandfather Howard Udel's role as director of the Pittsfield Jewish Community Council that operated the JCC in downtown Pittsfield. "I think we would all benefit if we make an effort to recall the contributions of those who came before us, who were our role models."

"On Super Sunday, we have the opportunity to model for our children and grandchildren what it means to be other-directed, what it means to be a mensch."

Says Federation Development Officer Leslie Kozupsky: "We are lucky to have leaders like Ed. His family legacy in the community and his commitment to cultivating

and maintaining a strong and vibrant Jewish community in the Berkshires is inspiring.

"I have great confidence that the 2018 Super Sunday Campaign will be a great success," adds Leslie, "and I am excited to see what we as a community can come together to accomplish."

Ed points to the legacies that still surround us – tangibly, to the handsome houses of worship across Berkshire County, but also to the way the congregations that inhabit them today work to sustain Jewish engagement in a part of the world that can seem, Jewishly, off the beaten track, and to educate the next generations of students emerging from their religious

schools.

Over the years, Ed has seen this Jewish community change along with the civic and economic fortunes of the region as a whole. When General Electric was still the most prominent local employer, it attracted "a steady flow of engineers and professionals who wanted Jewish connection," he says. More than 150 students were enrolled in just the Knesset Israel Hebrew school at one point, and he also recalls playing basketball at the JCC in a league that attracted more than 100 Jewish participants. To demonstrate how high profile Jewish community organization was in the mid-20th century, he shows off a program saved from the 1954 fundraising concert, its honorary chairs Mrs. Bruce Crane (of the Crane paper family), Mrs. Serge Koussevitzky (wife of the famed Boston Symphony Orchestra conductor), and Leonard Bernstein ("Lenny").

Today, the Berkshires' demographics are much different, but meeting our community's goals – providing help to those in need, engaging Jewish youth, and building Jewish life, to name just a few – remain as imperative as ever. And the present day community has shown itself to be up to the challenge.

"Though there are fewer people in our Jewish community," says Ed, "the community is more diverse." He attributes this diversity to the influx of second homeowners and retirees who have represented much of the community's growth in recent years. "There is more engagement on religious issues, social issues, political issues, and so forth," he adds. He's seen "territorial divisions between congregations evaporate," and a community outlook emerge that stresses cooperation and collaboration.

No matter what one's personal social and religious outlook, says Ed, "the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires offers many portals to getting involved in our Jewish community. The organization is a vital link all that's going on, and is certain to offer something you will want to work on to fix the world."

Federation, he says, "offers a way to plug in and feel connected. There is so much

Jewish Community News

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VOL. XIII — No. 1
SEPT. 1955

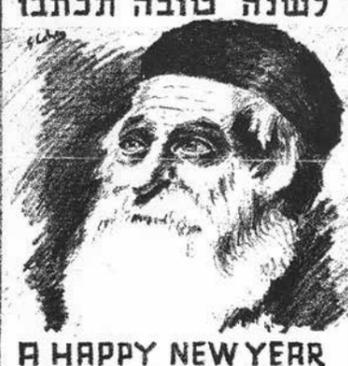
WELFARE FUND DRIVE STARTS NEW YEAR

"WORLD OF SHOLEM ALEICHEM" TO BE STAGED OCTOBER 30th

The Board of Governors of the Jewish Community Center are very happy to announce one of the outstanding programs ever to be presented in the history of our Jewish community. Announcement has just been made that the original New York City dramatic production of "The World of Sholem Aleichem" will be presented here at the Jewish Community House on Sunday evening, October 30 at 8:30.

The full play will be presented as originally offered, fully staged. In every respect the production will be the original which ran forty-three weeks in New York City. All of the delights of the "World of Sholem," the poignancy of Buntche Schwig, the rich, bitter-sweet humor of Sholem Aleichem's gymnasium, constitute the evening. They are woven together by the unforgettable character of Mendele the book peddler and by the enchanting musical score.

The cast which will be here evoked from Brooks Atkinson of the New York Times the following words: "A Time for Rejoicing. It evokes humor, sentiment and compassion out of simple entertainment. Everyone concerned with 'The World of Sholem Aleichem' has helped to translate the



לשנה טובה תכתבו

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Rosh Hashanah Message
By RABBI HAROLD SALZMANN
of
Temple Anshe Amunim

Rosh Hashanah, according to Jewish Tradition, is the birthday of the Universe. The Rabble and Sages of old taught that God created the world on the first day of the month of Tishri. With this in mind, it would seem appropriate, then, to mark this sacred occasion with some serious thought to the future of our world for, surely, we owe it to ourselves and to our children to think responsibly in terms of tomorrow. Certainly our ancestral wise men displayed both sentience and perspicacity when, concerned with the Days to Come, they affirmed: "Upon three things does the world depend for its survival, upon Torah, upon the worship of God, and upon deeds of loving kindness."

Very shortly we shall be observing this birthday of the World in our Temples and Synagogues. But, unlike most birthday festivities, our celebration will be chiefly spiritual in content with even the three-day-a-year Jew giving some recognition to the temporary primacy of the Torah and paying his formal respects to the Deity in the way of prayer and synagogal attendance. For Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur somehow seem to set up an annual 'magnetic field' and electrify the most soulfully ap-

**JEWISH WELFARE FUND CAMPAIGN
REQUIRES FULL COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

A precursor to the BJV, the Jewish Community News was "Published monthly by the Jewish Community Council for the Jewish Community of Pittsfield." Penning the September, 1955 Rosh Hashanah message was Rabbi Harold Salzmann, now the rabbi emeritus of Temple Anshe Amunim who remains a cherished member of the Berkshire Jewish community. As for a campaign pitch, here is how they did it 62 years ago: "The goal of \$65,000 is a minimal one and must be met if we are to hold our heads high as a community which faces up to its responsibility."

to do, anyone who wants to can find a comfortable niche within Federation to use their skills and life experience in a way they find fulfilling."

As a former teacher who is strongly engaged in current events, Ed says he understands that in today's social and political climate, people may feel as if they face "a world of uncertainty." He urges all in this community to use Super Sunday as "a pause from the chaos, to make it one day we can use to restore control in our lives by

duplicating the generosity of those that came before us and reaffirm the things we believe in as Jews."

He adds: "On Super Sunday, we all count. Each gift, regardless of the amount, is critical to our community. Let us join together to take control, to shut out the irritating and upsetting diversions that threaten to erode hope and confidence. Let us participate in Super Sunday to reaffirm the tenets of our faith and re-energize our commitment to each other."

See You On Super Sunday, May 6!

Just a friendly reminder – please make a call or answer a call on May 6, when the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires kicks off its annual campaign with Super Sunday!

Join us during this important day of community building at either of two calling centers:

- Federation office, 196 South Street in Pittsfield (9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)
- Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center Administrative Office, 244 Main Street, Ste. 3, (not the theater) Great Barrington (9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)

When our community needs us, we are there. We think you'll get a lot out of being there for us on Super Sunday.

Volunteers Wanted for Follow-Up Calls!
Tuesday May 15, 3-5 or 6:30-8 at Federation
Wednesday, May 23, 3-5 or 6:30-8 at Hevreh
Thursday, May 31, 3-5 or 6:30-8 at Federation

Volunteer at: (413) 442-4360, ext. 10

3rd ANNUAL CONCERT

Honorary Chairmen

Mrs. Bruce Crane
Mrs. Serge Koussevitzky
Leonard Bernstein

for the benefit of
"MUSIC FOR ISRAEL"

Lukas Foss, piano	Richard Burgin, violin
Jean Bedetti, cello	Ralph Berkowitz, piano
Walter Rubin, clarinet	Catherine Akos, mezzo-soprano

Jewish Community House
235 East Street
Pittsfield, Mass.

Monday evening, August 9, 1954
8:30 P.M.

Just as Federation does today, the Jewish community held a summer concert to raise funds. This program is from the 1954 fundraising concert co-chaired by Leonard Bernstein and other local luminaries at Pittsfield's "Jewish Community House" on East Street. On piano was Lukas Foss, classmate of Bernstein's at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia and described by the conductor as an "authentic genius"; he would go on to great renown as a performer, teacher, and music director of major orchestras. Violinist Richard Burgin was the Boston Symphony Orchestra's concertmaster, and himself a renowned teacher.



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Jeff Clifford

Your Federation Presents

Two Contemporary Poets to Read Their Work

On Thursday, May 10 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires welcomes Jean P. Moore and Rabbi Rachel Barenblat, who will share the stage as they read from their newly published books of poetry. This free program at Kneset Israel, 16 Colt Road, in Pittsfield, is part of the Federation's Connecting With Community series.

Jean P. Moore, a novelist and poet, writes fiction and nonfiction. Her new chapbook, *Time's Tyranny*, includes poems on themes such as life in its fullness; love, in youth and in maturity; mothering and grandfathering. Jean's presentation will focus on her nature poems, largely inspired by her many years spent in Tyringham.

Rabbi Barenblat is spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Israel in North Adams. Her most recent book of poetry is titled *Texts to the Holy*, a collection of love poems in the tradition of the Song of Songs. "The great Biblical poem that describes love between two hu-



Jean P. Moore

man beloveds and is also read as an allegory for the love between us and God," she writes. "These poems can be read purely as love poems from one human beloved to another, and they can be read as poems of love between a soul and her Source. This is deep emotion expressed in contemporary language, without sentimentality. The yearning heart finds reminders of the beloved everywhere. Even a text message can be a locus for holiness."

Rabbi Barenblat was named in 2016 by *The Forward* as one of America's Most Inspiring Rabbis. In addition to several poetry chapbooks, she is author of book-length poetry collections, as well.

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community

Venue: Kneset Israel

Date & Time: Thursday, May 10 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 19).

Filmmaking – The Underground Berkshire Industry

On Monday, May 7 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires welcomes Diane Pearlman, an independent film producer who currently serves as the executive director of the Berkshire Film and Media Collaborative. This free program at Kneset Israel, 16 Colt Road, in Pittsfield, is part of the Federation's Connecting With Community series.

Did you know that the Academy Award visual effects for *The Matrix* were conceived in the Berkshires? That shots for the show "Game of Thrones" are being completed in Pittsfield? That you may have even bumped into one of the many award-winning screenwriters, actors, and directors while shopping at Guido's?

Says Diane Pearlman: "Let's take a journey through the past several decades and discuss the evolution of the film and media industry in our county. You'll learn about some of the groundbreaking technologies that have been developed here, and why so many filmmakers have decided to make the Berkshires their home no matter where they work in the world."

"We'll discuss the evolution of the Berkshire Film and Media Collaborative – a

non-profit organization dedicated to creating education, workforce and production opportunities in the film and media industry as an economic initiative for our region. Learn how films that are shot here positively affect our local economy. We'll even let you in on some of the projects happening around town!

"Hollywood in the Berkshires.....it's real business!"

Diane Pearlman recently produced the award-winning short film, *A Tree A Rock A Cloud*, based on the Carson McCullers' short story and directed by acclaimed actor, Karen Allen. She is currently producing a short video, *You Have a Voice*, which focuses on young women and civic engagement. In the 1990s, Diane was executive producer and general manager of Mass. Illusion, a visual effects movie studio located in Lenox. MI created groundbreaking effects for *The Matrix* (Academy Award 2000, Best Visual Effects), *What Dreams May Come* (Academy Award 1999, Best Visual Effects), *Starship Troopers*, *Evita*, *Die Hard with a Vengeance*, *Eraser*, *Judge Dredd*, and many others. She lives in Great Barrington.



Diane Pearlman

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community

Venue: Kneset Israel

Date & Time: Monday, May 7 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 19).



Rabbi Rachel Barenblat

For further information on all Jewish Federation of the Berkshires programs, please call Nancy Maurice Rogers, Program Director, at (413) 442-4360, ext. 15.



