

# Berkshire JEWISH VOICE

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

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jewishberkshires.org

## A New Paradigm in the Israeli/Palestinian Conflict?

Washington Institute Experts David Makovsky and Ghaith al-Omari to explore paths to peace at Federation's Mid-East Update



David Makovsky



Ghaith al-Omari

WILLIAMSTOWN & LENOX – On Sunday, September 18, the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires brings its 2016 Mid-East Update to two local venues, hosting two noted experts on the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, David Makovsky and Ghaith al-Omari of the Washing-

ton Institute of Near East Policy. An afternoon session will be held at 3 p.m. on the campus of Williams College, and will be followed by a 7:30 p.m. program at Shakespeare & Company in Lenox.

Both programs are free and open to the public.

As political instability, societal chaos, and war and terrorism have overtaken the greater Middle East over the past 8 years, the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians has been largely sidelined. Negotiated peace between the two parties, the classic paradigm for the last few decades, has been put aside. What will take its place?

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## Dr. Edwin Kolodny to Talk about Gaucher Disease and Its Lessons at the Federation's Maimonides Society Meeting

PITTSFIELD – At 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 24, the Maimonides Society of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires will hold its third annual meeting. Noted neurologist and geneticist Dr. Edwin Kolodny will deliver a talk titled "Gaucher Disease: Lessons in Culture, Biotechnology, and Humanitarian Assistance."

The meeting will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, 1032 South Street in Pittsfield (behind Guido's Marketplace). A dessert reception will follow.

All health care professionals – MDs, dentists, nurses, chiropractors, physical and physical and occupational therapists – working in or visiting the Berkshires are invited to this networking event.

"I am thrilled to invite our health-care community to hear one of the world's leading experts in genetic disease, Dr. Ed Kolodny, who, incidentally, is also a fabulous speaker. Regardless of your particular specialty,



Dr. Edwin Kolodny

**MAIMONIDES SOCIETY,**  
continued on page 5

## Funny, It Doesn't Look Jewish...



PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA COMMONS

Ah, summer in the Berkshires. The trees in leaf, the fresh highland air, long days warmed by the sun, nights cooled by soothing breezes, picnics, parties, concerts, and everywhere you look, step, or sit...insects. Ants, aphids, bees, beetles, butterflies, cockroaches, dragonflies, fleas, gnats, grasshoppers, ladybugs, mites, mosquitoes, moths, spiders, termites, and ticks – none of them kosher, but some of them, possibly, sort of Jewish. Turn to the back page for a roundup of "13 insects and other strange organisms named after Jews." Pictured above is *Megachile chomskyi*, named after waspish linguist Noam Chomsky.

## Rockin' with Mama Doni!

### A Free Family Concert

GREAT BARRINGTON – On Sunday, September 11 at 11:30 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires and PJ Library present "Rockin' with Mama Doni," a free family concert. Kids, parents, and grandparents are welcome to laugh, clap, dance, and sing along with their inner Jewish child as Mama Doni elevates the *ruach* and spirit of our Jewish values, traditions, and culture.

The show will take place at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Road in Great Barrington. Families are encouraged to make this concert a mitzvah moment for their children by bringing new packages of diapers and/or baby wipes to be donated to the Berkshire Community Diaper Project.

### Who You'll Be Rockin' With

"Rockin' with Mama Doni" features lead singer Doni Zasloff (Mama Doni), who is also a leading songwriter, author, and performer in Jewish entertainment for kids and families. She is accompanied by husband Eric Lindberg, a master instrumentalist who, besides playing guitar, has also committed himself to the study of other bluegrass instruments including mandolin, dobro, and banjo in order to bring American instruments and sounds to Jewish faith and tradition.

Each of Zasloff and Lindberg's past three CDs (*Shabbat Shaboom*,



"Mama Doni" – Eric Lindberg and Doni Zasloff

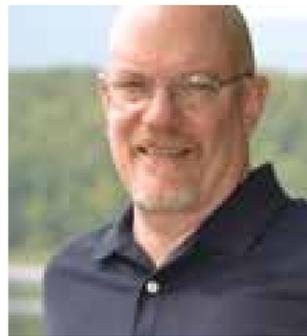
*Emunah*, and *The Jewish Holiday Collection*) have earned them Parents Choice Awards, and they have also released a DVD, cookbook, and two volumes of audio books with Bible stories. About *The Jewish Holiday Collection*, *Hadassah Magazine* wrote: "Doni Zasloff and Eric Lindberg give kids not only a whopping good time musically and in storytelling but offer a hidden bonus: In three foot-stomping episodes, they teach kids how to celebrate Hanukkah, Passover, and Shabbat."

**FAMILY CONCERT,**  
continued on page 10

## In My View

### Nice Work If You Can Get It – Along With a Little Help from Our Voluntary Subscribers

By Albert Stern, Editor, *Berkshire Jewish Voice*



It's good to be a newspaper editor in the Berkshires. As an example of why, let me share a story that unfolded while I was putting together this issue of the BJV.

On Wednesday, August 24, our Federation will be hosting its third annual Maimonides Society Meeting, a gathering where local Jewish health care professionals can meet and share their perspectives about healing and the Jewish values they bring to their practices. My job was to interview the featured speaker and get a few quotes for the story promoting the event.

I reached Dr. Edwin Kolodny to set up an interview time just as a Hadassah meeting he and his wife, Roz, were hosting at their home was wrapping up. Dr. Kolodny escaped outside and said he liked doing things quickly, and since I was on the phone already, he wanted to go ahead with the interview. I hadn't done the research I like to do before talking to someone, but figured we'd wing it.

I had Dr. Kolodny's bio in front of me, and asked him to explain, in layman's terms, what his work was about. He told me he was a neurogeneticist, a doctor who studies the link between genes, behavior, the brain, and neurological disorders and diseases. He mentioned he was on the team that co-discovered the absent enzyme that causes Tay Sachs, and was an advisor in the establishment Chevra Dor Yeshorim, a confidential premarital genetic screening service for the disease that is widely used in the Hasidic community. Dr. Kolodny also talked about his research with National Institute of Health laboratory that was instrumental in understanding the nature and prevalence of Gaucher Disease.

I scribbled furiously in my notepad trying to keep up with Dr. Kolodny's wide ranging narrative. At a certain point, he must have sensed he was overwhelming me, and so said: "I'll tell you what – can I just write something up and send it to you?"

So one of the world's most preeminent neurogeneticists just asked me if he could go out of his way to contribute material about his work for an article in our small paper. I pondered how I should answer.

"Um, sure, that would be great," is what I decided to say.

This anecdote perfectly illustrates why it's good to be a newspaper editor in the Berkshires, particularly in the Jewish community. For one, this region has attracted a wealth of interesting and accomplished individuals with world class credentials in the arts, medicine, business, academia, Jewish activism, and many other areas of endeavor – they have great stories to tell and valuable insights to share. Second, these individuals love the Berkshires and respect the sophistication of the local audience, and so are eager to share their stories both through the BJV and by presenting at the many compelling programs our Federation sponsors.

When we wanted to do a special section about Jewish camping, I was able to sit down with Brandeis professor and South County second home owner Amy Sales, co-author of groundbreaking research about the subject. When we did a special section about connecting with Israel, her colleague and co-author Leonard Saxe contributed an original article about his recent study of how engagement with Israel promotes Jewish identity among young people.

When we had the idea to write about the best translations of Hebrew scripture, I was able to not only enlist the efforts of our learned local clergy (among them two of The Forward's most inspiring rabbi honorees), but also of author Seth Brown and two distinguished scholars, Edan Dekel of Williams College and

Knowing more about what we all are up to and thinking about Jewishly is vital in creating our own singular Jewish communal identity.

Rebecca Fiske of Bard College at Simon's Rock.

Author Daniel Klein wrote about the philosophical underpinnings of classic Jewish jokes for the BJV, while fellow Knosh & Knowledge presenters Roselle Chartock, Alex Kershaw, and Letty Cottin Pogrebin all sat down for wide-ranging interviews about their recent books. I've had Yehuda Hannani and Paul Green educate me about Jewish music; learned about museums with Tenement Museum founder Ruth Abram; dissected the character of Shylock with Jonathan Epstein, the Jewish actor playing him at Shakespeare & Company; discussed illustration with renowned children's book author Uri Shulevitz; and listened as Roz Chast described her creative process. (Not only that, when we did a special section on "People of the Comic Book," my buddy Lawrence Klein, who founded the Museum of Comic and Cartoon Art in New York and whose story we also told, let me share an unpublished cartoon she drew of him.)

And these are just a few of the compelling Jewish individuals living and/or working in the Berkshires whose stories we've shared with our readers over the past two years. We've had special sections devoted to farming, music, Jewish books, cooking, and local history, and also initiated Berkshire Jewish Voices, a lifestyle column where local writers can describe their Jewish lives in personal and offbeat ways.

While the function of the BJV will always be to inform our readers about Jewish events and initiatives undertaken by the Federation and its affiliate institutions in the Berkshires and beyond, it has been my goal as editor to dedicate space to personal stories that capture this community in all its depth and diversity. In a small Jewish community like ours – one that is also geographically spread out and demographically fluid, seasonally changing in size and composition – I believe that knowing more about what

we all are up to and thinking about Jewishly is vital in creating our own singular Jewish communal identity. The BJV very much reflects the larger communal goals of the Federation and, I hope, the interests and values of its readers.

I hope you will sustain these efforts by with a voluntary subscription to your community newspaper, the *Berkshire Jewish Voice*. This Federation long ago decided, given the nature of Berkshire County and its fulltime/part time/tourist community, that a print publication is a valuable way to reach the people we need to reach in order to create, sustain, and fund Jewish life in this region. This publication's revenues do not cover all its costs, however, and so your financial help as voluntary subscribers is essential in our efforts to bring you meaningful, positive, and entertaining stories about both your neighbors and Jews around the world.

**Please see the insert in this newspaper for the different funding levels available. An honorary publisher gift of \$360 allows us to provide 4 pages of color, while all voluntary subscriptions help us defray the cost of printing and mailing the thousands of copies of the newspaper we send out to you nine times each year.**

Like I said, it's good being an editor in the Berkshires. Every day, it's a kick to be able to talk to fascinating people about the work, ideas, and causes they are passionate about. I certainly appreciate all the kind words the Federation has received about the paper, as well the efforts of those who have pitched in as contributors, volunteers, and sponsors. I feel privileged to be able to tell these individual stories so that we can all better understand our collective story as a Jewish community in this beautiful and special part of the world.

Please continue to support our efforts with a voluntary subscription to the BJV.

**PJ Library**  
JEWISH BEDTIME STORIES and SONGS  
Free books and music to nurture Jewish families, for children 6 months – 8 years

Thanks to the generosity of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, Harold Grinspoon Foundation, Spitz/Tuchman Family Fund, and the Irving Bashevkin Trust, Jewish families in the Berkshires can enjoy PJ Library\* as a gift that will nourish Jewish life from the start.

PJ Library\* is a program under the auspices of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires.

For more information or to register your child today please visit [Jewishberkshires.org](http://Jewishberkshires.org).

Jewish Federation OF THE BERKSHIRES HAROLD GRINSPOON FOUNDATION

#### DEADLINES

The next *Berkshire Jewish Voice* (Vol. 24, No. 7) will cover the period September 19, 2016 through October 31, 2016. The following edition (Vol. 24, No. 8) covers November 1, 2016 through December 15, 2016. **The deadline for press releases and other written submissions, all of which are subject to being edited, is September 16, 2016. Because of limitations of space and time, please be so kind as to not submit lengthy articles without first contacting the editor. Advertising deadline is October 11, 2016.** For a complete *Berkshire Jewish Voice* schedule, contact (413) 442-4360, ext. 11, or e-mail [jfb.berkshirevoice@verizon.net](mailto:jfb.berkshirevoice@verizon.net).