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SAVE THE DATE

Jewish Women's Foundation of the Berkshires Annual Brunch & Meeting

Friday, June 29
10:30 a.m.

The Lenox Club
111 Yokun Ave, Lenox, MA

Special Guest: Linda Hirshman

Author of *Sisters in Law: How Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg Went to the Supreme Court and Changed the World*

In the spirit of tikkun olam, the Jewish Women's Foundation of the Berkshires is dedicated to sharing Jewish values by meeting unmet needs in the community and supporting social action.

Your Federation Presents

Why Fiction Matters in Our Fact-Driven World

On Thursday, May 24 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires welcomes novelist Ellen Meeropol for "Why Fiction Matters In Our Fact-Driven World." This free program at Kneset Israel, 16 Colt Road, in Pittsfield, is part of the Federation's Connecting With Community series.

Ellen Meeropol's novels take on some of the challenging issues in our world: environmental chaos, racism, unlawful detention, enhanced interrogation, and medical ethics. She will talk about illuminating our world, exploring our roles, and offering hope through stories, and how novels can illuminate the nuances and humanity behind the headlines of the 21st century. She will also discuss how stories grow from the fertile ground of memories, imagination, and the daily news.

Ellen Meeropol is the author of three novels, *Kinship of Clover*, *On Hurricane Island*, and *House Arrest*. A former nurse practitioner and bookseller, Ellen says she is fascinated by characters balanced on the fault lines between political turmoil and human connection. Recent essay publications include *The Writer*, *Guernica*, *The Cleaver*, *Necessary Fiction*, *Fired Up!*, and *The Writers Chronicle*. Ellen has an MFA in fiction from the Stonecoast program at the University of Southern Maine. She is a founding member of Straw Dog Writers Guild and its current board president.



Ellen Meeropol

More information on her work is at www.ellenmeeropol.com.

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community

Venue: Kneset Israel

Date & Time: Thursday, May 24 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 19).

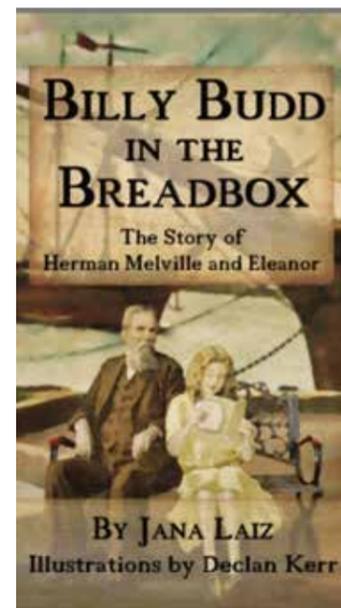
Billy Budd in the Breadbox: The True Story of Herman Melville

On Thursday, May 17 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires welcomes Jana Laiz, the first writer-in-residence at Herman Melville's beloved home, Arrowhead. She will present "Billy Budd in the Breadbox: The True Story of Herman Melville," a story told from the point of view of the great American author's nine-year-old granddaughter, Eleanor. This free program at Kneset Israel, 16 Colt Road, in Pittsfield, is part of the Federation's Connecting With Community series.

Jana Laiz will share the true story that if not for granddaughter Eleanor, Herman Melville might be mired in obscurity. Eleanor's discovery, which Laiz will share, brought him to the fore in American literature and history. While at Arrowhead, at Melville's desk, looking out the very same window he looked out as he wrote the American literary masterpiece, *Moby Dick*, wrote a new children's biography of

Herman Melville, "Billy Budd in the Breadbox." Berkshire Theatre Group adapted it into their 2017/2018 education play.

She is the author of the triple award-winning novel, *Weeping Under This Same Moon*, and *The Twelfth Stone*, and *Elephants of the Tsunami*. She is the co-author of *A Free Woman On God's Earth*, *The True Story of Elizabeth "Mumbet" Freeman*, *The Slave Who Won Her Freedom*, soon to be a motion picture. A former refugee resettlement counselor and ESL teacher, Jana says she believes that honoring diversity can change the world. Her new book, *Blanket of Stars* will be out soon. She lives in the Berkshires.



IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community

Venue: Kneset Israel

Date & Time: Thursday, May 17 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 19).

Knosh on *Famous Nathan* for Knowledge about Nathan's Famous of Coney Island

Documentary filmmaker Lloyd Handwerker on his family's Brooklyn landmark, June 15

GREAT BARRINGTON – On Friday, June 15, Knosh & Knowledge welcomes director Lloyd Handwerker, grandson of the founder of the iconic Nathan's Famous of Coney Island. He'll be on hand to host a screening of *Famous Nathan*, a densely-layered, visually dynamic documentary portrait of the life and times of the world-renowned hot dog stand that is still thriving along the Brooklyn shore.

This Jewish Federation of the Berkshires program will take place at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire at 10:45 a.m., and will be followed by lunch.

Famous Nathan chronicles the personal and public history of the iconic Brooklyn eatery created in 1916

by the filmmaker's grandfather, Nathan Handwerker. Thirty years in the making, this decades-spanning, Coney Island-inspired rollercoaster ride interweaves a kaleidoscopic blend of home movies, archival footage, family photos, never-before-heard audio recording of Nathan, and intimate, sometimes hilarious interviews with family, friends and workers.

The film takes a look back at the immigrant experience and 100 years of family and New York history in this personal documentary gem. Featuring a strong score, colorful and endearing characters, rare archival material, and a vibrant editing style, *Famous Nathan* will not disappoint New York history enthusiasts.

Lloyd Handwerker was born in Brooklyn and grew up in Long Island, NY. He graduated from Oberlin College with a major in Political Science then moved to Rochester, where he studied photography and video at the Visual Studies Workshop. After traveling extensively in Southeast Asia, he went on to study film at NYU where he received his MFA. He worked for over 20 years in the film industry as both an assistant cameraman and cinematographer on both narrative and documentary features, as well as short films and music videos. His lifelong passion has been researching and creating the documentary film he'll be sharing, as well as the book that ties in to the documentary.



Founder Nathan Handwerker and wife Ida enjoy the signature comestible on the 50th anniversary of Nathan's Famous in 1966

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires

Date & Time: Friday, June 15 at 10:45 a.m.

Venue: Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Road, Great Barrington

Cost: \$11 with fresh buffet lunch. Program only, \$5.

Advance lunch reservations required for this event.

Email federation@jewishberkshires.org, or call (413) 442-4360, ext. 10

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Your Federation Presents

We Do Nothing Halfway – Hafla Night a Complete Success

More than 100 revelers showed up on March 5 for Federation’s Hafla night celebration, which brought Israeli participants in our Partnership2Gether program to Hevreh of Southern Berkshire for an evening of music, stories, socializing, and fantastic food. Many thanks to the volunteers who came to set up and help prepare a delicious dinner, as well as those families who so hospitably housed our new friends from the Afula-Gilboa region. The event inaugurated Federation’s year of “Israel at 70” programming.



Liran Sela leading a sing-along



Volunteers helped our guest chefs prepare a delicious repast



OPEN HOUSE May 10

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BERKSHIRE JEWISH ENTREPRENEURS • PART II

EIRAN GAZIT, *continued from page 1*

locals and visitors experience Gazit's approach on a small stage - literally, the small stage in the inn's cozy lounge where he books accomplished musicians for gigs year-round. "The Gateways was never seen as a place for locals," he says. "That changed with music."

The hundreds of thousands of annual visitors to Gulliver's Gate in New York are able to experience Gazit's approach writ large, albeit in a miniature scale - the H0 scale (1:87) to be precise, the standard used for model railways, in which a 6-foot person would be represented by a figure 0.8 inches tall. Models replicate well-known sites and structures both ancient and modern from all continents (except for Africa, now in development), with dioramas in 47,000 square feet of exhibition space just steps from Times Square. Trains, planes, boats, and automobiles motor amid hand-fashioned models sited within fancifully-imagined tableaux crowded with tiny people, capturing a sense of the energy of life in

far-flung corners of the globe.

Gulliver's Gate, explains Gazit, "is 'edutainment' designed to cause a reaction. Everything is interpreted in a way as to tell the story." What makes the backstory of the shrunken world of Gulliver's Gate particularly interesting is the way its creation demonstrates how small our world has become in the 21st century thanks to the Internet, international trade and worldwide economic development, transport, shipping, and high-technology. Gulliver's Gate has all the whistles and bells you would expect from a Crossroads of the World extravaganza - and yet it was masterminded from the crossroads of Walker and Kemble streets in downtown Lenox.

Gazit started thinking small in a big way after a 1986 visit to Madurodam, an elaborate miniature city in The Hague, Netherlands. "I fell in love with the concept," says Gazit, "and decided to create Mini-Israel. That was a long project." Work started on the \$20 million en-

deavor in 1995, with the nearly 15-acre outdoor attraction in Latrun (in the Ayalon Valley between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem) opening in 2003. According to the Mini Israel Wikipedia page, the "park consists of about 350 buildings and landmarks, 30,000 figures, 500 animals, plants and 15,000 real trees, 4,700 cars, 100 motorbikes, 14 trains, 3 helicopters, 32 aircraft, 175 ships and 230 trucks. All trees are real bonsai." During that time, Gazit also helped create models for Miniaturk, a model village in Istanbul featuring Turkish and Ottoman landmarks.

"Gulliver's Gate was born out of my experience with Mini Israel," says Gazit. "When the concept came up, it was clear I was going to lead it." In 2012, he was approached by ultra-orthodox Jewish investors from Brooklyn, who had worked with him on a hotel project in Costa Rica. Gazit had in 2005 relocated from Israel to the Berkshires, a part of the world he says he knew well from visits to his wife's sister, who lived here; at the time, he was consulting main-

ly with high tech firms

around the world that valued his perspective as a non-technie, as well as working in hospitality in Lenox, first running the Cornell Inn and then acquiring the Gateways.

"To succeed in a project like Gulliver's Gate, I needed a good team," says Gazit. "My weakness is that I'm not a tech guy." He didn't have to look far for the collaborator he needed, enlisting Matthew Cote, a science and technology



Gulliver's Gate models were created both by hand and computer-generated processes

teacher from Lenox Memorial Middle and High School who "had taught all three of my kids and was their favorite teacher." Cote took a two-year leave of absence to work on the project.

As for location, "Times Square was the obvious place, but the problem was that real estate there is ridiculously expensive." Eventually, he secured a 15-year lease on an expansive space on West 44th Street that formerly housed the newsroom of the *New York Times*.

In creating the models, Gazit felt that "it was important that they be built in other places. I didn't want an American idea of what Europe or other areas of the world might be. I wanted to work with people who had a feel for the flavor of those places." He found

workshops in eight countries - Western Europe was designed in Italy, Russia in Russia, Latin America in Argentina, Asia in China, and the Middle East (including Mecca and the pyramids of Giza) in Israel. Niagara Falls was built onsite, while Manhattan was constructed

in Brooklyn and monuments from Washington, DC were completed in Hoboken. The car system was designed in Denmark. Attraction consultants in California helped come up with designs and conceptual plans, and exhibits were tested in an old paper mill in Lee. In the end, more than 800 people worked on the project.

To succeed, Gulliver's Gate had to be more than a novelty - it had to possess an intrinsic enduring appeal that had to be imagined during its creation. "We had to create an idea of the world that appealed to ages 6 to 96," he says, adding that Gulliver's Gate is essentially an adult attraction that kids can also enjoy. "People may come with their kids first, and then return for

EIRAN GAZIT,
continued on next page

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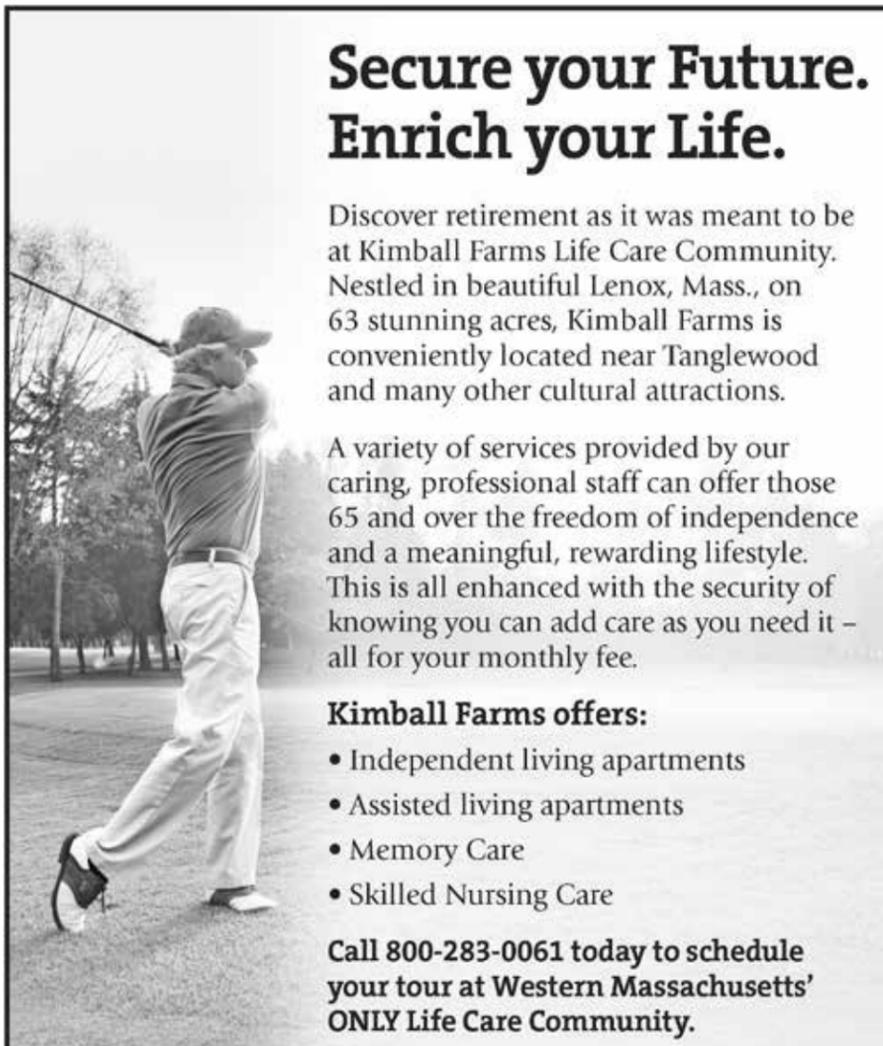
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JEWISH ENTREPRENEURS • PART II

EIRAN GAZIT, *continued from page 10*

the art, artistry, humor, and storylines" that each diorama contains, quirky details that are impossible to take in on one visit.

"Decisions had to be made – what is the first thing visitors will see?" says Gazit. "Manhattan is the first thing. It's fresh in their minds. Manhattan has a certain impact that we wanted to bring indoors so there is a continuation" of the experience that visitors are already in the midst of experiencing.

"Every section of Gulliver's Gate throws visitors in a different direction," he says. The goal was for a visitor "to understand that it was not all built by the same group." Gazit's plan was to let each workshop work with its own personality to the extent possible while still maintaining the coherence of the overall project. That took diplomacy, he says, and he spent most of 2016 traveling the world to stay on top of development.

Live stream cameras in each of the workshops allowed the team in New York working on the project to see and understand what everyone was up to. Once the Times Square location was secured, his vendors were charged with delivering and reassembling the models on-site in New York; an Israeli logistics firm had the job of coordinating and consolidating all the shipping and receiving – "a nightmare in Times Square, in the winter," remembers Gazit.

Gazit wanted the attraction to be about more than the uncanny models. For one, he says, "I wanted people to understand that what they're seeing is a complex computerized engineering project." To that end, Gazit implemented a "NASA-style command center" in the midst of Gulliver's Gate from where the entire exhibit is controlled. Visitors can observe workings that are usually kept behind the scenes, and are invited to pose questions to operations staff.

Another challenge was "how to create an identification between the guest and the site," he says, so that their visit is not something that happens in time, but rather an interaction that develops over time. Gazit's idea was to employ 3-D printing and laser cutting technology that create lifelike figurines from body scans performed by a high-tech camera (one of only three of its kind in the United States) that takes more than 130 pictures of a subject. Guests can order miniatures of themselves in varying sizes as keepsakes, and also opt to have a model of themselves in H0 scale that can be placed in the locale of their choosing within Gulliver's Gate. These guests get pictures of their Lilliputian selves in situ via email, and a passport to Gulliver's Gate.

Gazit also had the idea to open the onsite workshop to the public, so that visitors can see the craftsmanship involved in expanding and maintaining the exhibit. "People are fascinated," he says. "They see that what is involved is not just



Miniatures of Russian landmarks such as the Kremlin were created in Russia and reassembled in New York

engineering and computer design, but also model making."

The \$40 million Gulliver's Gate opened in May, 2017, and has enjoyed a year of success, employing more than 100 people. After the project opened, Gazit handed the reins to Michael Langer, one of his co-founders, to run the day-to-day operations, though he says he still visits every six or seven weeks, and serves on the company's board of directors.

Presently, Gazit is content living a life that is half Basil Fawly and half International Man of Mystery. As summer approaches, Gazit is gearing up for another busy summer season at the Gateways, while also working on new projects via his namesake firm, Gazit Consultants.

Appropriately, his profile picture on the firm's website shows him aboard an airplane.

MAZEL TOV

Mazel Tov to...

Beth and Bernie Abramson on their 50th wedding anniversary.

*

Alba Passerini (Jewish Federation of the Berkshires board member) and **Dr. Charles Wohl**, whose daughter **Hannah Wohl** has accepted a tenure-track position on the faculty of the University of California, Santa Barbara. She will assume the rank of assistant professor in the Department of Sociology in September.

*

Jacob Fanto, whose four-movement composition *Mythical Realms* was performed by the Empire State Youth Percussion Orchestra at the University at Albany's Festival of Contemporary Music in March. Jacob, a 9th grader at Lenox Memorial High School and a percussionist, is the son of **Clarence Fanto and Andrea Goodman**.

*

Colin Ovitsky and **Josh Cutler** for being chosen by Berkshire Community College as two of the 40 Under Forty class of recipients. These honorees have distinguished themselves for professional achievement and contributions to the Berkshires. Colin is the administrative coordinator for the Center for Learning in Action at Williams College. Josh, a current board member of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, is assistant branch manager at Pittsfield Cooperative Bank.

*

Jackie Browner and Randy Johnson on the engagement of their son, Evan Kenward, to Kerry Dyer. Evan is also the grandson of **Ilse and Irwin Browner**.

*

Diane Koch on assuming the role of office administrator at Temple Anshe Amunim.

*

Elie Hammerling on the kickoff of Berkshire Lightscapes, a community project to illuminate the stately structures and public spaces of downtown Pittsfield to further vitalize the area. For more information, visit www.patronicity.com/lightscapes.



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YOUR GIFT TO THE ANNUAL CAMPAIGN WILL HELP JEWS AC

Fewer Jews say they are attached to Judaism. Yet 97% of American Jews state that they are “proud to be Jewish.” Our critical challenge is to transform Jewish pride into true participation in Jewish life. And we are already on our way.

Locally, Federation helps children and teens live their Jewishness at school and summer camp. Birthright trips transform young adults’ relationship to Israel. Around the world, in places where the Holocaust and Communism almost wiped out Jewish life, we’re nurturing the efforts of a core of inspiring young people who are reinventing Jewish life.



Younger people feel detached from Judaism

We build connection.



Millions of Jews find every day a struggle.

We are a lifeline.

People just like us, our children, our parents or grandparents, desperately need our help. Fragile Holocaust survivors can’t handle basic daily tasks. Families reel from job loss. Widows and widowers face loneliness. Forgotten Jews, young and old, live in poverty and lack basic necessities.

Federation removes obstacles. We bridge gaps. A hot meal is delivered to a homebound person. An emergency loan covers the rent for a struggling family. Health aides bring food and medicine to an elderly survivor. A social worker helps an older adult find a safer living situation.

In the US and around the world, Jewish people and institutions are being threatened. Security is posted at synagogues. At Jewish schools in France, five-year-olds file past armed guards to get to the playground. Jewish students arriving at college encounter toxic anti-Israel and anti-Semitic slogans.

Federation is helping to restore a sense of security by sharing resources, expertise and training to keep our communities safe. Standing up against hatred and combating BDS. So that Jews everywhere can walk without fear, into a synagogue, a Jewish school—or simply down the street.



The world is an unstable place

We bring security.

CROSS THE BERKSHIRES, IN ISRAEL & AROUND THE WORLD

OUR COMMUNITY'S 2018 CAMPAIGN GOAL IS \$805,000



JEWISH LIFE FOR YOUNG FAMILIES

You can help young families in the Berkshires embrace Jewish values and traditions while building a supportive community with Jewish peers through programs like PJ Library and Federation Family Days.



FOOD SECURITY, HEALTH CARE, AND WINTER RELIEF

Winters are long and cold in the Ukraine, but you can help the most vulnerable prepare with warm clothes, blankets, and heaters. You can also bring food cards, home health aides, and medicine to those who need it most.

DIGNITY & COMPASSION

You can provide older adults and the homebound with nutritious meals and stimulating programming served up with a side of companionship and compassion through our Connecting with Community kosher meals and Kosher Meals on Wheels.



JEWISH EDUCATION & VALUES

You can share your values and nurture a Jewish future for hundreds of local children by providing a high-quality, meaningful Jewish education through critical grants to all of our local Jewish supplemental schools.



A SENSE OF COMMUNITY

You can help 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 can help young people across the Berkshires and in the former Soviet Union build strong Jewish identities and become future leaders through scholarships for Jewish overnight camp and Israel experiences.

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

You can help individuals across the Berkshires who are facing unexpected crises, challenges, and life transitions receive the support they need through the Federation's social worker. You'll also provide community members with a safety net of emergency assistance when needed.



RESOURCES TO FIGHT ANTI-SEMITISM

You can help combat anti-Semitism and fight the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement through community, youth and college programming, as well as national advocacy and security resources.



A PLACE TO CALL HOME

You can help tens of thousands of new immigrants, who are fleeing anti-Semitism in Europe and fighting in the Ukraine, build new lives for themselves and their families in Israel.



CARING IN TIMES OF CRISIS

We join with Jewish communities across North America to rapidly mobilize local resources to help in times of crisis. From the recent attacks in Israel to relief efforts in Nepal, you help deliver an SOS response wherever and whenever it is needed.

A CLOSE & CARING RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL

You can help provide programs for at-risk students, shelter for abused women, support services for disabled youth, and job training for new Israeli citizens. You'll also help connect our community to Israel and help Israel connect with the Global Jewish community.



ADVOCACY & COMMUNITY RELATIONS

You can help provide a proactive voice in our public schools, media, and government, addressing anti-Semitism, religion, Israel, the Middle East, justice legislation, and other issues important to our community.



WHEN OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS US, WE ARE THERE.

Please answer the call and pledge your support to the 2018 Annual Campaign



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

LOCAL NEWS

Forum Will Explore End-of-Life Matters

PITTSFIELD – A forum titled “Death With Dignity” will be held at Temple Anshe Amunim on Thursday, May 31 at 7 p.m. Panelists will be Dr. Kyneret Albert, Dr. Deborah Alecson, and Rabbi Josh Breindel. All are welcome.