Jewish Federation of the Berkshires Presents

## Knosh & Knowledge

Friday, August 12, 10:45 a.m.

*Displaced Persons: Holocaust Survivors and the Paradoxical Lives They Built in America*

Presented by: NY Times Writer Joseph Berger

Friday, September 9, 10:45 a.m.

*Jewish Literacy: Seeking Out New Frontiers*

Presented by: Richard Michelson author, poet and owner of R. Michelson Galleries

LOCATION: Hevreh of Southern Berkshire 270 State Rd, Great Barrington  
COST: \$11, includes program and catered lunch. Program only is \$5.



Advance Lunch Reservations Required  
Please call (413) 442-4360, ext 10 or [jfb.officemanager@verizon.net](mailto:jfb.officemanager@verizon.net)

# Rabbi Reflections

## Trust in the Journey

By Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman



This is a time of journeying. In our weekly Torah reading, we are well on our way in the wilderness journeys of the Israelites. Following a pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night, they move and rest at God's will. It is a journey in which their faith is tested, but over time trust is built. I recognize that I, too, am on a journey of trust. After four years of shepherding Rimon from an idea to the birth of a community, I am responding to the call to go forth. In August, I will begin a new chapter as the rabbi of Congregation Agudat Achim in Leominster, MA.

These four years have been rich with learning, connecting, and building community. We have established a dedicated hevra kadisha that will continue to provide services to the Jewish community of South Berkshire County

into the future. We have studied Torah, Midrash, Talmud, Kabbalah, Mussar, and the Hasidic Masters together. Our learning was deepened on many occasions by the rich teachings of Rabbi Jill Hammer and many other guest teachers who traveled to us and shared their wisdom. We have davened to new and old melodies in many sacred spaces, both indoors and outdoors in the Berkshire hills. We have enjoyed remarkable musical concerts and unique interfaith events.

We have had phenomenal guests supporting our community. I am so deeply grateful to Shir Yaakov Feit, who co-led Friday night services with me for two years. The services were magical and inspiring. We enjoyed the generosity and musical talents of Lisa Lipkin, Jay Hitt, and Carol Emanuel, who contributed to Kabbalat Shabbat services and to a truly remarkable High Holiday experience last year.

I am filled with so many mixed feelings but all are dominated by a felt sense of gratitude. My original vision was that Rimon would provide many varied opportunities for people from any background to access the wealth of Jewish spiritual teachings and practices. In fact, hundreds of people from all backgrounds have participated in Rimon events. In looking back over these four years, I am deeply gratified by all that we have accomplished.

As in any organization, there is a core group of dedicated participants. I am exceedingly heartened that this core group has expressed the desire and commitment to remain connected as a Jewish spiritual community. The Rimon Re-Visioning Group has been meeting to consider the mission and goals of this

emerging spiritual community. You can access information about the future of the Rimon community by joining the Rimon Re-Visioning email group at <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/rimon-re-visioning-group>. Notes from these meetings and information about this transition can also be found on the Rimon website: [www.rimonberkshires.org](http://www.rimonberkshires.org).

The Or HaMeir, a student of the Maggid of Mezritch, writes the following about this verse from psalms: "A person's steps are made firm by YHVH, but he delights in his way" (Ps. 37:23).

I heard the following interpretation of the Baal Shem Tov. He construed this verse to refer to those people who travel to distant places to engage in business, as well as others who find themselves traveling far away. The Holy One's thoughts are not theirs: they think that all of their endeavors on the way to the distant place are for the sake of earning money in return for the business they do, and it is for this reason that they set out on their journey. In truth, this is not the Holy One's intention, for God can accomplish even more than they. That is, sometimes, in that far-away place, there is a loaf of bread that is tied to the businessman's root-soul, and he must eat of that very loaf in that very place at that very time (to connect his soul with the divine sparks in it). Similarly, he may have to drink his fill of water there. It is for this purpose "the steps of man are made firm" to travel several hundred miles away – to connect his soul (to its related sparks) in consuming that bread or drinking that water.

Life is a mystery. It seems that at this time, I am being called to another community to fulfill certain concrete needs, but there may likely be other less obvious needs, soul needs, of which I am yet unaware. I trust in the process that is unfolding. And I trust that the Rimon community has developed the inner resources to support the unfolding of a sustaining Jewish spiritual fellowship.

I intend to stay in touch through periodic emails and I welcome you to come visit me in Leominster.

I leave you with some wisdom from Rabindranath Tagore.

*Man is immortal; therefore he must die endlessly. For life is a creative idea; it can only find itself in changing forms.*

With blessings for the continued blossoming of Jewish spiritual life in Berkshire County.

*Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman founded and led Rimon, and was named by The Forward as one of its most inspiring rabbis in 2015. The BJV would like to wish her happiness and success in the next stage of her journey. For more on Kaya Stern-Kaufman, see our May 2015 article on her work and spiritual journey at [www.jewishberkshires.org](http://www.jewishberkshires.org).*

## Letters to the Editor

### Israeli-founded Businesses Bring Prosperity

To the Berkshire Jewish Voice:

I am so happy to share the results of the Massachusetts-Israel 2016 Economic Impact Study with your readers. The New England Israel Business Council (NEIBC) has prepared this extensive study presenting the hundreds of Israeli businesses in Massachusetts and the major impact they are making on the local economy.

As Boston has become a major hub of cyber technology and innovation, it is no surprise that the Start-up Nation of Israel has become the perfect partner for collaboration. We learned in 2013 that Israeli businesses are bringing billions of dollars and thousands of jobs into the commonwealth, but we knew then that there was even more room for growth and cooperation.

Some of the key findings of the study include:

- \$9.3 billion directly from Israeli founded businesses in MA's 2015 GDP and generating over \$18 billion in economic benefit to Massachusetts – 4% of MA's total GDP
- 9,000 jobs directly from over 200 Israeli-founded businesses
- MA-Israeli business revenue growth is growing 2 times as fast

as overall business growth in Massachusetts

- MA-Israeli employment growth is growing 5 times as fast as overall employment growth in Massachusetts
- Israeli-founded firms secured over \$1.2 billion in venture capital from 2013-2015, representing 10% of all VC funds raised in Massachusetts.

While these numbers certainly speak for themselves, the study also highlights businesses like ReWalk, Desalitech, and PillCam, which are changing the lives of Massachusetts citizens through life sciences and social impact.

I hope you will enjoy the 2016 report. Please find an Executive Summary on the NEIBC's website here: <http://neibc.org/>.

Best,  
Rachel Goldberg  
Director of Community Relations  
Consulate General of Israel to  
New England

### Scholarship Recipient Expresses Thanks

Dear Members of the Jewish Federation Scholarship Committee:

Thank you so much for the scholarship award. With the high cost of college, receipt of this scholarship will be helpful. I certainly intend to continue Jewish-related activities at Williams College and remain a member of the Berkshire County greater Jewish community.

Sincerely,  
Catherine May

*The writer is the 2016 valedictorian at Wachonah Regional High School in Dalton, and is one of four recipients of the Henry Simkin and Frances Simkin Schiller and Dr. Stanley and Faye Simkin Scholarship.*

## 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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### 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: [jfb.berkshirevoice@verizon.net](mailto:jfb.berkshirevoice@verizon.net).

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## Young Judaism

### Past BBYO International N'siah Reflects on Jewish Foundations and Future Aspirations

By Lauren Keats



[This article is adapted from the address Miss Keats delivered at the Jewish Women's Foundation of the Berkshires Annual Meeting on June 27.]

When my family received our invitation to this meeting in the mail, I especially gravitated towards the theme of your lunch, "Faces of Our Future." I was drawn towards the "future" aspect, realizing that the focus was directed at Jewish millennials like me. Whenever I describe or envision the future, I do so in terms my potential children, grandchildren, and even great-grandchildren. How will their society and world function? What will their lives be like? I try to recognize how the actions

and steps I take today shape that seemingly distant future, though admittedly, I sometimes fail to do so.

This past year, I served as the International N'siah, or president for girls, of BBYO. What was formerly B'nai B'rith Youth Organization, BBYO is a pluralistic Jewish youth organization that focuses on engaging more Jewish teens in more meaningful Jewish experiences. With a history spanning 92 years, BBYO currently exists in over 35 countries, has around 20,000 high school members, and engages over 80,000 teens worldwide annually. While BBYO leadership positions and chapter membership differ by gender, everything else overlaps.

As International N'siah, I took a gap year between high school and college. During my term, I traveled to over 15 countries and 22 states to serve BBYO's chapters, regions, and communities as an ambassador, supporter, role model, and cheerleader. I adapted to and provided whatever role the community needed and expected of me. In addition, I had the privilege of attending various Jewish events such as the Jewish Federations of North America General Assembly, the Union of Reform Judaism Biennial, and AIPAC's Policy Conference. Another important part of my year was collaborating with other Jewish organizations. Whether it was with youth groups such as NFTY, college programs like Hillel, or young adult programs like the Shinshinim in Israel or the JDC-Entwine Fellowship, I was fortunate to also have the ability to work with other passionate Jews on some of our shared goals such as *tikkun olam*, Jewish continuity, and Zionism.

Throughout my year, I was able to listen to various narratives of Jewish life around the world and immerse myself in different cultures. In my hometown of Scarsdale, NY, Jewish life is prevalent and seamlessly integrated into daily events. Whether it is running into my cantor in the supermarket, or seeing more hanukkahs than Christmas lights during the holidays, my religion never faded and always took a place of pride in my identity. I was sheltered from anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism, learning about the two from a fortunate distance.

*I didn't simply become International N'siah overnight. As a proud Jewish millennial, my foundation and support system served me well.*

This year pushed me out of my comfort zone, however, as I traveled from small towns in the US state of Georgia all the way to the capital of the country of Georgia. I realized that I had taken for granted the ease with which I was Jewish and was able to freely practice.

One especially difficult piece of my year was helping regions and chapters recruit members into BBYO. With their strong programs and outreach, BBYO and other Jewish youth groups like it should, in theory, have no issue recruiting. We provide leadership positions, new and unique skills, and friendships to last people a lifetime. However, in many larger communities recruiting one new member would take weeks on end. (Recruitment in communities with smaller Jewish populations was easier.)

As I spoke to different teens, it wasn't necessarily the programs or events offered, but rather the word Jewish. BBYO was a Jewish youth group, and teens felt uncomfortable with that. In contrast, organizations such as Young Life, a prevalent and expansive Christian Youth Group, seem to have no issues with recruitment or retention. So we were forced to consider that maybe it wasn't our events that we needed to be worried about, but rather the stigma around Judaism as a whole and the foundation for the Jewish life that we are trying to establish.

Judaism has never exactly been the "cool religion." For the past 5,000 years, this has been a constant thread. Even our inception is based in going off the norms of society, then polytheism, and beginning the new practice of monotheism. Abraham was the true revolutionary of his time – wasn't he? This characterization can be continued throughout our history.

Unfortunately, I haven't seen this mindset change that much today. Beginning with elementary school, kids are required to attend the dreaded *Sunday Hebrew*

*School*. The struggle and anguish experienced by these children does not set the best foundation for Judaism within itself. During Christmas, there aren't fun lights or great movies, and even Adam Sandler highlights the fact that he wrote the Chanukah songs just so that the

Jewish kids wouldn't feel left out. Even in my own family, the "Christmas Jammy Song," a YouTube sensation of a family dancing in their Christmas PJs, was all the rage, not a Chanukah anthem. While bar and bat mitzvah season is popular and exciting, the focus is no longer on the religious significance, but rather the perk of a party. Studies even show that involvement in Jewish life post bar and bat mitzvah drops by 80 percent. In 2013, the Pew Research Center did another study to analyze the Jewish people, and the findings shook the Jewish world at its core, as they found that assimilation was ascendant and participation in Judaism on the decline.