Rabbi Breindel is the rabbi at Temple Anshe Amunim. Dr. Albert is the medical director of Hospice Care in the Berkshires. Professor Alecson is

a thanatologist, author, and lecturer who teaches “Ethics of Health Care” and related courses for Excelsior College, and also has a curriculum in thanatology that she has taught at Williams College. She writes the column “Using Musings on Mortality” for the *Berkshire Eagle*.

Temple Anshe Amunim is located at 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield.

Celebrate Shavuot with Temple Anshe Amunim

PITTSFIELD – At Shavuot, we acknowledge one of Judaism’s great blessings – the gift of the Torah. To honor this joyous festival, Rabbi Josh Breindel will lead a guided reading of *Megillat Rut* (Book of Ruth) as part of an uplifting worship experience on Sunday, May 20, at Temple Anshe Amunim.

Rabbi Breindel shares: “The Book of Ruth takes place at exactly this time of year. Even more than that, it teaches

that compassion and unity are some of the most profound ways that we can bring blessing into our world. Shavuot is a great moment of celebration and these values guide us as we move through our lives.”

All are welcome to join in the Temple’s celebration of Shavuot. At 9:30 a.m., participants will read the story of Ruth in English and discuss its relevance in the modern day. Services (including

a Yizkor/memorial service) will follow at approximately 10:45 a.m. and will conclude shortly after noon. The Shavuot observance is free and open to the community.

For more information, contact the Temple Anshe Amunim office at (413) 442-5910, email templeoffice@ansheamunim.org or visit www.ansheamunim.org.

Temple Anshe Amunim to Celebrate Israel’s Birthday

PITTSFIELD – Temple Anshe Amunim will celebrate Israel’s 70th birthday with a Kabbalat Shabbat service followed by a Yom Ha’atzmaut (Israeli Independence Day) seder on Friday, April 27 at 26 Broad Street in Pittsfield. The seder will feature traditional Israeli foods, including hummus, tahini, and more.

The cost for this event is

\$10 per person for TAA members (with a maximum of \$30 per family) or \$15 per person for non-members (with a maximum of \$45 per family). *Please RSVP as soon as possible.*

For more information or to make reservations call (413) 442-5910 or send an email to: templeoffice@ansheamunim.org.

The B’Shalom Chorale Invites Singers for a Fifth Season

GREAT BARRINGTON – The B’Shalom Chorale, the Berkshires’ only chorale showcasing Jewish music, is pleased to announce its fifth season! Plans are underway for 10 inspiring weekly rehearsals, which will begin on Wednesday, May 30, from 7 to 9 p.m., and culminate with a concert on Wednesday, August 15 at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire.

Jack Brown, artistic director of the Berkshire Lyric Chorus and choral director at Simon’s Rock College and the Hotchkiss School, conducts the B’Shalom Chorale. The accompanist is Joe Rose, also of Berkshire Lyric, and a well-known musician in the region.

Selections, from the Jewish tradition, are from various eras and genres, including Baroque, 19th and 20th century, Israeli, and much more!

The Chorale is open to all men and women, Jewish or not Jewish, who have a pleasant singing voice and the ability to stay on pitch. Choral experi-

ence is preferred, as is a love of singing 4-part music. The ability to read music is helpful, though not mandatory. Dues are \$50.

If you are interested in singing in the B’Shalom Chorale or wish to make a contribution, please call founder and coordinator, Cantor Emily Sleeper Mekler at (413) 418-1836 or send an email to BshalomChorale@gmail.com.

The B’Shalom Chorale, Inc. is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization and is sponsored in part by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and private contributions.

Community Shabbat Experience at Hevreh

GREAT BARRINGTON – On Friday, April 27 at 6:15 p.m., join Hevreh of Southern Berkshire for the Community Shabbat Experience. This community Shabbat is a new, free program at Hevreh sponsored by the Harold Grinspoon

Foundation, and features a fully catered Shabbat dinner and abbreviated service.

Hevreh will celebrate Israel’s 70th birthday with a service featuring music from some of Israel’s leading prayer communities, including Nava

Tehila and Beit T’filah Israel.

All are welcome, but *RSVP is required* and can be found on the Hevreh website, Hevreh.org

If you have questions, please call the Hevreh office at (413) 528-6378



The 2017 B’Shalom Chorale in the Hevreh sanctuary

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Jewish Federation of the Berkshires Presents

Kn^osh & Kn^owledge

Crossing the Line: Anti-Semitism, BDS and Civil Rights
Friday, May 11 at 10:45 a.m.

Presented by Jeffrey Robbins, Esq, former President of the World Affairs Council of Boston and the former Chairman of the New England Board of the Anti-Defamation League

Famous Nathan: Film and Discussion
Friday, June 15 at 10:45 a.m.

Presented by Lloyd Handwerker, Filmmaker and grandson of Famous Nathan’s founders, Nathan and Ida Handwerker

LOCATION: Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Rd, Great Barrington

COST: \$11, includes program and catered lunch. \$5, program only



Jewish Federation OF THE BERKSHIRES

Advanced Lunch Reservations Required
Please call (413) 442-4360, ext 10 or federation@jewishberkshires.org

LOCAL NEWS

One Story

Your Federation Dollars at Work

Most of the time, the BJV's One Story feature focuses on an example of how your campaign dollars are used to help Jews either in Israel or in a far-flung corner of the Diaspora. This time, we show how your generous contributions work at home, with a report from Rabbi Jodie Gordon on how the B'not Tzedek class of Hevreh of Southern Berkshire worked in partnership with our Federation to improve communal life in the Berkshires, and how a group trip to Israel changed the outlook of seven of our young women.

What do *Tzedakah* and Israel have in common? A lesson in Jewish adulthood.

By Rabbi Jodie Gordon

Picture this: seven young women, aged 13 and 14, standing in a line. Equal parts maturity and youthful nervousness shine through as they step up to a podium in the Hevreh library on a cold February morning, and begin their presentation.

It wasn't so long ago for any of them that they stood on the *bima* in the sanctuary, and with the chanting of ancient words of blessing, took ownership over their Jewish lives. On this particular February morning, they are speaking to a packed room of adults, including parents, Hevreh board members, Federation executive director Dara Kaufman, and two special guests. This group of seven young women have taken on the name "B'not Tzedek," or "daughters of justice" for their group. Today's presentation isn't any old 8th grade presentation – having just completed the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires' B'nai Tzedek Youth Philanthropy program, they are making their grant award presentation.

When we speak to our young people about what it means to become bar or bat mitzvah, we often use what I believe is an outdated shorthand about "becoming a Jewish adult." I often joke with our students that we're going to have figure out what that means, together, because I can't offer them a Jewish license to drive a Jewish car, or welcome them to vote in a Jewish election. The markers of Jewish adulthood are often remote to a 13-year-old, and so we have made it a serious priority at Hevreh to help our students grapple with what it means to be a responsible, Jewish teen. What does it mean to mature as a Jewish teen? What does it mean to step into young adulthood as a Jew?

These questions guided us to a wonderful partnership with the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires this year, as we piloted the B'nai Tzedek Youth Philanthropy program with this particular pre-confirmation class. This program invites teens to delve into Jewish philanthropy, and then, as a youth foundation, to decide how to disburse \$3,000 of communal philanthropic dollars.

Over the course of the fall semester, using the fabulous materials provided by the Federation, our class explored the meaning of "*tzedakah* beyond the *tzedakah* box," as we came to describe it. They learned about the difference between the type of justice work that provides "band-aid solutions," and the type of justice work that works to solve the root causes of various social problems. The girls dived deep into the framework that Maimonides provides with his famous "Rungs of *Tzedakah*" teaching, and they grappled with the idea of a hierarchy to how we give *tzedakah*.

Inspired by a social experiment that we read about called the "Society for Creative Philanthropy," the girls exercised their own creative giving muscles and gave away \$5 in unexpected and 'secret' ways around Berkshire County. Finally, it was time for the real pinnacle of the B'nai Tzedek (renamed by this group of all girls as B'not Tzedek) program: writing a mission statement for their foundation, creating a Request for Proposals (RFP), soliciting grant applications, evaluating them, and deciding how to give away the \$3,000.

One of the students, Ruby Citrin wrote: "We learned that to give money as an organization we needed a clear vision of who we wanted to give it to. We thought of ideas that we wanted to put in our mission statement and prioritized our values. We discussed our own experiences and how feminism and equality is important to us. Our mission statement said:"

We believe in the Jewish value of *Lo Ta'amod Al Dam Re'echa*: not standing by when others are threatened. Young adulthood is difficult, we have found that there is a lot of discrimination in our schools. We intend to improve the lives of young people in our community through education that promotes feminism, equality and empowerment for all.

Through a process of group consensus building the students read and analyzed the five different grant applications they received from communal organizations across Berkshire County. When asked about the decision making process, student Ella Novick reported: "It was surprisingly hard! There were so many good choices. And then just when we thought we had made a decision, someone would raise another point – and it felt like a good point, so then we had to reconsider."



Local youth group B'not Tzedek traveled to Israel this spring with support from the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires

On that February morning, lined up in the library, the B'not Tzedek students presented \$3,000 in philanthropic dollars provided by the Federation to the Railroad Street Youth Project for their new QClub, a program for queer and questioning youth in South County, and to the Berkshire Baby Box organization.

Exactly two weeks later, those same seven students lined up again; this time, in matching sweatshirts, in front of a yellow school bus. The group designed their sweatshirts themselves, with the words "Hevreh B'not Tzedek Israel Trip 2018" proudly emblazoned on the front. With significant support from the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, this group was the first youth trip that Hevreh has sent to Israel in over 10 years. Accompanied by four intrepid mothers as chaperones, I had the honor of leading this group of seven young women for

a trip to Israel—the first time there, for many.

Why go to Israel in the year following bat mitzvah?

As student Maisy Seckler wrote, "our bat mitzvahs symbolize our becoming women in the Jewish community. We are obligated to take part and responsibility not only in Hevreh, but in our Jewish heritage. Going to Israel was a great first step to learn about the Holy Land and how we can take part in Jewish living. In the past year we have all worked extremely hard on our bat mitzvah studies. Our B'not Tzedek trip felt like an award, if you will, for completing this major milestone but it was also a welcoming into our new Jewish experience."

A particular highlight of the trip was the time we spent based at Kibbutz Yizre'el as part of the Partnership2gether program, made possible by funding from the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. As part of our "sister city" relationship with the Afula-Gilboa region, we were welcomed by the Partnership team with loving and open arms.

Through this partnership, we had opportunities that most group trips will never experience: hearing the personal *aliya* story of a young woman who walked for 3 months through Ethiopia to be a part of the Israeli airlift operation at the Beit Alfa Ethiopian Absorption Center, playing basketball in the Arab village of Muqebela with an Israeli Arab teen girl basketball team, and getting a taste of kibbutz life at Yizre'el.

In addition to our time in Afula-Gilboa, we also made our way to Masada and the Dead Sea, and spent a lively Shabbat in Jerusalem. It was a wonderful "taste of Israel," and at our closing group dinner, most of the students wanted to know more about the opportunities available to them to travel there again in the future.

One student reflected, "Going to Israel was such a meaningful and amazing experience for me. I learned so much about Jewish history and culture, as well as that of Muslims and Christians. I got to see what life was like in Israel, and participate in many fun activities. Most of all, this trip showed me what it means to be a Jew and embrace my culture."

As poet Yitzhak Yasinowitz wrote, "One does not travel to Jerusalem. / One returns. / One ascends the road taken by generations." Truly, this group ascended. They stepped up in the way they took care of each other, the way they asked questions, the way they navigated uncomfortable or challenging moments. We may not be able to offer Jewish parallels of typical adult experiences—no Jewish cars to drive, or Jewish elections in which to vote; but I believe that in teaching our students how to give and how to pursue justice, and then, in exposing them to the land and people of Israel, we have provided them with a priceless course in Jewish adulthood.

Dear JFB and Dara,
Thank you so much for the generous scholarship. They made the amazing trip possible. We such a fun time in Israel, and we learned a lot. Thank you again on behalf of the Hevreh Pre Confirmation class!

Sincerely,
Sarah Drucher, Maisy Seckler, Ella Novick, Aidan Burns, Mira Webber, Emma Ruby

LOCAL NEWS

Gypsy Jazz Ambassadors Explore Jewish Contribution to Jazz

PITTSFIELD – On Sunday evening, May 6 at 7:30 p.m., Knesset Israel hosts a concert led by Andy Kelly showing how particularly gifted Jewish immigrants who settled in New York City influenced the “new” American music we know today as jazz.

Musical arrangements by his talented combo, the Gypsy Jazz Ambassadors, will be intertwined with historic commentary in a performance researched and developed specifically for this appearance, titled “Jews and Jazz.”

Andy Kelly – a Berkshire native, son of a choir director, and graduate of Williams College – is a gifted musician and teacher of styles from rock to classical. He served as chair of the Pittsfield Cultural Development Commission, and helped found the Pittsfield City Jazz Festival in 2005 to present mainstream and traditional jazz downtown. If there is a festival or event on North Street or at the First Street Common or similar outdoor venue with a musical group involved, Andy is likely to be present.

Kelly also helped found the Jazz in Schools program, which features performances, demonstrations and discussions throughout many of the schools in Berkshire County. According to a recent interview in the *Berkshire Eagle*, Kelly



Members of the Gypsy Jazz Ambassadors include Andy Kelly (guitar), Eileen Markland (violin), Charlie Tokarz (woodwinds), and John Kelly (double bass)

and his talented cohorts play between “100-150, but I think closer to 150” gigs per year.

Andy notes, “Jewish composers and performers have made some of the most significant contributions to jazz music. Without artists such as Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, Benny Goodman, and Stan Getz, jazz would just not be the same! We will have fun exploring this topic

musically on May 6!”

All are welcome. Tickets are \$20; students, \$8. If you call (413) 445-4872, ext. 16 or ext. 10, you may reserve tickets and pay at the door. Tickets should also be available at the door starting at 7 p.m. The concert is in the synagogue located at 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield; please enter through the driveway under the canopy.

“Using Theatre to Extend Community and Deepen Empathy”

GREAT BARRINGTON – On Thursday, May 10 at 7 p.m., Congregation Ahavath Sholom, will host Daniel Kramer, artistic director of the Chester Theatre Company, whose topic will be “Using Theatre to Extend and Deepen Empathy.”

This event is the first of a series of Thursday night talks on varied subjects to be presented at CAS.

Daniel Elihu Kramer produced his first season at CTC in 2016, and has directed shows such as *Every Brilliant Thing*, *Sister Play*, *The Turn of the Screw*, and *Blink*. In 2011, CTC produced his play *Pride@Prejudice*, and in 2016, CTC premiered his play *My Jane*. He holds an MFA in Directing from Yale School of Drama, and works nationally as a theatre director, playwright, and film director. He is chair of the theatre department and a member of the film studies program at Smith College in Northampton.

“At Chester Theatre Company, we produce contemporary plays that inspire

audience engagement and thoughtful, productive conversations, and that create and extend community,” says Kramer. “Every play opens us up both to difference and to shared humanity: coming to know the stranger, coming to love the stranger, seeking a world where strangers are embraced.”

He’ll also discuss the first play of the company’s five-play season, the American premiere of *Bar Mitzvah Boy* by Canadian playwright Mark Leiren-Young, which runs from June 21 to July 1. The 2017 Jewish Playwriting Prize winner is being directed by Guy Ben-Aharon, director of 2016’s hit production, *Oh God*.

Berkshire favorite Tara Franklin (*Sister Play*) returns to play a rabbi wracked by spiritual doubt, and Boston veteran actor Will LeBow will make his CTC debut as the title character, a middle-aged attorney who feels a desperate need to be bar mitzvahed. Attendees at CAS will be able to buy discount tickets for the first week’s performances.

CAS is located at 15 North Street in Great Barrington. For more information, visit www.ahavathsholom.com, or call (413) 528-4197.

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78th ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, June 19 at 7 p.m.
Seven Hills Inn
40 Plunkett St., Lenox

Join us on the patio for a dessert reception followed by a brief meeting, elections, and guest speaker



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Join the Ethiopian National Project to learn how our local community is helping to bridge the social, economic, and cultural gap for the next generation of Ethiopian Jews in Israel. Hear the inspiring, yet challenging story of this modern day exodus.

FREE & open to all members of the community



Thank you to Robin Gerson Wong and Denis Wong for hosting.



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Sunday, July 15, 2018
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Country Club of Pittsfield
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LOCAL NEWS

Torah and Dharma

Exploring Connections between Judaism and Buddhism, with Rabbi Seth Wax

NORTH ADAMS – On Tuesday, May 8 at 7:30 p.m., members of Congregation Beth Israel, along with North County residents in the general public, will have the opportunity to meet Rabbi Seth Wax, Jewish chaplain at Williams College.

He will discuss a topic of growing interest: "Torah and Dharma: Exploring Connections Between Judaism and Buddhism."

As a graduate of the Hebrew College Rabbinical School in Newton, MA and the recipient of a master's degree in Buddhist Studies from Harvard Divinity School, Rabbi Wax brings to this topic a wide and deep knowledge of both religious traditions. He notes that "for over 100 years Jews in North America have been attracted to Buddhism." After providing an overview of Buddhism and its unique features, Rabbi Wax will explore some of its interesting con-

nections to Judaism, touching on core beliefs and concepts, the role of mindfulness and meditation, and ways in which the two traditions enrich each other. He will explore what Buddhism offers to Jews and consider why it is so popular. Discussion will follow.

Rabbi Seth Wax is currently the Jewish Chaplain at Williams College, succeeding Cantor Robert Scherr. He previously served as rabbi at Congregation Mount Sinai in Brooklyn Heights, NY.

This event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

For further information about this program, contact Jack Hockridge at the synagogue, either by email (office: cbinadams@gmail.com) or phone (413) 663-5830. Congregation Beth Israel is located at 53 Lois Street in North Adams.

Mingle and Munch with Hadassah for Youth Aliyah

PITTSFIELD – Berkshire Hills Hadassah will celebrate Youth Aliyah's 85 years of achievements at a Mingle and Munch Reception, on Tuesday, May 29, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Presenting a panel discussion will be: Carol Goodman Kaufman, PhD., Hadassah National Chair of Youth Aliyah Child Rescue; Carole Siegel, Ed.D., Pittsfield Public Schools' Adjustment Counselor (retired); Ellen Masters, Hadassah National Portfolio Council; and Dr. Rosalind Kopfstein, LCSW, DSW, Co-President, Berkshire Hills Hadassah. They will lead a discussion to address both the needs common to all at-risk children and the best practices to provide an environment in which children can flourish.

Youth Aliyah Child Rescue was created in 1933 to rescue children from Nazism and the chaos of World War II, and, based on the philosophy

of Henrietta Szold, has saved more than 300,000 children by bringing them "home" to Israel and safety. The children have come from at least 80 countries – most recently Ethiopia and Russian-speaking republics.

The program has remained steadfast in its vision of saving children, but has found it necessary to expand its mission to include rescuing the futures of children-at-risk who are living in Israel. According to the article, "Hadassah's Youth Aliyah villages provide at-risk children with support and sanctuary," by Laura Porter, "... one-third of the children in Israel (almost 800,000) live in poverty, and over 450,000

children are considered at-risk, facing abuse, learning disabilities and neglect, or, for some, an inability to cope with the challenges of a new language and cultural changes." Youth Aliyah tries to give them not only safety and stability in the moment, but also a chance to have a productive, healthy life.

The event will be held at the home of Marcia and Charles Mandel in Pittsfield. For more information on location of the event, cover charge, donation, or reservations, please contact: Marcia Mandel, juliaspal@gmail.com or call (413) 442-7088.

Hadassah Hackers to Hit Hinsdale's 18 Holes



Blind tee shot on Bas Ridge's first hole – watch out below. Seriously.

HINSDALE – On Tuesday, May 29, Berkshire Hills Hadassah invites all husbands, significant others, not-so-significant others, friends, and Hadassah ladies to play some golf at Bas Ridge Country Club, 15 minutes east of Pittsfield. Tee off at 9 a.m. on this visually stunning, interesting, and well-maintained golf course!

Please reserve early to ensure starting times for all! (Deadline to reserve: May 21)

Registration: \$35 per golfer or \$120 per foursome, which includes 18 holes with electric cart, prizes, and snacks.

Please make your check

payable to Berkshire Hills Hadassah and mail to: Stuart Masters, 34 Brookside Drive, Pittsfield, MA 01201. You may register via email to smasters@nycap.rr.com, but payment should be mailed as above.

Says Stuart: "Format will be captain and crew. Every player hits every shot. Choose the best shot, and all hit next shot from there. Repeat until first ball is in the cup. One score for the foursome on each hole. (Each player must use his/her drive at least twice.) Winning team is the foursome with the lowest score for 18 holes."

Hevreh Gala to Honor Distinguished Members

GREAT BARRINGTON – Hevreh of Southern Berkshire will inaugurate its Tzedek Circle of Honor with a festive gala on Saturday evening, June 9 beginning with a cocktail reception at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner and dessert, a presentation ceremony, and an evening of comedy.

The Tzedek Circle of Honor will be an annual Hevreh award, honoring devoted Hevreh members whose life-work reflects Hevreh's values and commitment to the broader Jewish and secular community. First year honorees will be Rabbi Everett and Mary Gendler, and Barry and Carol Beyer.

Hevreh invites members and non-members alike to join in honoring the Gendlers and the Beyers for their service, and to enjoy a festive night.

Each honoree has made significant contributions to Jewish life and values.

Rabbi Gendler has been described as the "father of Jewish environmentalism," and played a leading role in the civil rights movement in the American South. Within Judaism, he has been acclaimed for his support of the Jewish feminist movement, Jewish egalitarianism and programs for non-violence. In addition to serving Jewish congregations in the United States and Latin America, he is the author of dozens of articles. At Hevreh, Rabbi Gendler has led the Yom Kippur afternoon study sessions and has lectured on civil rights. Mary Gendler is a clinical psychologist who served as the clinical director of Jewish Family and Children's Service of Merrimack Valley and has written on the role of women in Judaism. Their work is the foundation for the Gendler Grapevine Project to promote

environmental sustainability and social justice initiatives within the Jewish community.

Carol and Barry Beyer have been powerhouses in the development of several Jewish organizations. Both Carol and Barry served on the North American Board of the Union for Reform Judaism for 25 years and on its major committees. Barry's focus has been to create financial strength at Jewish organizations he joins. As a CPA and business owner, Barry used his financial acumen to restructure URJ's finances and create a \$10 million endowment that will support future generations. He has brought his financial expertise to the URJ pension fund and served on the finance committees of both Temple Shalom in Cedar Grove N.J. and at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire.

Carol was director of organizational development at the Bergen County Y Jewish Community Center for 16 years. There, she developed the Kehillah Partnership and the Bergen County Jewish Learning Project, involving 13 synagogues and the UJA Federation. She was the leadership trainer for the YJCC Board and membership. At Hevreh, Carol has been an important leader as congregational vice-president, co-chair of the rabbinic search committee and the archives committee.