There is nothing wrong or bad about celebrating another culture. However, our challenge now seems to be how to generate more of an interest in our own heritage.

I didn't simply become International N'siah overnight. As a proud Jewish millennial, my foundation and support system served me well. Beginning at age three, I attended the preschool at Westchester Reform Temple, where I was able to familiarize myself with the holidays and rabbis and began to form Jewish friendships and my own Jewish community. As I entered Hebrew school, my parents enrolled the family in Sharing Shabbat, a unique Saturday morning program at our temple that begins with family service, continues with an oneg, and concludes with classes for children and Torah study and discussion for parents. Each week, two featured families participated by reading from the Torah and writing a D'var, or by sponsoring the oneg. While many children focused on what chocolate milk would be at oneg rather than what would be taught in class that day, those positive Jewish memories began to create their Jewish identities.

The parents of Sharing Shabbat also placed a great emphasis on Judaism by sharing special memories every week. As I graduated from Sharing Shabbat in the 6th grade, I went on to become bat mitzvah, enrolled in Hebrew school post bat mitzvah, became confirmed, and even became a *madricha* (student teacher) for the Sharing Shabbat classes until I graduated from high school. The solidifying piece to my Jewish identity was BBYO, where I was able to explore the different options of Judaism through pluralism and define what being a Jew meant to me.

BBYO membership isn't shrinking, but rather has grown every year for over 5 years. It's not that Jewish opportunities don't exist, but rather that millennials have grown accustomed to a weak foundation that causes them pull away from the religion. As I look into the future of Judaism and think about Jewish continuity, the most effective and successful approach has been providing smooth transitions into different areas of life. BBYO and other high school groups re-excite teens after their bar and bat mitzvah experiences. Next phase programs such as Hillel, Moishe House, Birthright, and others enable young adults to connect with the religion in personalized ways.

While my time in BBYO is over, I'm already registered for an Early Move in College Program through Hillel on my campus, and I plan to stay involved there. As Jews focusing on the future, we need to collaborate, improve, and strengthen every Jewish experience. We need to make sure that Jews are finding their identity and having unique experiences that solely pertain to the religion. We need to continue to make Judaism cool – and work to remove the stigmas surrounding it.

I'm proud that my Jewish future is bright and that I already have a wealth of unbelievable Jewish memories. I want to acknowledge that I am not alone in my participation and passionate involvement. These outlets and places exist throughout Judaism; our task now is ensuring that Jews take advantage of them. Once we achieve that, the faces of our future will be proud of their religion, culture, and ethnicity, and those studies and trends will be reversed for good.

*Lauren Keats will be a freshman at George Washington University. She is the granddaughter of Anne Schnesel, who serves on the board of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires and is a founding member of the Jewish Women's Foundation of Berkshire County.*

### Third Annual

# BerkshireSPEAKS™

Sunday, Sept. 18, 1:30 pm  
at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire

An afternoon of inspiring presentations  
by Berkshire visionaries and trendsetters

#### John Downing

CEO, Soldier On (national organization fighting veteran homelessness)

#### Gwendolyn Hampton VanSant

CEO and founder of Multicultural Bridge

#### John Hockenberry

Author, journalist, and award-winning public radio host

#### Nancy Kalodner

Berkshire Realtor, teacher and arts supporter

#### Mary Pope Osborne

Literacy advocate and author of the Magic Tree House series for children

#### William "Smitty" Pignatelli

Massachusetts State Representative for the 4th Berkshire District

A reception with the speakers will follow the program.

\$15 online (registration at [Hevreh.org/BerkshireSpeaks](http://Hevreh.org/BerkshireSpeaks))

\$18 at door (check or cash)



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# Your Federation Presents

## MID-EAST UPDATE, *continued from page 1*

"Is Peace Possible? Israelis & Palestinians: A New Paradigm" is the subject of this year's Mid-East Update. Makovsky and al-Omari, both of whom have served as advisors to high-level political leaders working to resolve the conflict, will share and discuss the differing perspectives each side brings to the current situation.

Ghaith al-Omari, Senior Fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, previously served as executive director at the American Task Force on Palestine. He held various positions within the Palestinian Authority, including director of the International Relations Department in the Office of the Palestinian President, and advisor to former Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas. In these capacities, he provided advice on foreign policy — especially vis-à-vis the United States and Israel — and security. He has extensive experience in the Palestinian-Israeli peace process, having been an advisor to the Palestinian negotiating team throughout the permanent status negotiations (1999–2001). In that capacity, he participated in various negotiating rounds, most notably at the Camp David summit and the Taba talks.

David Makovsky, Ziegler Distinguished Fellow and Director of the Project on the Middle East Peace Process at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, is the co-author with Ambassador Dennis Ross of the 2009 Washington Post bestseller, *Myths, Illusions, and Peace: Finding a New Direction for America in the Middle East*. His 2011 maps on alternative territorial solutions to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict were reprinted by the New York Times in the paper's first interactive treatment of an op-ed. He is also an adjunct professor in Middle East studies at Johns Hopkins University's Paul H. Nitze

School of Advanced International Studies, and served as a senior advisor to US Secretary of State John Kerry during the 2013-2014 Israeli-Palestinian Negotiations. He regularly contributes to the New York Times, The Jerusalem Post, and Foreign Policy.

In a March 2015 article for the website Politico that al-Omari and Makovsky co-authored with former ambassador Dennis Ross, they assessed the Israel/Palestinian state of affairs as follows:

"In the old game of chicken, two cars race toward each other and at the last second one veers away to avoid a collision. Today, the Israelis and Palestinians are engaged in a new game of chicken but as they accelerate toward each other, they have missed the reality that there is a gorge between them and they are each in danger of driving off the cliff. If there is a task for American diplomacy now, it is to try to get each off their self-destructive path."

Has their view changed in the 18 months since those words were published? Has a new paradigm emerged that can offer peace and put aside the tragic conflict? What can the US do?

Join al-Omari and Makovsky as they take on these and other questions at the Federation's Mid-East Update on September 18.

### IF YOU GO

Programs are free and open to the public.

#### Williamstown, 3 p.m.

Williams College, Brooks Rogers Recital Hall at Bernard Music Center, 54 Chapin Hall Drive, Williamstown, MA.

#### Lenox, 7:30 p.m.

Shakespeare & Company, Tina Packer Playhouse, 70 Kemble Street, Lenox, MA

For more information, call the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, (413) 442-4360, ext. 10.

## Connecting With Community Series / 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 Congregation 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, please see page 21.

## MAIMONIDES SOCIETY,

*continued from page 1*

do not miss this unique opportunity!" says Stuart Masters, MD, chair of the Maimonides Society.

Masters adds: "The health care professions have traditionally attracted so many Jews — this true over the centuries and around the world. Meeting together in this way allows us to further align our values as both Jews and healers, and raise consciousness about the local, national, and international impact we can have through our professions and by supporting the work of organizations like the Federation."

### Featured Speaker

Since 1967, Dr. Edwin Kolodny, a neurologist and geneticist has been personally involved in Gaucher disease research as a clinician-scientist at several prestigious academic research centers. He writes that his talk on "will describe many remarkable insights gleaned from my involvement with affected patients and their families from diverse backgrounds, with the pharmaceutical industry, and

with Project Hope, an international humanitarian organization providing medical assistance to developing countries."

He will also speak of the ethical issues that have arisen, the consequences of the Orphan Drug Act, and the relationship of the Gaucher gene to Parkinson disease.

Dr. Kolodny writes: "Gaucher disease is among the most common inherited diseases of Ashkenazi Jews, but is not very well known. This lipid storage disease was first described in France in 1882, but the actual cause remained a mystery until 1962 and an effective treatment only became available 25 years ago. The story of Gaucher disease is a fascinating tale, from its mode of transmission in families and its effects on blood cells and organs to the discoveries leading to the abnormal enzyme and gene.

"Finally, after more than 30 years of one man's determined effort, a revolutionary new treatment method was developed that has since spawned a whole biopharma industry."

Adds Dr. Kolodny: "All

health care personnel — physicians, dentists, pharmacists, optometrists, nurses, physical & occupational therapists, and others — will find this Maimonides Society talk both inspiring and relevant to their own work."

Dr. Kolodny has been "semi-retired" and living in the Berkshires since 2012. He collects stamps with a Judaic connection from all countries and is a member of the Berkshire Chapter of the Society of Israel Philatelists (SIP), the oldest active chapter of SIP in the United States (and an affiliate of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires). He shares this and other hobbies including gardening, cooking, photography, and travel with his wife Roselyn, their two sons and two daughters, and twelve grandchildren.

### For More Information

For additional information and to RSVP for the Maimonides Society Meeting, please contact Margo Golos at jfb.developmentofficer@verizon.net or (413) 442-4360, ext. 19.

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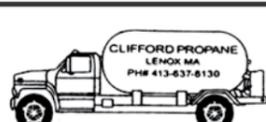
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## Your Federation Presents

### “The Process of Aging” – An Intergenerational Discussion and Support Group, August 29 and September 19

On August 29 and September 19, both Mondays, at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires presents “The Process of Aging,” with therapist Maggie Bittman. This free program at Congregation Kneset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield is part of the Federation’s Connecting With Community series.

Explaining her outlook and approach, Bittman writes: “From birth, we begin to age with Time. Along the way, we develop strategies to help manage the stressors that come with living life – those ‘existence pains’ or ‘existential stressors. Along the way we find meaning and purpose, experience aloneness, confront mortality, and develop self will.

“Within this context, participants will discuss, share, and offer support to one another.”

These discussions are open to anyone interested in sharing in this universal topic. This is a monthly program that Maggie leads and the discussions broadly range from



Maggie Bittman

“Should I Remain in My Home or Downsize” to “Aloneness” to “Staying Active in Your Community” and many more beyond.

#### IF YOU GO

**Sponsor:** Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community

**Venue:** Congregation Kneset Israel

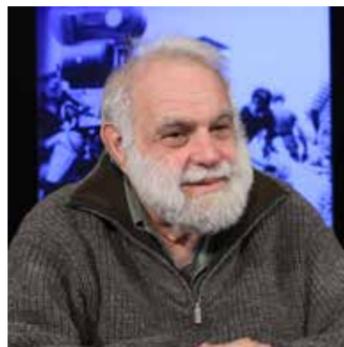
**Date & Time:** August 29 and September 19, both Mondays, at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 21).

### Where Have All the Small Stores Gone? Find Out September 1

On Thursday, September 1 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires hosts Professor Leonard Quart, who will talk about the challenges facing small businesses in New York City. This free program at Congregation Kneset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield is part of the Federation’s Connecting With Community series.

Leonard Quart will speak about the small businesses in New York City and their precarious times. Retail rents are up in Manhattan by 40 percent since 2005. Huge, nondescript chain stores and banks have replaced small Mom and Pop and specialty stores. Quart will analyze what has happened to small shops, why France has been able to preserve a small store culture, and what politicians are doing, with little success, to hold the line against the overwhelming surge of chain stores.

Quart is professor emeritus of cinema studies at Grad Center CUNY and the College of Staten Island, a contribut-



Leonard Quart

ing editor to *Cineaste*, and the co-author of *American Film and Society Since 1945 – 4th Edition* (Praeger, 2001). He also contributes to the *Berkshire Eagle*.