The Gala festivities will include comedy performanc-



Rabbi Everett Gendler (far right) marching with Dr. King in the 1960s

es by Johnny Lampert and Moody McCarthy, well-known to audiences at comedy clubs in New York and Los Angeles and on late-night television. Moody has appeared on Letterman, Jimmy Kimmel, and Conan, and has brought the house down with his sharp look at our modern world, and tender revelations about his Irish-Jewish marriage. Johnny Lampert keeps the Borscht Belt tradition alive across the country at comedy showcases, television and hotel appearances. Two of his routines have been featured in a new collection: "The Best Comedy Routines, Period."

Catering is by Haven and will include a chance to sample a variety of international cuisines and a full bar.

Tickets for the gala are \$180, or \$540 for a sponsor (including recognition in the program and premium parking), and can be purchased by emailing jlee@hevreh.org. Hevreh of Southern Berkshire is located at 270 State Road, Great Barrington.

Deadline for ticket purchases is May 25.

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OBITUARIES

Benjamin S. Weinberg, 83, husband, father, grandfather

LENOX – Benjamin S. Weinberg, 83, died peacefully Tuesday morning, March 13, at his home after a lengthy illness.

Mr. Weinberg was born on April 26, 1934 in Antwerp, Belgium to the late Henry and Leah Hofstatter Weinberg. The family immigrated to New York City in 1939, where Mr. Weinberg was eventually self-employed importing crystal, gifts, and housewares. He, his wife, and children relocated to North Adams in 1976, where he started a pottery business at the Windsor Mill.

After starting International Outlet, he subsequently moved the business in 1986, when he purchased the Tucker Toy Building on State Street. In 1997, he relocated the business to Western Gateway Heritage State Park.

He joined the United States Army on May 27, 1957 and was honorably discharged on May 15, 1959.

He and his wife, Marlayne Keosian, were married on December 23, 1962 in New York City.

Mr. Weinberg enjoyed the company of his children and grandchildren, as well as traveling and reading about history.

Besides his wife, Marlayne, Mr. Weinberg is survived by his children; Adam Weinberg (Amy Brentano) of Richmond, MA and Leslie Weinberg of San Francisco, CA; his grandchildren, Molly and Joseph Weinberg; and many nieces and nephews. Besides his parents, Mr. Weinberg was predeceased by his sister Fran Fischer.

The funeral service for Mr. Benjamin S. Weinberg was private. Donations in his memory may be made to Hospice Care

in the Berkshires in care of the Roche Funeral Home, Inc., 120 Main Street, Lenox, MA 01240.

Ralph Schulman, 89, sense of adventure was contagious

DELRAY BEACH, FL – Ralph Schulman, 89, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, February 27. He was the loving father of David Schulman, the adoring grandfather of Piper Schulman, and the caring husband of Sue Schulman.

Born in Brooklyn and raised in Hartford and West Hartford, CT, Ralph was the son of Bernard and Henrietta Schulman. He received his BA from the University of Connecticut and his MA in Social Work from the University of Connecticut School of Social Work.

Ralph was the youth director and group work supervisor for the Jewish Centers of Columbus, OH; Essex County, NJ; and Temple Israel Center in White Plains, NY at various times in his career. He inherited his love of camping from his mother. Throughout the 50 years that he directed Camp Mohawk, he shared his enjoyment of the outdoors with all the fortunate campers and staff members who attended. Besides this summer program, he also directed a winter camp that featured skiing at nearby Jiminy Peak.

Ralph was a longtime member of the American Camping Association and for several years served on the New York Section Board of Directors. Also as a member of the standards committee, he was a camp visitor for those camps that wanted to meet the standards of the ACA and become members.

He was active in running

camp until he was 80, learning how to fly in his spare time. He became a licensed private airplane pilot. He was also a member of the US Power Squadron and attained the rank of Advanced Pilot.

He and his wife Sue went on many sailing adventures, including bare boat charters in Greece, the Riviera of France, the Virgin Islands, Long Island Sound, Lake George, and Lake Champlain. Ralph brought great joy of life to all who crossed his path – his sense of adventure was contagious.

A memorial service was held in Florida on Friday, March 2. A memorial service will be held for Ralph in the Berkshires this summer.

Paul Rich, 90, co-founded Paul Rich and Sons Home Furnishings

PITTSFIELD – Paul Rich and Sons Home Furnishings co-founder, Paul Rich, passed away peacefully Tuesday morning, March 6, with his family by his side.

Born to Harry G. Rich and Anna (Klein) Rich in New York City on June 18, 1927, Pittsfield became his lifelong home at a very young age. A graduate of Pittsfield High School, Paul earned his bachelor's degree from Williams College following his service in the army as a medical technician.

The world of retail beckoned and, after working alongside his father at the North Street fixtures The Palace News and The Berkshire News, Paul joined his father-in-law and brother-in-law at New England Furniture. In 1983, Paul, his wife Betty, and son Tom founded Paul Rich and Sons Home Furnishings in downtown Pittsfield. A success from the start, the business blossomed to become an anchor of North Street, occupying an entire city block.

Son Matthew Rich brought his talents to the business in the 1990s until his passing. Pam Rich joined the business in 1995 and is now co-owner with her husband Tom.

All who knew Paul experienced a man with incredible curiosity who loved to both talk and listen. He was truly interested in people, remembering details about people's lives that would astound friends and acquaintances.

Paul's needs were simple...a burger on the grill, a glass of wine, a book in hand, and a fire in the fireplace. Life is good.

Paul loved his family: Betty, his wife of 67 years; children Tom Rich (Pam) of Pittsfield, Andrew Rich of Portland, OR, and Joseph Rich (Skip Paynter) of Easthampton, MA and Milan, NY. But above all, "PaPa" was in awe of his three grandsons, Harry, Jackson, and Gabe.

He often said, "There is nothing these boys can't do!" He was so impressed by their accomplishments, but even more by "What fine people they are." Paul was preceded in death by his son Matthew, his brother Warren, and parents Harry and Anne.

Funeral services took place Sunday, March 11 at Kneset Israel, Pittsfield. Burial followed in Kneset Israel Cemetery.

Please remember Paul's compassion and kind heart by honoring his memory with a contribution to The Christian Center, 193 Robbins Avenue, Pittsfield, MA 01201, or the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, 196 South Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201.

Douglas S. Levy, 69, owner of Douglas Antiques

SHEFFIELD – Douglas S. Levy, 69, passed away at home on Saturday, February 17.

Born on March 23, 1948 to Edith and Donald Levy of Washington Heights, NY, Douglas grew up in Hicksville, Long Island, where he graduated from Hicksville High School. He attended Bradley University in Southern Illinois, receiving a BS in History.

After college, he married Jennifer Simms and moved to Manhattan, where he worked for several years at Simplicity Patterns. His love for antiques began when they opened a shop on Second Avenue in the Gramercy area. It was after they divorced that he decided to take the antique business to the Berkshires. He opened Douglas Antiques on Main Street in Great Barrington. He soon expanded and moved the shop to the barn behind the Weathervane Inn, now the Egremont Village Inn in South Egremont. He was known for his turn of the century oak furniture and beautiful quilts.

In his spare time, Douglas coached Little League Baseball in Great Barrington. His love for movies, music, sports, history, and antiques was well known to everyone he encountered in town.

He leaves his son,

Jonathan Levy of Chicago, IL; sister, Lois Calame of Merrick, Long Island; and many nieces and nephews who loved him very much.

In keeping with Doug's wishes, there were no funeral services.

Joseph Louis Lerner, 93, World War II Army Air Corps veteran

NORTH ADAMS – Joseph Louis Lerner, 93, died Friday, March 23 at the North Adams Commons after a sudden illness.

Mr. Lerner was born in New York City, a son of the late Sam and Becky Mendelson Lerner. He was educated in the New York City public schools, and graduated from James Monroe High School. He then attended Pratt Institute and Fordham University, and received his bachelor's degree from UMass Amherst. Joe was a World War II Army Air Corps veteran. During his military commitment, he served as a ground chief with the 463 Heavy Bombers Squad, volunteering on November 24, 1942. Following his honorable discharge on February 17, 1946, Mr. Lerner returned to New York City where he married the former Frances Leblang on December 21, 1947. Together they started their life in Pittsfield in 1949, with Joe employed by Nelson's Inc. of Pittsfield as a sales representative for many years. He retired in 1994.

Mr. Lerner was a life member of the Disabled American Veterans, Pittsfield Chapter #15.

He is survived by his two sons, Lawrence D. Lerner of Pittsfield and Robert C. Lerner and his wife Diane of Westford, MA, as well as two granddaughters, Meredith and Allison Lerner of Boston. Mr. Lerner was predeceased by his wife of 53 years, Frances Lerner, on September 1, 2001. He was also predeceased by his two brothers, Hyman and Harold Lerner, and two sisters, Bell and Ruth Lerner.

Funeral services with full military honors were held Wednesday, March 28 at the Massachusetts Veterans' Memorial Cemetery, Agawam, MA.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, in care of Devanny-Condron Funeral Home, 40 Maplewood Avenue, Pittsfield, MA 01201.

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Programs take place Mondays and Thursdays at 10:45 a.m. Lunch is served Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays at noon. **Beginning on June 1 and continuing through the summer months, the Tuesday kosher lunch program will be on hiatus. Tuesday lunches will resume in the fall.**

Advanced reservations are required to attend lunch.

Please call (413) 442-2200 no later than 9 am on the day you would like to attend. Open to the public. All are welcome! Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield, MA.

Adults 60 and over: \$2 suggested donation

Adults under 60: \$7 per person

Program only is free!

When making a reservation please inform us if a person in your party has a food allergy.

The Federation's kosher hot lunch program is offered in collaboration with Elder Services of Berkshire County.



Jewish Federation
OF THE BERKSHIRES

What's for Lunch?

Dairy Free, ** Gluten Free Main Entrée

For more information on specific programs please see "Your Federation Presents" section of this paper.

APRIL

Monday, 23 10:45 a.m., "The Process of Aging" with therapist, Maggie Bittman. **Lunch: Salisbury steak**#, salad, brown rice, broccoli, rye bread, parve cookies, and tea.**

Tuesday, 24 **Roasted chicken**#, baked sweet potato, asparagus cuts n tips, noodles & onions, farmer's loaf, pineapple, and tea.**

Thursday, 26 10:45 a.m., "Current Affairs: Contemporary American and International Politics" with Professor Emeritus, Steven J. Rubin. **Lunch: Spinach mushroom quiche, salad, mixed vegetables, challah, rice pudding, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.**

Monday, 30 10:45 a.m., "Our Dogs Understand Hebrew" **Lunch: Turkey salad platters, celery rice soup, coleslaw, marble rye bread, grapes, and tea.**

MAY

Tuesday, 1 **Sloppy Joes**, diced carrots, salad, hamburger rolls, fruit cocktail, and tea.**

Thursday, 3 10:45 a.m., "Easy Chair Yoga for Flexibility, Mobility and Peace of Mind," with Linda Novick. **Lunch: Cheese and bean enchilada casserole, mango juice, yellow rice, garlic bread, brownies, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.**

Monday, 7 10:45 a.m., "Filmmaking – The Underground Berkshire Industry" with Diane Pearlman. **Lunch: Meat loaf**#, tomato juice, salad, mashed potatoes, peas, rye bread, applesauce, and tea.**

Tuesday, 8 **Roasted chicken**#, salad, mixed vegetables, rice, multi-grain bread, peaches, and tea.**

Thursday, 10 10:45 a.m., Readings from Two Contemporary Poets. **Lunch: Fish sticks, mushroom soup, French fries, broccoli, Challah, lemon pudding, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.**

Monday, 14 10:45 a.m., "Current Affairs: Contemporary American and International Politics" with Professor Emeritus, Steven J. Rubin. **Lunch: Hot dogs and beans**#, salad, hot dog rolls, pears, and tea.**

Tuesday, 15 **Spaghetti and meat sauce, zucchini and yellow squash, Italian bread, grapes, and tea.**

Thursday, 17 10:45 a.m., "Billy Budd in the Breadbox: The True Story of Herman Melville" with Jana Laiz. **Lunch: Tuna salad platters**#, pineapple juice, whole wheat bread, apricots, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.**

Monday, 21 Closed for Shavuot

Tuesday, 22 **Blintze soufflé, fruit salad, asparagus cuts n tips, Challah, lemon pudding, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.**

Thursday, 24 10:45 a.m., "Why Fiction Matters in Our Fact-Driven World," with author Ellen Meeropol. **Lunch: Fresh fish**, gazpacho, salad, rice pilaf, broccoli, rolls, ice cream and cookies, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.**

Monday, 28 Closed for Memorial Day

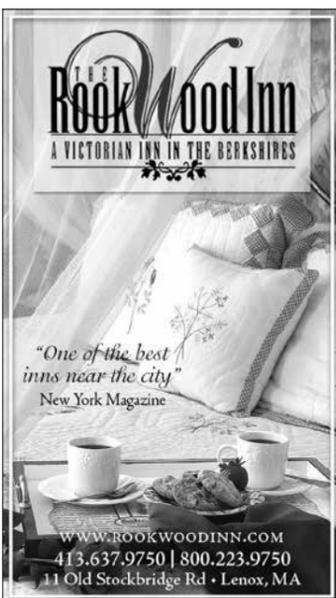
Tuesday, 29 **Vegetarian chili, spinach, whole wheat bread, peaches, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.**

Thursday, 31 10:45 a.m., Program to be Announced. **Lunch: Fettuccine with tomato goat cheese sauce, salad, peas, garlic bread, grapes, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.**

JUNE

Monday, 4 10:45 a.m., Program to be Announced. **Lunch: Meat loaf**#, gazpacho, potatoes O'Brien, Italian beans, salad, pumpernickel bread, and tea.**

Thursday, 7 10:45 a.m., Program to be Announced. **Lunch: Barbecued chicken, corn, red beans and rice, coleslaw, rolls, margarine and tea.**



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Calendar – Ongoing Events Around the Community

Continuous – Chabad of the Berkshires “Smile on Seniors,” or “S.O.S.,” volunteer program to serve senior citizens in the Berkshires. Information for families who can benefit and volunteers: Rabbi Levi Volovik at (413) 499-9899 or visit www.jewishberkshires.com.

Monthly, fourth or fifth Sunday – Volunteers from Congregation Beth Israel, 53 Lois Street, North Adams “Take and Eat” program cook, package, and deliver hot meals for all North Adams clients of “Meals on Wheels.” Information: (413) 663-5830 or office@cbiweb.org.

Sundays (second of each month) – Berkshire Hills Society of Israeli Philatelists meet. Discuss Israeli and American stamps. Coffee and donuts. Information: Ed Heltzer, (413) 447-7622, daytime.

Tuesdays, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. – Torah Portion of the Week study group at Kneset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield. Facilitator Myrna Hammerling guides the group through the triennial cycle, year-round in the KI Library. Newcomers always welcome to this gathering of students of diverse ages, backgrounds, and perspectives who search together to deepen understanding of our foundational text. Free. Information: (413) 445-4872, ext. 16.

Tuesdays at 10:45 a.m. – “The Book of Deuteronomy” at Kneset Israel. Please check with KI for dates. Classes taught by Rabbi David Weiner who is guiding an in-depth exploration of a revolutionary book of the Torah that continues to shape Jewish thought and practice to this day. Texts are in English.

Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. – Rabbi David Weiner continues the Rachel Korazim’s

“Israel at 70” class for adults in the KI library. Upcoming sessions: May 1 and May 15, on Israel’s fourth decade of existence. More information to come. Please RSVP so enough materials are readied—office@knesetisrael.org.

Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m. – Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Road, Great Barrington, offers an hour of “Shalom Yoga, Gentle Stretch and Meditation” with Nina Lipkowitz a certified Kripalu and Jewish yoga and meditation teacher. Check <https://hevreh.org/calendar/> for updates. All levels welcome. Contact Nina at ninalipkowitz@gmail.com with any questions.

Wednesdays – at Kneset Israel, “Enhanced Prayer Class for Adults” 10:00-11:30 a.m. at 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield, KI library. What are we saying when we read prayers at a service? How does the siddur language connect with my life today? How can I build my Hebrew reading fluency and practice my reading skills? How can I be more comfortable with the language and process of prayer? Facilitated by Myrna Hammerling. Newcomers always welcome. Information: (413) 445-4872, ext. 16.

Thursdays (fourth of each month) – Hadassah Book Club. For times, locations of meetings, and further information about the books: Roz Kolodny at (413) 243-2077 or rozlk@yahoo.com.

Fridays, last of month, time varies with candle lighting – Chabad of the Berkshires’ “Friday Night Live,” traditional Kabbalat Shabbat service. Information: (413) 499-9899 or visit www.jewishberkshires.com.

Fridays, at 9:00 a.m. – Meditation with Rabbi Rachel Barenblat in the Congre-

gation Beth Israel sanctuary, 53 Lois Street, North Adams, overlooking the Berkshire mountains. Silence, chanting, and meditation designed to help prepare for Shabbat. All welcomed. Information: (413) 663-5830 and www.cbiweb.org.

Fridays, once a month at 5:30 p.m. (followed by a family style Shabbat dinner at 6:30 p.m.) – Kneset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield. Shirei Shabbat (“Songs of Shabbat”). Unique service combines melodies from Carlebach, Debbie Friedman, and Camp Ramah to create a ruach filled (“spirited”) family friendly experience. Cost for dinner \$18 per adult, \$15 teens, \$50 family maximum. Dinner reservations are due by the Monday before services. Full information: (413) 445-4872, ext 10.

Saturdays at 8:45 a.m. – at Hevreh, 270 State Road in Great Barrington. Every Shabbat morning, gather in Rabbi Neil Hirsch’s study and dive into the less-often read books of the Bible. All are welcome to begin the day with coffee while studying and relaxing on Shabbat. Sessions will be between 45 and 60 minutes. Please be in touch with Rabbi Hirsch for further information: nhirsch@hevreh.org.

Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. – “Torah Plus: Exploring Jewish Text and Culture.” Join Rabbi Josh Breindel for a conversation based on the texts of the Jewish people and reflection on what it means to be Jewish. All texts are offered in English. Temple Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield. Free. Open to the public. Information (413) 442-5910 or templeoffice@ansheamunim.org.

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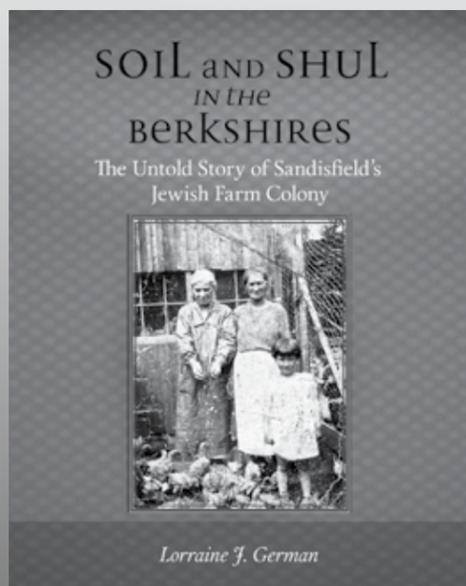
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ONGOING MINYANS

Sunday	8:45 a.m. and 7 p.m.
Tuesday	7 p.m.
Friday	7 a.m. and 5:45 p.m.
Saturday	9:30 a.m. and evenings approximately 30 minutes before sunset

CANDLE-LIGHTING

Friday, April 27	7:30 p.m.
Friday, May 4	7:38 p.m.
Friday, May 11	7:46 p.m.
Friday, May 18	7:53 p.m.
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BERKSHIRE JEWISH VOICES

Traveling with Jewish Taste

A Super Buffet for Super Sunday

By Carol Goodman Kaufman



While not an official holiday – after all, we already have so many of them – Super Sunday is on the calendar for virtually every Jewish community in America. Volunteers from all segments of Jewish life gather not in front of a wide-screen television to watch football, but around a bank of telephones. They come together in a herculean effort to call every individual in the area serviced by their local Jewish Federation. Their mission: to raise the funds necessary for the miraculous work accomplished by the many local, national, and international agencies that work on behalf of the Tribe.

Many of our fellow Jews in Eastern Europe live in poverty, dependent on aid from the Joint Distribution Committee – funded by our donations.

As a result of resurgent anti-Semitic violence in Europe, parents are sending their children to Israel, much as parents in the 1930s sent theirs to relative safety in pre-State Israel. Federation dollars support the Youth Aliyah villages that house, educate, and counsel these refugees.

And Federation dollars support hundreds of programs here in the United States, from JCCs to day schools to nursing homes.

As on Super Bowl Sunday, there must be food, but since this is a Jewish event we're talking about, there must be FOOD, right? I've been thinking about what an appropriate spread might be for this special day, and I've come to the realization that we must represent every single Diaspora community that receives aid via the generosity of our donors.

"What has she been smoking?" you may rightfully ask. Every single community? Jews are scattered around the globe, from Austin to Azerbaijan, Vilna to Venezuela. How could we possibly do that?

Being exiled and dispersed to the four corners of the earth wasn't great, but it did come with a silver lining: a treasure chest of amazing culinary diversity. No, we won't have a buffet table that could run from South Street to Jerusalem, but wouldn't it be fun to consider the menu options? After making dozens of phone calls, hungry volunteers could dive right into the array of:

A variety of eggplant salads
Hummus with tahini
Sabich
Borekas
Soft, fluffy pita bread
Bagels, lox, and cream cheese
Herring in sour cream
Smoked whitefish
Variety of olives and pickled vegetables

Potato kugel
Noodle kugel

And for dessert:
Rugelach
Strudel
Mandelbrot
Persian halvah
Coconut macaroons
Flan

Coconut macaroons

Yield 3 dozen

At a recent dinner meeting of the Latino-Jewish Roundtable, a community dialogue group, one of my Latina colleagues expressed surprise when I served macaroons as one of the Jewish dessert offerings. Deborah, who just happened to have written her doctoral dissertation on the foods of Latin American women, told me that macaroons are also an iconic Latino dessert. And, here I had thought the coconut treats were the property of Ashkenazic tradition! Deborah's revelation made this recipe a natural for our Super Sunday Buffet, as you will see from its worldly roots.

The name macaroon comes from the Italian *maccarone*, meaning "paste," referring to the almond paste that formed the basis of the original, flourless cookie recipe. Culinary historians tell us that they have their genesis in a 9th century Italian monastery. When a later generation of these monks came to France in the early 16th century, they joined forces with the chefs of Catherine de Medici and King Henri II to produce the delicacy there, but those bakers used almond flour and thus created the delicate macaron. When almonds became difficult to obtain, creative bakers substituted coconut.

Italian Jews adopted the recipe because it has no flour or leavening other than egg whites, making macaroons perfect for Passover dessert. Jews across Europe learned of the delicacy, and it became popular as a year-round treat.

Cocadas are the South American version of the coconut macaroon, often made with the addition of either condensed milk or dulce de leche, making the results denser and sweeter than others. Of course, these would not be appropriate for a meat table.

Coconut macaroons are super easy to make, and so very much better than those in the preservative-filled store-bought cans that can sit on the shelf for a year without spoiling. (I inadvertently tried this at home, Grandson #1 having recently found an open can in the back of a cabinet. He actually put a macaroon in his mouth, and I am relieved to say that he is miraculously healthy.)