#### IF YOU GO

**Sponsor:** Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community

**Venue:** Congregation Kneset Israel

**Date & Time:** Thursday, September 1 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 21).

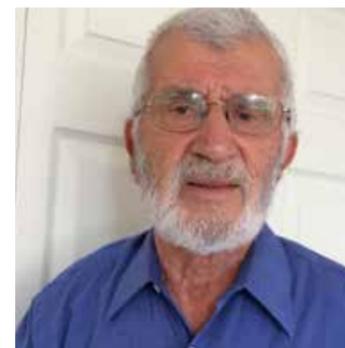
### “Halachah, Sex, Lies, and Darwin” Converge, August 18

On Thursday, August 18 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires presents “Halachah, Sex, Lies, and Darwin,” a talk by Professor Sigmund Tobias. This free program at Congregation Kneset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield is part of the Federation’s Connecting With Community series.

Dr. Tobias will describe the rules about sexual relations established by *Halachah*, the collective body of Jewish religious laws derived from the written and oral Torah. He will discuss some of the reasons for these laws, as well as will degree to which they are adhered to. Dr. Tobias will bring the themes together with a naturalistic interpretation for these rules.

Sigmund Tobias is Em-

inent Research Professor, Department of Educational and Counseling Psychology, University at Albany, State University of New York. He has published extensively in the scientific and professional literature in the fields of instructional psychology and educational technology. He and his family survived the Holocaust by fleeing to Shanghai, an experience described in his memoir *Strange Haven: A Jewish Childhood in Wartime Shanghai*.



Professor Sigmund Tobias

#### IF YOU GO

**Sponsor:** Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community

**Venue:** Congregation Kneset Israel

**Date & Time:** Thursday, August 18 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 21).

### Questioning Return – A Reading with author Beth Kissileff, August 22

On Monday, August 22 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires welcomes author Beth Kissileff, who will read from and answer questions about her debut novel *Questioning Return*. This free program at Congregation Kneset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield is part of the Federation’s Connecting With Community series.

Wendy Goldberg, the protagonist of *Questioning Return*, has it all planned out. She’s going to Israel to research and write on newly religious American Jews who live there. The novel follows the progress of Wendy’s year abroad, the immersive experience of Israel and the rhythm of life there proving both disorienting and satisfying, in turn. Over the course of the year, her desire to remain an outside observer in her new surroundings

slowly fades. Abruptly, she is forced to realize that her fate isn’t separate from that of people around her after a student she interviews commits a horrible act right after their conversation. Tragedy leads Wendy to unforeseen places to seek knowledge and love. Though Wendy Goldberg planned to ask questions of others, she finds the ones that truly matter are those she asks of herself.

Beth Kissileff is a fiction writer and journalist who spent two years studying in Jerusalem. She edited the anthology *Reading Genesis* (Bloomsbury, 2016), a collection of writing on the Book of Genesis by academics. This is her first novel; she is at work on a short story collection, a volume of linked stories and a second novel. She lives in Pittsburgh with her family.



Beth Kissileff

#### IF YOU GO

**Sponsor:** Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community

**Venue:** Congregation Kneset Israel

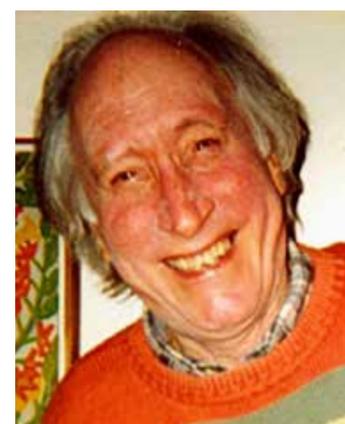
**Date & Time:** Monday, August 22 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 21).

### Life Getting You Down? Try “Jewish Humor as an Antidote,” September 12

On Monday, September 12 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires welcomes you to join educator, writer, and raconteur Dick Macht for “Jewish Humor: An Antidote for the Harsh World of Reality.” This free program at Congregation Kneset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield is part of the Federation’s Connecting With Community series.

Macht will present the wisdom and wit of ‘Jewish Humor’ and while explaining humor – and especially the Jewish brand – he will lighten the load by affectionately communicating insights that drape laughter on the logic of despair. With a B.A. from Dartmouth College, an M.A. from Duke University, and a

Ph.D. from Indiana University, Macht has taught Israeli, Yiddish, and German Literature, as well as Jewish mysticism at the college level. Himself a director, Macht has also been an instructor of drama and acting at a number of academic venues. Presently, Macht lectures at synagogues, elder hostels, adult summer camps, and continuing education programs.



Dick Macht

#### IF YOU GO

**Sponsor:** Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community

**Venue:** Congregation Kneset Israel

**Date & Time:** Monday, September 12 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 21).

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# Your Federation Presents

## “Julius Rosenwald: How One Man Effected Change,” August 8

On Monday, August 8 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires welcomes Laura Ferber-Hazen speaking about her great uncle Julius Rosenwald, the entrepreneur who made Sears, Roebuck & Company a mail order giant. This free program at Congregation Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield is part of the Federation's Connecting With Community series.

Julius Rosenwald was the son of first-generation German Jewish immigrants who became the business partner of Sears, Roebuck and Company. Rosenwald eventually fashioned this business into the greatest mail order firm in the world. As a philanthropist, he revolutionized American public school education by funding over 5,300 schools dedicated exclusively to the education of African Americans in the early 20th century.

Laura Ferber-Hazen's grandparents and father were rescued from Nazi Germany by Rosenwald, one of the many Jewish families he helped get out of Germany. She is also the granddaughter of Laura Rosenwald, her namesake, who was the sister of Julius Rosenwald. She is an actress, set designer, and director and has recently become the executive director of Development in the United States for Friends of Herzog Hospital in Jerusalem.



Laura Ferber-Hazen

### IF YOU GO

**Sponsor:** Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community  
**Venue:** Congregation Knesset Israel  
**Date & Time:** Monday, August 8 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 21).

## Staged Reading – *Hiding Horst*, September 8

On Thursday, September 8 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires welcomes Laura Ferber-Hazen and community actors, who will perform the play *Hiding Horst*, which is based a true Holocaust story. This free program at Congregation Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield is part of the Federation's Connecting With Community series.

Laura Ferber-Hazen and community actors will present a play reading from this true story that became both a book and a play by Becky White. The story was told by the real

life Fred (Horst) Ferber. In Holland in 1942, 12 year old Horst Ferber went into hiding for 3 years. Through heroic efforts, the Dutch hid 30,000 Jews, most of whom survived. Horst Ferber was one of them. Fortunately for him, he did not obey his deportation orders.

For more on Laura, see the adjacent listing for the August 8 program, left. She is the daughter of a Holocaust survivor and escapee Harold Ferber, and she says her dream is to carry on the brave, intelligent, and giving nature of her influential lineage.

### IF YOU GO

**Sponsor:** Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community  
**Venue:** Congregation Knesset Israel  
**Date & Time:** Thursday, September 8 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 21).

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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**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Maimonides Society Meeting**

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**DAVID MAKOVSKY**  
Ziegler Distinguished Fellow,  
Director of the Project on the Middle East Peace Process at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy



**GHAITH AL-OMARI**  
Former executive director of the American Task Force on Palestine. Senior Fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy

**Sunday, September 18**

**3:00 PM** at Williams College, Bernhard Music Center  
54 Chapin Hall Dr, Williamstown, MA

**7:30 PM** at Shakespeare & Co, Tina Packer Playhouse  
70 Kemble Street, Lenox, MA

**Programs are free & open to the public**

## Your Federation Presents

### Workshop for Health – “Our Wise and Intelligent Bodies,” September 15

On Thursday, September 15 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires’ social worker Francine Licata will conduct a wellness workshop titled “Our Wise and Intelligent Bodies.” This free program at Congregation Kneset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield is part of the Federation’s Connecting With Community series.

Says Licata: “The body is often left out of traditional psychotherapy modalities. However, more body-oriented therapies propose that our postures, gestures, movements and actions are physical habits which we have ‘procedurally learned’ from our past experiences. These chronic physical patterns influence how we perceive our present experiences as well as our current thoughts, memories, emotions, self-perception and identity.

“In this workshop we will begin to explore how the body is an essential source for improved and ‘embodied’ physical and mental health.”

Licata, a Queens, NY native, has been a social worker since 1997, obtaining her degree from the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunt-



Frannie Licata, Federation social worker

er College in New York City. She has worked primarily with senior clients since moving to the Berkshires in 2006, first at Fairview Commons and, since March 2016, with the Federation.

**IF YOU GO**

**Sponsor:** Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community

**Venue:** Congregation Kneset Israel

**Date & Time:** Thursday, September 15 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 21).

### Meet Shakespeare & Company’s Shylock, August 15

On Monday, August 15 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires will host Jonathan Epstein, who plays Shylock in this summer’s Shakespeare & Company presentation of *The Merchant of Venice*. This free program at Congregation Kneset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield is part of the Federation’s Connecting With Community series.

Epstein will perform selections from Shylock’s memorable speeches, and also discuss the character with a Jewish context. Epstein has written: “People often ask whether Merchant isn’t an anti-Semitic play. Certainly there’s bitter anti-Semitism in it, and certainly it’s very painful to be called a ‘dog Jew’ even in a fiction, but what would make it anti-Semitic, I think, is if the audience walked out of the performance more liable to prejudice than when they walked in— and I honestly believe that the reverse is the case.”

Epstein is in his 29th season at Shakespeare & Company, performing in more than 50 productions. He has performed on and



Jonathan Epstein as Shylock

off-Broadway and at scores of regional theatres around the country including Berkshire Theatre Festival and ART He is a two-time recipient of the

Elliot Norton Award and is an Associate Professor of Classical Performance at the FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training.

**IF YOU GO**

**Sponsor:** Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community

**Venue:** Congregation Kneset Israel

**Date & Time:** Monday, August 15 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 21).



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## Your Federation Presents

One Story – One Life

### Your Federation Dollars at Work

This past March, the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires allocated over \$150,000 to help strengthen Jewish life and care for Jews in need in Israel and Overseas. The largest portion of those dollars went to support the critical services of the American Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), The Jewish Agency For Israel, and World ORT. Each month we will highlight the story of one individual you have never met, but whose life has been changed forever due to your generosity.

## How a Chance Meeting Led to Big Changes in Ukrainian Teen's Jewish Journey



Sonia Volovik doesn't like to think about what her life would look like if her mother hadn't run into Alla Magas last year in a supermarket in Kharkov, Ukraine.

Back then, the 16-year-old had little knowledge of or connection to her Jewish identity — until Magas, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) youth coordinator in the former Soviet Union (FSU) and the Active Jewish Teens (AJT) project coordinator, prompted her mother near the produce aisle: "You're Jewish, right? And you have a teenage daughter?"

Now, Volovik is president of AJT, the JDC youth movement that stretches across the FSU, impacting more than 2,600 teens in more than 50 cities in Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, and beyond.

"We need to build a new generation who knows how many ways there are to be Jewish."

"For me, AJT was a Jewish renaissance. AJT gives us knowledge we never had before, and then we share that knowledge with our Jewish circle of friends," Volovik said. "AJT gives us not a dream but action. Now I know I want to tell Jewish stories in every corner of the world."

And, through its affiliation with BBYO via JDC, AJT is able to give a few Jewish teenagers from the FSU a chance each year to participate in BBYO's International Convention (IC), and become part of the global Jewish teen movement.

Volovik began her time at AJT with the movement's annual Eco-Festival, a summer camping get-together where teens receive a gentle introduction to Jewish culture and tradition through song, dance, social action, and more.

Each teen participates in AJT for one year before "graduating", and all of the movement's members are expected to complete a volunteer project to benefit their local Jewish community, too.

Volovik developed "Sundays with Sonia," a chance to learn about Jewish and Yiddish literature in a coffeehouse-type setting. Little Lev Timofeev, 12, pioneered "Jewish Quest," a scavenger hunt around Kharkov or, more often, the city's Beit Dan JCC to learn new information about Jewish holidays and traditions. "Automatic Rosh Hodesh" is the brainchild of 15-year-old Dasha Achkasova — a chance for games and informal learning connected to Jewish art and dance at the celebration of each new month.

Alla Magas said she views her role as something of a coach or cheerleader: It's her job to empower the teens she works with, most of whom are between 13 and 17.

"We need to build a new generation who knows how many ways there are to be Jewish. 'Open your mind,' I tell them. They need to find their own personal Jewish story," she said. "AJT never tells teenagers 'no.' We say, 'Yes, and here's how we can help you.'"

AJT is divided into a few different tracks: AJTeam, an international madrich (counselor) school for graduates of the youth movement; AJTravel, a chance for teens from across the FSU to visit their peers in new cities and make new friends; AJT Contest, monthly contests between participants and cities, with a trip to the JDC camp at Szarvas or the youth leadership camp in Bulgaria as the prize; and AJT Government, which gives teens a chance to be elected to AJT parliament or become AJT president and influence the programmatic part of the movement, and then make a presentation at the BBYO IC.

When she looks at her own city and at the hometowns of the friends she's made during her presidency, Volovik said she knows AJT is the engine that will power Jewish life in the former Soviet Union for decades to come.

"It broadens our horizons. We understand that every day, every seminar, every conference, we learn something new about ourselves," she said. "AJT is our future because AJT changes lives."

And when it comes to her own Jewish journey, Volovik said she knows she's pulled off something amazing.

"In synagogue, they told me that in the fourth generation of a family that lost its Judaism, the family will find it again," she said. "Now I know that was my job — to come back home."

## Sotto Voce Star Annette Miller Speaks Up, August 25

On Thursday, August 25 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires will host Annette Miller, who is starring in this summer's Shakespeare & Company presentation of playwright Nilo Cruz' *Sotto Voce*. This free program at Congregation Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield is part of the Federation's Connecting With Community series.

Annette Miller has performed with Shakespeare & Company for the past 19 seasons, with roles that include Ruth Steiner in *Collected Stories*, Martha Mitchell in *Martha Mitchell Calling*, Maria Callas in *Master Class*, and the original award-winning performance as Golda Meir from *Golda's Balcony*, directed by Daniel Gidron. She'll talk about her role in *Sotto Voce*, Pulitzer Prize winning playwright Nilo Cruz's three person drama about aging writer Bernadette Kahn, who lost the Jewish love of her life after he was denied entry to Cuba and Miami as a passenger on the infamous "Voyage of the Damned" ship the MS St. Louis, and returned to Europe.

Please see the article on page 25 for more on Annette Miller and *Sotto Voce*.



Annette Miller

### IF YOU GO

**Sponsor:** Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community

**Venue:** Congregation Knesset Israel

**Date & Time:** Thursday, August 25 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 21).



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# Your Federation Presents

## Jewish Community Comes Together for Shabbat Across the Berkshires, September 9

NORTH ADAMS – On Friday, September 9, at 7 p.m., Shabbat Across the Berkshires will bring together members of the Jewish community from throughout the county for a joyous Kabbalat Shabbat service in the sanctuary of Congregation Beth Israel, hosted by Rabbi Rachel Barenblat, with participation by area rabbis and leaders. A festive oneg will follow the service.

This always special event is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, along with Berkshire Minyan, Congregation Ahavath Sholom, Congregation Beth Israel, Congregation Knesset Israel, Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, Temple Anshe Amunim, and Berkshire Hills Hadassah. For more information, please call the Federation at (413)442-4360, ext. 10.

## Volunteers are Vital! Before You Know It...

By Susan Frisch-Lehrer, Coordinator of Volunteers and PJ Library

What a summer this has been! Before you know it we'll be busy with the beginning of the school year, High Holidays, and the beauty of a Berkshire fall.

Once again, we will be bringing some joy to our local seniors with gifts of challot, honey and this year, we're adding a small container of apple-sauce. We tried apples a few years ago and were asked by both recipients and senior facility staff that it was difficult for many to eat them.

We need many volunteers to help with delivering the gift bags. If you are available and interested please contact me and I'll share with you all of the details. We especially like it when families

can do this *mitzvah* together.

We know that it's not just the gift bag, but the visit, as well. Some of our older folks live by themselves or are in a facility and rarely have visitors. These are truly acts of *gemilut chasadim* (acts of loving kindness). Your visit means the world to them!

Enjoy the rest of summer and I look forward to hearing and seeing many of you at our upcoming programs.

B'shalom,  
Susan Frisch Lehrer,  
Coordinator of Volunteers and  
PJ Library  
(413) 442-4360, ext. 14 or  
jfb.volunteer@verizon.net



Linking Young Jewish Women in Their Fight Against Breast Cancer

(866) 474-2774  
www.sharsheret.org

### FAMILY CONCERT, *continued from page 1*



Together, they tour the country as a duo and with their larger rock band Nefesh Mountain (which pairs bluegrass with Jewish themes, though for adult audiences), playing over 100 dates a year.

### The "Diaper Project"

Berkshire Community Diaper Project (BCDP) in collaboration with Austen Riggs Center and Berkshire Psychoanalytic Institute, was established to raise funds to provide diapers for parents who struggle to afford them for their children, since diaper need has been correlated with significant depression in parents and with potential mental health issues for children. The "Diaper Project" has established multiple liaisons with community organizations.

Diapers and wet wipes are needed most. Donations are distributed through community health and outreach programs throughout south and central Berkshire County.



Mom 1990      Tom and Laura 2015      Laura and Daughters 2015      Devan & Emily 2015      Elliott 2015

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~Laura Gardner



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# Your Federation Presents

## “Refugee Resettlement: Exploring an Ethic of Hospitality,” August 11

On Thursday, August 11 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires will host Deirdre Griffin, the director of the New American Program at Jewish Family Service of Western Massachusetts in Springfield. Her topic will be “Refugee Resettlement: Exploring an Ethic of Hospitality.” This free program at Congregation Kneset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield is part of the Federation’s Connecting With Community series.

Discussing events very much in the news, Griffin will provide an overview of the United States Refugee Resettlement Program, which is a collaboration of the U.S. Department of State and the United Nations. She will describe the resettlement work at JFS, which has welcomed refugees from Somalia, Bhutan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Syria, Burundi, Afghanistan, and Burma. She will open a discussion of ways to support refugees and answer any questions attendees may have.

The eldest child of Irish immigrant parents, Griffin has a background in immigration



Deirdre Griffin

law and social services that led her to join the JFS team in welcoming refugees from around the world to rebuild their lives in Western Massachusetts.

**IF YOU GO**

**Sponsor:** Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community

**Venue:** Congregation Kneset Israel

**Date & Time:** Thursday, August 11 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 21).

## “Jewish Literacy: Seeking Out New Frontiers,” at the September 9 Knosh & Knowledge

Author Richard Michelson will put you on the Spock, and also share his own Jewish journey

GREAT BARRINGTON – On Friday, September 9, Knosh & Knowledge will host noted children’s literature author Richard Michelson, who will share stories about his friendship with the late actor Leonard Nimoy and his own Jewish journey in a presentation titled “Jewish Literacy: Seeking Out New Frontiers.”

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.

The long road to publication of Richard Michelson’s latest book, *Fascinating: The Life of Leonard Nimoy* will be the focus of this program. Michelson will also talk about how Jewish picture books spread Jewish values and raise the “next generation.” He will explore the universe of “children’s” literature, and narrate his own journey from uninformed atheist to someone whose books are being used to advance Jewish literacy.



Richard Michelson and Nimoy, at the actor’s 80th birthday party

Richard Michelson’s many books for children, teens and adults have been listed among the Ten Best of the Year by the New York Times, Publishers Weekly, and The New Yorker; and among the best Dozen of the Decade by Amazon. He is the only author in the 48-year history of The Association of Jewish Librarians to receive both their Sydney Taylor Gold and Silver Medals in a single year. Michelson is a three-time finalist for the Massachusetts Book Award and the National Jewish Book Award. Other honors include three Skipping Stones Multicultural Book Awards, a National Parenting Publication Gold Medal, and an International Reading Association Teacher’s Choice Award.

Michelson is the owner of R. Michelson Galleries in Northampton MA, where he recently served two terms as Poet Laureate. He is the recipient of a 2016 Massachusetts Cultural Council Fellowship in Poetry.

Michelson’s Jewish themed books include *As Good As Anybody: Martin Luther King and Abraham Joshua Heschel’s Amazing March Toward Freedom*; *Lipman Pike: America’s First Home Run King*; *A is for Abraham-A Jewish Family Alphabet*; *Too Young for Yiddish* (recorded by Leonard Nimoy); and his just published *Fascinating: The Life of Leonard Nimoy*.

**IF YOU GO**

**Sponsor:** Jewish Federation of the Berkshires

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

**Date:** Friday, September 9, at 10:45 a.m. (lunch follows at noon)

**Advance lunch reservations required for this event.**

**Email** [jfb.officemanager@verizon.net](mailto:jfb.officemanager@verizon.net), or call (413) 442-4360, ext. 10

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

### The Jewish Transportation Network

#### Discount Taxi Coupons

for Jewish residents aged 65 years and older

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

Coupons are valid for **3** months and can be used with Rainbow Taxi of Pittsfield or Taxico of Great Barrington and Lee.

**Purchase coupons 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

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

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



Anonymous (9)  
Ed Abrahams  
Norman Avnet  
Barbara Bashevkin  
Robert Bashevkin  
Linda J. L. Becker  
Robert Berend  
Shelley Berend  
Helene Berke

Lawrence Berke  
Lee & Sydelle Blatt  
Betty Braun  
Cipora Brown  
Barbara Cohen  
Mark Cohen  
Mimi Cohen  
C. Jeffrey & Judith Cook  
Gerry & Lynn Denmark  
Jonathan & Lara Denmark  
Sheila K. Donath  
Melva Eidelberg  
Monroe England, *in memory of Monroe B. & Isabel England*  
Dr. Armand V. Feigenbaum, *of blessed memory*  
Dr. Donald S. Feigenbaum, *of blessed memory*  
Steven Feiner  
Diana & Stanley Feld

Stuart M. Fischman  
Lynn & William Foggie  
Elaine Freidman  
Eiran Gazit  
Jeffrey Goldwasser & Jonquil Wolfson  
Jordan & Laura Green  
Harold Grinspoon  
Ellen Heffan  
Ed Jaffe, *of blessed memory*  
Elihu Katzman  
Marilyn Katzman  
Howard & Nancy Kaufman  
Lawrence Klein  
Sarah Klein  
Arthur Kriger, *of blessed memory*  
Fred & Brenda Landes  
Beth Laster-Nathan  
Andrew S. Levine

Toby H. Levine  
Erna Lindner-Gilbert  
Amy Lindner-Lesser  
Helen Maislen  
Ellen Masters  
Stuart Masters  
Estelle Miller  
Robert Newman, *of blessed memory*  
Ken & Fran Rubenstein  
Stella Schecter  
Arlene D. Schiff  
Gary Schiff  
Stephen & Deborah Schreier  
Martin Silver  
Sylvia Silverberg, *in memory of Jerome Silverberg*  
Richard A. Simons & Marcie Greenfield Simons  
Mark & Elisa Snowise

Harold Sparr  
Lisa Fletcher-Udel  
Edward Udel  
Michael & Joan Ury  
Mark & Judy Usow  
Henry & Beate Voremborg, *of blessed memory*  
Alexandra Warsaw  
Florence Wineberg, *of blessed memory*  
Rabbi Deborah Zecher & Rabbi Dennis Ross



Jewish Federation OF THE BERKSHIRES

## Your Federation Presents

### “Displaced Persons: Holocaust Survivors and the Paradoxical Lives They Built in America”

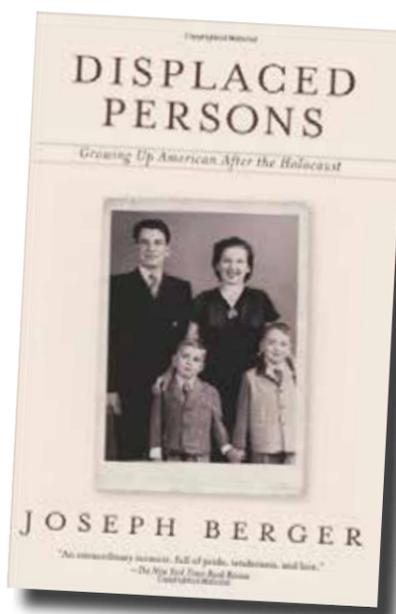
Author Joseph Berger to talk about the American lives of Holocaust survivors at Knosh & Knowledge, August 12

GREAT BARRINGTON – On Friday, August 12, Knosh & Knowledge will host Joseph Berger, author and veteran New York Times reporter, who will reflect on the little-known story of the new lives 140,000 Holocaust survivors and their children built in America. Berger is the author of *Displaced Persons: Growing Up American After the Holocaust*, which was published by Scribner in April 2001 and is a memoir about his family's experience as refugees in New York in the 1950s and 1960s.