Ingredients:

2 1/2 cups dried unsweetened shredded coconut
1 1/2 T. potato starch
1/2 cup sugar
1/4 t. salt
4 large egg whites
1 t. vanilla
1 package semisweet chocolate chips



Instructions:

In a large mixing bowl, use a fork to stir together the shredded coconut, potato starch, and sugar till well blended. Break up any chunks of potato starch with the fork.

Whip the egg whites and salt on high speed in the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with the whisk attachment until they make medium-firm peaks.

Carefully fold the egg whites into the coconut mixture, making sure that the egg whites are evenly distributed throughout the coconut.

While mixture sits for 20-30 minutes, preheat oven to 325 degrees F.

Stir the batter again with a fork.

Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Scoop up the batter in a tablespoon and drop onto the baking sheet, leaving about an inch between scoops.

You can then use wet fingers to shape your macaroons if you wish. Cocadas are often made into pyramid shapes.

Bake for 20-25 minutes until the bottom edges turn golden and the tips of the coconut shreds start to brown.

Remove from the oven.

Let the macaroons *cool completely* on the baking sheet.

When the macaroons have *cooled completely*, put the chocolate into a bowl and microwave it, starting with 35 seconds, stir, then continue for 10-second bursts until the chocolate is smooth.

With a pair of small tongs, dip the base of each macaroon into the melted chocolate, twisting and coating it about halfway up the sides.

Pull macaroon up and let excess chocolate drip back into the bowl, then place the dipped macaroon onto the flat parchment. Repeat for remaining macaroons.

Once the macaroons are completely dry, store them in a *sealed* container in layers divided by parchment or wax paper.

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Carol Goodman Kaufman is a psychologist and author with a passion for travel and food. She is currently at work on a food history/cookbook, tracing the paths that some of our favorite foods have taken from their origins to appear on dinner plates and in cultural rites and artifacts around the world. She invites readers to read her blog at carolgoodmankaufman.com and to follow her on Twitter @goodmankaufman.

MY ISRAEL

Wait a Minute – Israelis *Invented* the Cherry Tomato?

By Michel Araten

My earliest memories of Israel are from 1947, when I was seven and traveled with my parents and older brother to visit my grandfather and several uncles who immigrated to Israel in the 1930s. I was somewhat frightened by our car being stopped on the road by the British soldiers who searched the car to see if we had any contraband. I was particularly impressed when visiting my grandfather in Beit Vegan in Jerusalem when he moved aside some books from his library and showed me a hole in the wall that was caused by a cannon ball.

It was only two years later that we moved to Israel and stayed there for a year. I was stunned by the lack of material goods when we were issued ration books that not only covered some food items, but also shoes. My Hebrew was pretty good, having gone to Massad, a Hebrew-speaking Zionist summer camp, and also Yeshivat Ramaz. I attended a private school, Beit Sefer Reali in Haifa. (Two of my granddaughters just returned in February from a Ramaz Chorus visit and entertained in that same school 68 years later!)

I had joined the Cub Scouts there, *Shualei Hacarmel*, the "Foxes of the Carmel." What struck me was the complete freedom my brother and I had then – we were nine and thir-

teen years old, and ran around all over the place on bicycles, unsupervised and unafraid. I recall one time, the two of us were on a long walk and wanted to get home and hitchhiked with a police jeep that gave us a ride.

When I got back to New York, it was clear that the math taught in Israel was quite advanced compared to



that in the US, as well.

My parents moved to Israel in 1962 and my brother followed several years later so my family, including my wife and two children, has visited countless times. We stay connected with uncles, nieces, and cousins, including Chaim Rabinowich, the dean of the Hebrew University of Agriculture who invented the cherry tomato.

Or Did They?

Editor's Note: Though the cherry tomato is popularly cited as a marvel of Israeli innovation, its Holy Land provenance has been debunked by researchers who have shown that Israel did not actually "invent" the cherry tomato, but rather improved the variety for commercial purposes. Israeli

science writer Anna Wexler wrote a scholarly article on the subject for *Gastronomica* (a highly acclaimed quarterly journal founded and edited by Darra Goldstein, a professor of Russian at Williams College), while the Nosh website relates the following:

Tomatoes, large, small, long and cherry-sized were eaten and enjoyed and

mentioned in writings over the course of many years but they did not become widely enjoyed and sold until the latter part of the 20th century when the British retailer Marks and Spencer got involved.

A clothing retailer sparking a tomato revolution? Yes indeed. They saw a market for tomatoes that were beautiful, decorative and tasty. And they wanted to sell them in their store's fine food market. They turned to local growers in England, including Bernard Sparkes, who was responsible for developing a commercial cherry tomato that made its debut at Marks and Spencer's in the early 1980s.

They also sent an emissary to Hebrew University in Jerusalem to see if their agrarian scientists could help refine a tasty, ship-



pable tomato. Professors Nachum Kedar and Chaim Rabinowich from the Hebrew University's Faculty of Agriculture got involved and developed cherry tomatoes that ripened slowly, shipped better, and grew in neat rows, rather than in clusters, for ease of packing and shipping. So, while the Hebrew University professors did not actually invent the cherry tomato, they helped make the modifications to it that made it the marketable item that it is today. And the billions of dollars of sales of the seeds they developed are proof of the success of their venture.

Now you know.

Send stories about your early Israel experiences to Albert Stern, BJV editor, at astern@jewishberkshires.org

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MY ISRAEL

My First Memories of Israel (As an Israeli)

By Avi Dresner

I know this series is supposed to be about first memories of Israel, however, since so many of my seven trips there before I made aliyah occurred when I was too young to remember them, I thought I would take the liberty of relating my first memories of Israel as an Israeli. First, though, a little background.

My parents, both American, met and married in Israel in 1968, when my rabbi father and psychologist mother (who was teaching the deaf at the time) were on their respective sabbatical years in Jerusalem.

I first visited with them in 1970, when I was a year old, for a Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) convention. After my sister was born in 1971, we returned as an extended family in 1972,

Mount Scopus. I was spending a year there getting my Hebrew up to speed before formally matriculating in the university for a master's degree in English literature. Yes, that contradiction is not lost on me, but that is the subject of an entirely different article.

Anyway, to support myself as a student, I taught aerobics at two Jerusalem studios and English at The Experimental School in Jerusalem, which was a combined middle and high school, where I taught the 7th, 8th, 9th, and 11th grade. It was in that capacity that everything changed for me in a single shattering moment on November 4, 1995, when a fanatical "religious" Jew assassinated Israeli prime minister Yitzchak Rabin.

later go on to become prime minister himself. I couldn't tell you a single word of what I said to the kids that day, or what any of them said to me. All I remember is standing in front of the blackboard before them crying, and watching them cry.

For an entire generation of Israelis, the Rabin assassination is what the Kennedy assassination was for a generation of Americans. For me, though, it was the moment that I understood how Israeli I had become in the year that I had been living there and, simultaneously, that I decided to make it official.

Within a week of Rabin's assassination, I was at the Israeli Interior Ministry office in Jerusalem making internal aliyah, officially changing my status from student to new immigrant. Because my parents had been married in Jerusalem, and the clerk was therefore able to have proof of my Jewishness right on her computer, it was an instantaneous process – the bureaucratic equivalent of POOF, you're Israeli! Within fifteen minutes, she handed me my Israeli identity card.

I stared at the photo proudly, fancying myself a tanned Sabra, and then I looked at my name or, rather, not my name. I pointed out to the clerk that my name was "Avram" not "Avraham" as it said on the card. She said matter-of-factly "no, your name is Avraham." I answered, "Excuse me, but I think I know my name better than you do. I've had it for 25 years." We went back and forth like that for several rounds, with the volume getting progressively louder. It ended with me insisting that she make me a new

card, and her telling me to take a seat.

I proceeded to wait for another three hours before she gave me my new card with my new old name, and that's when I knew I was truly Israeli.

Avi Dresner is a freelance journalist and author, and

co-chair of the Berkshires Jewish Festival of Books. He is currently working on a documentary with his sister, Tamar, about their Freedom Riding father, Rabbi Israel Dresner, and his exploits with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the Civil Rights Movement.



Avi Dresner in the Negev Desert during basic training as an 81 mm. Mortar Specialist in the Israel Defense Force, August, 1996.

'74, '76, '79, and '85. I went again in '85 as part of our New Jersey synagogue's annual confirmation class trip.

Nearly ten years later, in September of 1994, I found myself back in Israel for a year as a student in the Rothberg School for Foreign Students, which was affiliated with, and on the campus of, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem on

The school principal called all of the teachers that night, and told us to come to school the following school day ready to help our students work through their grief. And so, that's how I found myself standing in front of a room full of twelve-year-olds two days later, which included the son of Jerusalem's mayor at the time, Ehud Olmert, who would

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CULTURE AND ARTS

It's a Match! No, It's a "ZUG"!

Berkshire artist Jeff Kramer recently had the opportunity to meet his Israeli Project Zug learning partner, Tanya Friedman (otherwise known as his "Zug"), who was in the US visiting family in Lenox. Jeff and Tanya are both participants in our Federation-sponsored exchange. Project Zug consists of eight local Berkshire residents studying the Book of Psalms online and creating joint art interpretations with partners from the Afula-Gilboa region of Israel.

A final exhibit of the group's inspired art and learning will be on exhibit in Afula in October and will make its way to the Berkshires early next year. Shown below is Jeff's drawing of seashells, completed while he was in Israel on a recent Sar El mission (see page 4).

An exhibit of Tanya's art is on view at Cranwell Spa & Golf Resort through August. Shown below right is "We Fall We Rise," from a 2012 series of work called "Shadow Dance." Wrote the artist about the series: "My

mobiles are composed of many small dancing figures, drawn from videos of different cultural dancing styles. In 2012, I made the first mobiles by cutting figures out of painted paper and, in 2017, I began using a laser cutting machine to cut them out of Plexiglas and wood. I am currently using different materials to create new versions of these dancing mobiles, which I design to order."

Tanya will be back in the Berkshires in August for an artist's "meet and greet" at Cranwell. Her website is www.tanyafriedman.com.



Jeff Kramer at Cranwell with his "Zug," Afula-Gilboa artist Tanya Friedman



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Paul Green's "Two Worlds," Version 2.0

LEE – On Sunday, May 20 at 3 p.m., clarinetist Paul Green performs with a new incarnation of his "Two Worlds" klezmer/jazz fusion band at the Lee Congregational Church. The combo released its first album in 2016, but this latest iteration, says Green, takes the exploration of the common ground between jazz and Jewish music even further.

On the first "Two Worlds," Green says "we took jazz tunes and introduced 'Jewish' scales and integrated them into standards like 'My Funny Valentine.' We took the tune 'So What' and changed the modal harmonies of the Dorian scale Miles Davis used to the 'Mi'Sheberach scale'" used in klezmer and Romanian music. The group also successfully added jazz and blues elements to Jewish *freylechs*.

This time, says Green, "I'm creating all my own compositions. The new material is more of an interweaving, more of a fusion – which is an overused term, but is exactly what I'm trying to do. I think it will give the music a more seamless fusing of the musical languages of both genres."

He also incorporating the aleatoric approach used by modern classical composers, where part of a composed work's realization is left to the determination of its performers.

"I'm using this classical form as a 'house' for the jazz and klezmer elements. It's all a progression, in my view."

To realize his vision, Green has enlisted mostly new musicians for this "Two Worlds" band. Playing with Green will be Charles Tokarz (saxophone), Jason Ennis (guitar), Ben Kohn (piano), Dan Broad (bass), and Pete Sweeney (drums). All are based in the Berkshires or nearby. "That's the other part of this project – elevating some of the great musicians who live in Berkshire County," says Green.

The band will also be playing music from the first "Two Worlds" album. Lee Congregational Church is located at 25 Park Plaza in downtown Lee.



The original Two Worlds band