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.

Berger was born in Russia in 1945, spent the postwar

years in displaced person camps in Germany and, after immigrating to the US, grew up in Manhattan and the Bronx. Writes Berger: “Like many immigrants and children of immigrants, Holocaust survivors’ children lived in two worlds at the same time. On the one hand, there was this thrillingly rich American turf to explore. On the other hand, they could never forget what it was like to feel intractably rooted in another, incompatible world of refugee parents who cannot speak English, a world of people dazed from unimaginable loss, and whose loneliness was unrelenting. Yet the children came to terms with the paradox and ultimately paid homage to their parents’ ex-



traordinary courage, luck, and hard work.”

Berger was a reporter, editor, and columnist with the New York Times from 1984 to 2015. Drawing on his own experience as an immigrant, Berger spent three years as a roving correspondent to New York neighborhoods, writing feature articles about the ethnic and cultural richness of the city that became the core of two books, *The World in a City* and *The Pious Ones*. Most recently, he chronicled the building of a new Tappan Zee Bridge, the first major bridge built in the New York area in half a century, in an occasional Times series.

*Displaced Persons: Growing Up American After the Holocaust* was chosen as a



Joseph Berger

notable book of the year by the New York Times, which called it “an extraordinary memoir” and was praised by Elie Wiesel as a “powerful and sweetly melancholic memoir, brilliantly written.”

#### The Woodstock (N.Y.) Jewish Congregation seeks an Executive Director

to lead, manage, and coordinate the administrative operation of our synagogue. The Executive Director reports to the Board of Directors and works closely with the Board, the Rabbi, the staff and the congregation. We seek a joyful, creative, innovative and organized leader who is able to solve complex problems and exercise considerable independent judgment.

Please send cover letter and resume to: [ExecDirSearch@WJCSHUL.ORG](mailto:ExecDirSearch@WJCSHUL.ORG)

#### IF YOU GO

**Sponsor:** Jewish Federation of the Berkshires

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

**Date:** Friday, August 12, at 10:45 a.m. (lunch follows at noon)

**Advance lunch reservations required for this event.**

**Email** [jfb.officemanager@verizon.net](mailto:jfb.officemanager@verizon.net), or call (413) 442-4360, ext. 10

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

## BERKSHIRE JEWISH CONGREGATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS



#### Welcome to the Jewish Berkshires

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

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

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

[JEWISHBERKSHIRES.ORG](http://JEWISHBERKSHIRES.ORG)

#### Berkshire Minyan

Lay-led egalitarian minyan held at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Rd., Great Barrington, MA (413) 229-3618, [berkshireminyan.org](http://berkshireminyan.org) Services: Saturdays at 9:30 a.m.

#### Berkshire Hills Hadassah

P.O. Box 187, Pittsfield, MA (413) 443-4386, [Berkshirehillshadassah@gmail.com](mailto:Berkshirehillshadassah@gmail.com)

#### B'nai B'rith Lodge, No. 326

#### Chabad of the Berkshires

450 South St., Pittsfield, MA (413) 499-9899, [jewishberkshires.com](http://jewishberkshires.com) Check website for service times and locations.

#### Congregation Ahavath Sholom

Reconstructionist North St., Great Barrington, MA (413) 528-4197, [ahavathsholom.com](http://ahavathsholom.com) Services: Fridays at 5:30 p.m., Saturdays at 10 a.m. Call to confirm services

#### Congregation Beth Israel

Reform 53 Lois St., North Adams, MA (413) 663-5830, [cbiweb.org](http://cbiweb.org) Services: Saturdays at 9:30 a.m.

#### Congregation Knesset Israel

Conservative 16 Colt Rd., Pittsfield, MA (413) 445-4872, [knessetisrael.org](http://knessetisrael.org) Services: Fridays at 5:45 p.m., Saturdays at 9:30 a.m.

#### Hevreh of Southern Berkshire

Reform 270 State Rd., Great Barrington, MA (413) 528-6378, [hevreh.org](http://hevreh.org) Services: Fridays 7:30 p.m., except first Friday of month, 6 p.m., Saturdays, Torah Study at 9 a.m., services at 10 a.m. Call to confirm.

#### Israel Philatelist Society

c/o Rabbi Harold Salzmann 24 Ann Dr., Pittsfield, MA (413) 442-4312

#### Jewish Federation of the Berkshires

196 South St., Pittsfield, MA (413) 442-4360 [jewishberkshires.org](http://jewishberkshires.org)

#### Jewish War Veterans

Commander Robert Waldheim (413) 822-4546, [sellit4@aol.com](mailto:sellit4@aol.com)

#### RIMON – A Collaborative Community for Jewish Spirituality

PO Box 502, Great Barrington, MA [rimonberkshires.org](http://rimonberkshires.org)

#### Temple Anshe Amunim

Reform 26 Broad St., Pittsfield, MA (413) 442-5910, [ansheamunim.org](http://ansheamunim.org) Services: Fridays at 5:30 p.m., Saturdays, Torah Study at 9:30 a.m., services at 10:45 a.m.

#### BEYOND THE BERKSHIRES

#### Congregation Anshe Emeth

Conservative 240 Joslen Blvd., Hudson, NY (518) 828-6848, [congregationansheemeth.net](http://congregationansheemeth.net) Services: Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 9:30 a.m.

#### Congregation Beth El

107 Adams St., Bennington, VT (802) 442-9645, [cbevermont.org](http://cbevermont.org) Services: Saturdays at 10 a.m.

#### Nassau Jewish Community Center & Synagogue

Route 20, Box 670, Nassau, NY (518) 766-9831 [nassausynagogue.org](http://nassausynagogue.org) Services: Saturdays at 9:30 a.m.

#### Temple Israel of Catskill

Reform 220 Spring St., Catskill, NY (518) 943-5758, [templeisraelofcatskill.org](http://templeisraelofcatskill.org)

#### The Chatham Synagogue

Route 28, Box 51, Chatham, NY (518) 392-0701, [chathamsynagogue.org](http://chathamsynagogue.org) Services: Saturdays at 9:30 a.m.

## LOCAL NEWS

## B'Shalom Chorale of the Berkshires to Hold Its 3rd Annual Concert

GREAT BARRINGTON – The B'Shalom Chorale of the Berkshires will present a concert of Jewish choral music at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, August 10 at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire. This is the third season concert for this summer chorus of singers who enjoy exploring the great wealth of Jewish music, sacred and secular, as well as classical and contemporary sounds.

The B'Shalom Chorale is conducted by Jack Brown, who is also the artistic director of the Berkshire Lyric Chorus and the choral director at Simon's Rock College and the Hotchkiss School. The accompanist is Joe Rose, also of Berkshire Lyric and a well-known musician in the region. The music for this concert ranges from works by classical composers such as Salamone Rossi, to contemporary composers like Meir Finklestein and Eric Whitacre. The Cho-

rale also sings a selection of folk songs.

Special guest artist will be clarinetist Paul Green. Admission to the concert is \$15. All are welcome.

The founder and coordinator of the B'Shalom Chorale is Cantor Emily Sleeper Mekler, who was the longtime cantor of Sinai Temple in Springfield.

For more information contact Cantor Mekler at (413) 531-8706 or email BShalom-Chorale@gmail.com. Hevreh is located at 270 State Road in Great Barrington.

This year, in its third season, the B'Shalom Chorale became a non-profit organization. It is sponsored, in part, by the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, The Harold Grinspoon Foundation, the New York Community Trust, the Great Barrington Cultural Council, and private contributors.

## Shofar Factory – Make Your own Ram Horn Before Rosh Hashanah

LENOX – On Sunday, August 28 between 4:30 p.m. and 6 p.m., Chabad of the Berkshires will transform the Lenox Community Center into a Shofar Factory, where adults and children can participate in a hands-on workshop, crafting

their own shofars for Rosh Hashanah. This event is co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires.

During a demonstration, visitors to the Shofar Factory will learn about the criteria an animal's horn must meet in order to qualify as a genuine shofar. Participants who sign up for the hands-on workshop will be able to saw, drill, sand, shellac and polish their very own horns and then learn how to sound the traditional notes.

"The Shofar generates an otherworldly sound. It's very soulful, very stirring, and open to much interpretation," said Rabbi Levi Volovik, co-director of Chabad of the Berkshires. "Each individual hears something else in the shofar's voice." The shofar is one of the oldest wind instruments known to mankind.

Consisting of a simple horn taken from a ram or similar animal (such as a kudu) and hollowed of its internal cartilage, the instrument produces a haunting tone.

According to Jewish history, explains Rabbi

Volovik, the sound of a Shofar accompanied G-d's giving of the Torah (the Bible) to the ancient Hebrews as they stood at the foot of Mount Sinai in the Middle Eastern wilderness. In addition, Jewish tradition has it that the Messianic Era, a time of world peace, will be ushered in with the sounding of the great shofar.

The shofar is sounded in Jewish houses of worship on Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, and at the end of Yom Kippur. "Chassidism teaches that the call of the shofar is reminiscent of the pure voice of the soul," says Rabbi Volovik. "At Rosh Hashanah, the soul strives to touch the Divine. Also the various notes sounded with the Shofar remind one of weeping, which stirs people to better their ways, which is among the central themes of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur."

The Shofar Factory will open to all on Sunday, August 28, from 4:30 to 6 p.m. at the Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker Street. Admission to the presentation is \$10. Participants wishing to make their own shofar can sign up for the hand-on workshop for an additional fee.

For more information, contact Rabbi Levi Volovik at (413) 499-9899 or Rabbi@jewishberkshires.com. Visit Chabad's website at www.jewishberkshires.com for additional information.



## Announcing the Third Annual BerkshireSPEAKS at Hevreh

An Afternoon of Presentations by Local Visionaries and Trendsetters

GREAT BARRINGTON – The Third Annual BerkshireSPEAKS will take place Sunday, September 18 at 1:30 p.m. at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire. This year's event will feature six Berkshire trailblazers and visionaries sharing their inspirational stories.

BerkshireSPEAKS was established to create an opportunity for the entire community to hear from local residents who have had a significant impact on the Berkshires and beyond.

"BerkshireSPEAKS continues to grow each year, with speakers whose passion reminds us that anything is possible. We have a fantastic program planned this year and look forward to an afternoon that brings the community together to share empowering ideas," said Toby Levine, Co-Chair of BerkshireSPEAKS 2016.

"From my vantage point, BerkshireSPEAKS is about two things—building community and learning," says Rabbi Neil P.G. Hirsch. "What could be better than bringing our community together to learn from our community's thought leaders? That this happens in the Jewish community, in a community that esteems learning, is a chance to hear Torah taught by people of all different backgrounds and disciplines."

This year's speakers are:

- John Downing, CEO, Soldier On (national organization fighting veteran's homelessness)
- Nancy Kolodner, Berkshire realtor, teacher, and arts supporter
- Gwendolyn Hampton-VanSant, CEO & founder of Multicultural BRIDGE
- Mary Pope Osborne, award-winning author of the Magic Tree House series (130 million copies sold worldwide)
- John Hockenberry, author, journalist, and award-winning public radio host
- William "Smitty" Pignatelli, Massachusetts state representative for the 4th Berkshire District

A reception with the speakers will follow the presentations.

Tickets are \$15 online or \$18 at door.

BerkshireSPEAKS is an outreach project of Hevreh and is open to the community. For more information, visit [www.hevreh.org/berkshirespeaks](http://www.hevreh.org/berkshirespeaks), or contact Toby Levine at (413) 298-3868 or [toby@tobylevine.com](mailto:toby@tobylevine.com). Hevreh is located at 270 State Road in Great Barrington.

## Rockin' with Mama Doni

A Free Family Concert

Sunday, September 11  
11:30 a.m.

Hevreh of Southern Berkshire  
270 State Rd., Great Barrington, MA

Kids, parents and grandparents are welcome to laugh, clap, dance and sing along with their inner Jewish child as Mama Doni elevates the ruach and spirit of our Jewish values, traditions, and culture.

### MITZVAH MOMENT!

We'll be collecting new packages of diapers and baby wipes for the Berkshire Community Diaper Project.

Sponsored by

PJ Library

Jewish Federation  
OF THE BERKSHIRES



Create a Jewish Legacy Campaign  
Please remember the Jewish Community in your will.

# Your Federation Presents

## Thank you for a wonderful Major Donors Breakfast!

We were thrilled that more than 170 major donors came together to support and celebrate Federation's impact at our 2016 Major Donors Breakfast on July 12.

Two parents, Suzanne Sawyer and Marc Bachman, shared their personal perspectives on the challenges young people and their families face in the Berkshires, and thanked Federation supporters for helping to provide the foundation for local families to raise strong, proud, and connected Jewish children.

We are deeply grateful to event chair Lauren Spitz and the host committee for their dedication and support in bringing this wonderful event to fruition.

As we heard at the event, it takes a village to raise Jewish children in the Berkshires. From the crib to the classroom to camp to college campuses, Federation is helping hundreds of kids and their families build a supportive network of Jewish peers, connect to their Jewish heritage, and engage in family friendly Jewish life.

Together, we are helping them transform into young adults who are proud of their Judaism and have a strong, lasting identity.

As Lauren Spitz, our event chair, noted, "This community does not take Jewish life for granted. Federation works strategically, collaboratively, and tirelessly to meet the needs of our children and the elderly, and to sustain Jewish life for all of us year round. Those efforts need and deserve our support."

The 2016 Campaign is off to a strong start, having raised over \$532,000 thanks to so many full and part time residents who have stepped up to bring the spirit of our caring community to those who need it most.



Harold Grinspoon, Judy Usow (Federation President), Lauren Spitz (Event Chair), and Diane Troderman



Alan and Nancy Milbauer with Ron Hinds



Ken and Rhea Werner



Spoken Word poet Vanessa Hidary, the "Hebrew Mamita"



Jane Glaser and Julia Kaplan



Elisa Snowise, Kyneret Albert, with Lara and Roger Brown



Jill Gaffin, Jacqueline and Robert Spielman, Shirley and Bill Lehman, and Hal Gaffin



Eitan and Malka Evan with Bernie and Elaine Roberts



Michael Albert with Elaine and Bob Baum



Joan and Michael Ury, Carol Beyer, and Barbara Lafer



Wilma and Norm Michaels with Gaye Moelis and Stan Greenfield

# Your Federation Presents



Front: Ann Dorfman, Phyllis Yawitt, Kara Thornton, Jeff May. Back, Ofer Kaufman and Kathy Fraker



Estelle Miller and Adam Irick



Lynn and Ken Stark



A full house of Federation supporters



Robert and Phyllis Yawitt, Nancy Lipoff, and Steve Kravitz



Focused on the challenges for Jewish Youth



Steve and Dale Kulvin with Danny Katz



Marvin and Helaine Lender with Marc Bachman



Joan Gluck, Alba Passarini and Paul Gluck



Bette and Philip Gladstone and Suzanne and Tom Sawyer



Joshua Yurfest, Kathy Fraker, and Roger Brown



Marilyn and Elihu Katzman



Lisa Schindler-Frankel and Larry Frankel



Laurence and Joan Kleinman, Harold and Denyse Adler, and Carol Beyer

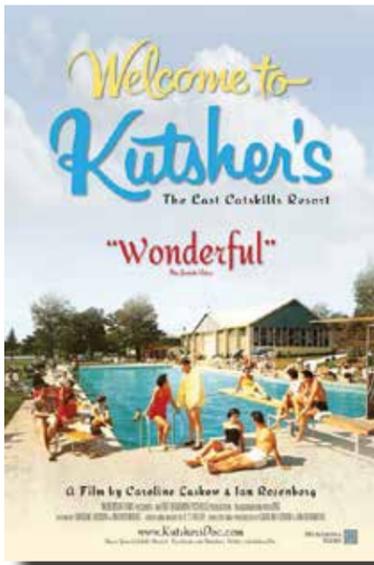


Mel and Terry Drucker with Robert Spielman and Arthur Gilbert

**LOCAL NEWS**

**Borscht Belt Memories: “Welcome to Kutsher’s The Last Catskills Resort”**

GREAT BARRINGTON – Hevreh goes to the movies on Sunday, August 21 at 10:30 a.m. screening of the documentary *Welcome to Kutsher’s: The Last Catskills Resort*. Kutsher’s Country Club was the last surviving Jewish resort in the Catskills. One of the legendary Borscht Belt hotels during its heyday, Kutsher’s was family-owned and operated for over 100 years. Exploring the full Dirty Dancing-era Catskills experience through a close-up look at Kutsher’s rise and fall, this award-winning documentary captures a last glimpse of a lost world as it disappears before our eyes. Tickets can be purchased ahead at Hevreh by calling (413) 528-6378, or at the Triplex Cinema, 70 Railroad

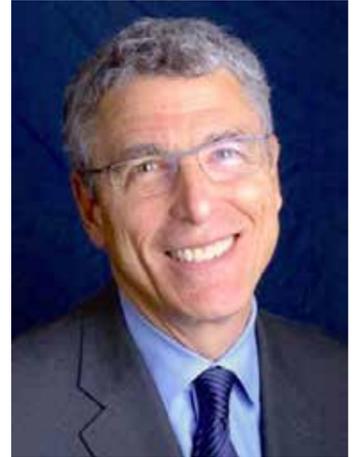


Street in Great Barrington, on the day of the movie for \$10. For more information, please go to [www.hevreh.org](http://www.hevreh.org).

**“Visions in Jewish Community” – Great Ideas Talk with URJ Leader Rabbi Rick Jacobs**

GREAT BARRINGTON – On Sunday, August 7 at 10:30 a.m., Hevreh of Southern Berkshire hosts Rabbi Rick Jacobs, president of the Union for Reform Judaism. A longtime and devoted creative change agent, Rabbi Jacobs spent 20 years as a dynamic, visionary spiritual leader at Westchester Reform Temple (WRT) in Scarsdale, NY. Prior to his tenure at WRT, Rabbi Jacobs served the Brooklyn Heights Synagogue, where he founded and co-directed the first synagogue-based homeless shelter in New York City. Rabbi Jacobs has studied for two de-

acades at Jerusalem’s Shalom Hartman Institute, where he is now a senior rabbinic fellow. Rabbi Jacobs has held numerous leadership posts within the URJ, the CCAR, ARZA, and WUPJ. He also has served on the boards of American Jewish World Service, UJA-Federation of New York; Synagogue 2000, and its successor Synagogue 3000. Hevreh is located at 270 State Road in Great Barrington. For more information, please go to [hevreh.org](http://hevreh.org). This lecture is free and open to the public. A light breakfast will be served.



Rabbi Rick Jacobs

**Hevreh Teams with Multicultural BRIDGE for a Summer Children’s Program**

GREAT BARRINGTON – Hevreh will host The Happiness Toolbox program for youth ages 5 to 13 on Monday, August 8 through Friday, August 12, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Participants in the Happiness Toolbox program will discuss how happiness levels are affected by day-to-day experiences and learn how to monitor them. Topics covered in the program will include resilience, leadership skills, how to communicate with people from various backgrounds, how to use your voice, how to be prepared for the world, and how to make a difference, as well as introductions to French, Spanish, and Judaism, and positive psychology techniques.



The cost of the session is \$150 for the week. Financial assistance is available. For more information, contact the BRIDGE office at (413) 394-4029 or email [adminsupport@multiculturalbridge.org](mailto:adminsupport@multiculturalbridge.org). Hevreh is located at 270 State Road in Great Barrington.



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**LOCAL NEWS**

**Jewish Education in the Berkshires – 2016-2017**

The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires has a strong commitment to Jewish youth, helping to provide a high-quality Jewish education for more than 165 children and young adults through grants to congregational religious schools across the Berkshires. Berkshire County is fortunate to have a diverse Jewish community that offers educational opportunities encompassing a wide range of approaches and family preferences. This section offers an overview of local Jewish schools.

**Hevreh of Southern Berkshire**

*Great Barrington*

Hevreh Religious School is opening its doors this September to create a community of learners, from young children through high school seniors. With the guidance of teachers, song leaders, young teachers, and rabbis, Hevreh students explore Jewish heritage, rituals, history and holidays. Hevreh will continue its successful Family YACHAD (Together) program where parents and students can participate together in learning and celebration opportunities throughout the year.

Religious School open house events include a tot Shabbat on September 10 at 9 a.m. See the article about the September 11 Mama Doni Band concert on page 1 for more on opening day at Hevreh Religious School.

Contact: Rabbi Jodie Gordon or Joan Goldberg Munch at (413) 528-6378. For a complete religious school calendar visit [Hevreh.org/religious-school](http://Hevreh.org/religious-school).

**Classes**

Religious School classes for Kindergarten through Confirmation, Sundays beginning September 11 at 10 a.m. K-6 classes meet weekly.

Pre-Confirmation and Confirmation begins Sunday, September 11 at 9 a.m. and meets bi-weekly (7th and 8th grade-pre-confirmation, 9th-12th grade – confirmation).

Hebrew Skills classes for 3rd-7th graders, Wednesdays at 4 p.m. beginning September 14 (weekly).

Tiny Talmidim classes for pre-school children meet monthly beginning Sunday, September 18 at 10:15 a.m.

**Temple Anshe Amunim**

*Pittsfield*

Temple Anshe Amunim offers religious education for students from preschool to high school, along with evening Hebrew and conversion classes for adults. All programs feature a full complement of professional educators and a focus on Jewish subjects, Hebrew instruction, and individualized learning.

The Religious School is led by Education Director Esther Benari-Altmann, recipient of the 2015 Harold Grinspoon Award for Excellence in Education. "I believe that all students deserve to have the opportunity to learn," she explains. "We have worked very hard to build a program that takes students' personal needs and learning styles into consideration. Rabbi Josh Breindel and our teachers are all committed to this idea; we meet our students where they are and help them grow."

Classes are held on Saturdays. Programs include prayers, holidays, Jewish values, Israel, history and much more. "We believe in a hands-on approach, and therefore encourage our students to lead Kabbalat Shabbat services as well as Shabbat services, so that they have no anxiety when they celebrate their bar or bat mitzvah," said Benari-Altmann. TAA Family Education programs emphasize the concept of L'Dor Va'Dor, from generation to generation. TAA also offers a special class to students who would like to deepen their Tanach knowledge and participate in the regional and national Chidon Hatanach (Bible Contest). In



2016, one student won the regional championship and participated in the national contest in New York City.

TAA also partners with Knesset Israel in offering the CHAI program (see separate listing).

To learn more about the Religious School, please contact Esther Benari-Altmann at (413) 442-5910, ext. 12, or email [eba@ansheamunim.org](mailto:eba@ansheamunim.org) or visit [www.ansheamunim.org](http://www.ansheamunim.org).

**Knesset Israel**

*Pittsfield*

The Knesset Israel Hebrew School intends to prepare students for Jewish lives imbued with meaning, knowledge, and *ruach* (spirit). Creative teachers build dynamic lessons that help students find relevance in the Jewish story and build their Jewish identity, as well as acquire Hebrew literacy and other skills for Jewish life. Highlights include an energetic teen-led Junior Congregation and a robust program for bar/bat mitzvah education. Teachers take great pride in drawing on the congregation's strengths, helping students understand how and why to participate in Jewish community. Rabbi David Weiner collaborates with an outstanding faculty on matching curriculum and methodology to student needs.

Learning opportunities are available for students ages 2.9 through high school.

Classes are held on Shabbat mornings. Knesset Israel also partners with Temple Anshe Amunim in offering the CHAI program (see separate listing). Hours vary depending on the age of the students. For more information: Eve Edwards, Hebrew School Administrator, [eve.edwards14@outlook.com](mailto:eve.edwards14@outlook.com).

**CHAI (Community Hebrew Afterschool Initiative)**

*Pittsfield*

CHAI is a partnership between Temple Anshe Amunim and Knesset Israel that meets Wednesday afternoons from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at TAA.

This program, offered in conjunction with both synagogues' Hebrew schools, offers students a supportive atmosphere to gain and refine their Hebrew language and ritual leadership skills, as well as collaborative learning

about Jewish holidays and practices.

For more information about CHAI, please call the synagogues.

**Congregation Beth Israel**

*North Adams*

The CBI Community Hebrew School offers a vibrant afterschool program in the Northern Berkshires for Pre-K through 7th grade. It meets on Mondays from 3:30-5:15 p.m. and offer three distinct classes, plus a monthly arts-based Sunday family program and bagel brunch.

Pre-K through 3rd is taught by Jane Shiyah, a beloved school counselor, family coach, storyteller and magician with 45 years of working with children and their families. She partners with Inquisitive Bernard (aka Inky the Wonder Dog), a trained therapy dog and state certified reading specialist. This class focuses on learning blessings and Hebrew letters, hearing Torah stories and bringing them to life with drama and flair. Jane also leads our CBI Ukulele Orchestra.

The 4th-6th grade class continues Hebrew study, focusing on prayers and adapting the energetic 'Hebrew through Movement' program to build fluency and meaning. Favorite past projects have included game construction, giant mapmaking and more. Students have enjoyed the surprises that have ap-

peared in class including "Twister Shema" and "Shema Balloon Relay Races." Student-led conferences in December and May are a vital part of all classes.

The 7th grade b'nai mitzvah class works solely with our Rabbi Rachel Barenblat. This allows her to focus exclusively on their development and staying in contact with their families during their big year. The focus is threefold: The meaning of prayer; the world of Mitzvot and responsible action; and exploring Torah closely. Students are given full permission to not only ask questions about what they are reading, but also to agree or disagree with what they are learning.

In addition, CBI offers Hand in Hand Family, a brand new Family Education program on Sundays throughout the year focusing on Judaic book arts – including book making for children and adults, creating illuminated manuscripts, Hebrew calligraphy, and forming a storytelling troop to develop storytelling skills. To learn more about the CBI Community Hebrew School and staff, please visit [www.cbichebrewschool.weebly.com](http://www.cbichebrewschool.weebly.com). Education Director David Arfa, Maggid (storyteller) can be reached at [david@maggiddavid.net](mailto:david@maggiddavid.net).

**Chabad of the Berkshires, Hebrew School of the Arts Program**

*Pittsfield*

Information was not available at press time. Please call Chabad of the Berkshires at (413) 499-9899 or visit their website at [www.jewishberkshires.com](http://www.jewishberkshires.com).

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## LOCAL NEWS

## Spirited to Host Wine, Tzimmes, and Honey Cake Tasting in Honor of High Holidays

LENOX – Thumbing through your High Holiday recipe file? Hoping to kick your humdrum tzimmes up a notch or two? Wondering if there's more to Kosher wines than that syrupy-sweet stuff that usually ends up on your Rosh Hashanah dinner table? Wishing you knew what Rosh Hashanah food was all about, anyway? Come to "Tzimmes

for Foodies: Wine and High Holiday Foods Tasting," to celebrate the Season of the Jewish New Year with Chabad of the Berkshires. The program will be hosted by Spirited at 444 Pittsfield Road in Lenox on Friday, September 1, from noon to 1:30 p.m.

Free samples and recipes will be offered, along with a wine tasting that will show-

case the excellent quality and extensive variety of today's kosher wines.

The tasting is open to the public, and everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend, regardless of religious affiliation or level of knowledge. Please contact Sara Volovik at (413) 499-9899 or saravolovik@gmail.com for more information.

## Discussion Communities – Senior Financial Planning and the Big Election

GREAT BARRINGTON – As summer starts winding down, Hevreh of Southern Berkshire continues its series of discussion communities with two relevant and compelling offerings.

*"Planning for Longevity – Financial Issues for Seniors"*

On Thursday, August 18 at 3:30 p.m., all are welcome to join in this discussion about the financial issues commonly faced by seniors. Topics may include outliving your savings, inflation, long-term health-care, downsizing, reverse mortgages, communicating your wishes, and providing family access to your information. Bring your questions and perspectives! Group leader Bradley Minnen has 17 years of experience as an independent licensed insurance professional helping pre- and post-retirees think about these and other related retirement concerns. He and his wife Dr. Bonnie Saks split their

time between Tampa and the Berkshires, and are members of Hevreh.

*"Handicapping the Presidential Election"*

On Thursday, September 1 at 3 p.m., a timely panel analysis will explore the electoral history, demographics, character, and influences of key states along with likely resulting regional preferences for the candidates. These factors lead to a prediction on who will be elected the U.S. president in November. This will be an apolitical discussion about what people think will happen rather than what people want to happen. The panelists are Harold Adler, Jan Kabel, and Richard Kirsch; all of whom will bring insightful and relevant knowledge to the discussion. This session will be moderated by Mark Lefenfeld.

Hevreh is located at 270 State Road in Great Barrington.

## Rimon in Transition

*[The following is a statement from Rimon about major changes to the organization. Please also see Rabba Stern-Kaufman's final Rabbi Reflection for the BJV on page 3.]*

Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman is stepping down from her position as executive director of Rimon Center for Jewish Spirituality after founding the organization and guiding it for four years. Rabba Kaya has accepted an offer to serve as the full-time rabbi at Congregation Agudat Achim in Leominster, MA. This change represents a great loss in the Berkshires. At the same time, the Rimon community understands that it is an opportunity for Rabba Kaya to grow professionally and bring her unique gifts to a broader public.

During Rabba Kaya's tenure, she has spread her vision of Judaism as a rich wisdom tradition, offering many class-

es in Torah, Talmud, Mussar and Jewish mysticism. Eco-temple prayer hikes brought worshippers into the woods to pray. The Rimon community has gathered for Tu b'Shevat seders, Purim Megillah readings, Lag Ba'Omer bonfires, and Tisha B'Av observances. High Holiday services were offered in 2015. Monthly contemplative and musical Kabbalat Shabbat services gathered local worshippers and people from New York State and the Pioneer Valley to davven together in Stockbridge. In addition, three area synagogues invited Rimon to share its unique and inspiring Shabbat services.

Rimon has been active in interfaith work. Two Interfaith Forums on Spiritual Views of Death and After-Life were well-attended. A healing service drew participants from diverse religious traditions.

The South Berkshire

Community Hevra Kadisha (a Jewish Burial Society) founded by Rimon, will continue to offer services under the auspices of Rabbi Neil Hirsch through Hevreh of Southern Berkshire. To serve as part of the Hevra Kadisha, contact Rabbi Hirsch at (413) 528-6378.

At this time of transition, Rimon is re-visioning its mission and focus. There is considerable interest in continuing opportunities for study and meditation, as well as remaining a spiritual community that is dedicated to celebrating and grieving together. Everyone is welcome. You can follow Rimon's activities on our website <http://rimon-berkshires.org> and sign up for emails through the google link: <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/rimon-re-visioning-group>. Please contact us if you would like to have a voice in Rimon's future.

## "Tikkun Olam – To Repair the World – A Tribute to American Icon Pete Seeger"

To know his music is to know the man

PITTSFIELD – On Sunday, August 21 at 7 p.m., Temple Anshe Amunim will host a concert to honor the extraordinary American legend, Pete Seeger. The Temple's outstanding performers, Dr. Alan Gold, Rabbi Josh Breindel, Stephanie Bennett, Jesse Waldinger, Jackie Shayer, and Paul Bernstein, will be joined by Knesset Israel's extremely talented musicians, Jonathan Denmark and Steven Skoblow in this joyous event.

The evening will feature Pete Seeger favorites like, "Where have all the flowers gone?," "Guantanamera," and "Turn! Turn! Turn!," as well as Jewish-themed songs like "Tzena, Tzena, Tzena," and even "Hine Ma Tov" – a traditional Shabbat service prayer that Seeger sang with Theodore Bikel. These and many other Seeger classics will be part of this memorable event.

Pete Seeger died January 28, 2014 at the age of 94. He is remembered for his deep beliefs in the power of song as a force for social change. An avid environmentalist, his Hudson River Project was founded to alert everyone to the pollution of the Hudson River. Seeger



Pete Seeger

and others worked hard to rid the water of dangerous toxins and provided the inspiration and dedication for its ongoing work.

The entire Berkshire community is invited to share the intimacy and poignancy of Seeger's folk music, and to be part of this moving celebration. There is no genre of music that is more inviting than "folk," as the emotional appeal of the lyrics urges the audience to join in the fun. Admission is \$15. Beverages and dessert will be served.

For more information, contact the Temple Anshe Amunim office at (413) 442-5910, Ext. 10, email [templeoffice@ansheamunim.org](mailto:templeoffice@ansheamunim.org) or visit [www.ansheamunim.org](http://www.ansheamunim.org). Temple Anshe Amunim is an accessible building located at 26 Broad Street in Pittsfield.

## Special Summer Shabbat Events at Hevreh

GREAT BARRINGTON – This August, Hevreh of Southern Berkshire will be welcoming and celebrating Shabbat with several distinctive programs.

*Kabbalat Shabbat – Return to Tanglewood*

On Friday, August 19 at 7 p.m., Hevreh hosts its second Tanglewood Shabbat of the season. Come early (gates open at 4 p.m.) and look for the blue and white balloons in the middle of the lawn to set up a picnic dinner, and bring a dessert to share. Kabbalat Shabbat will be held at the back of the lawn at approximately 7 p.m. Please note, there will be no services at Hevreh that evening. Please call the Tanglewood Box Office to purchase lawn tickets at

(888) 266-1200.

Featured concert: Boston Symphony Orchestra, Charles Dutoit, conductor; Menahem Pressler, piano; vocal soloists, Tanglewood Festival Chorus: Mozart, Overture to The Marriage of Figaro, Piano Concerto No. 23 in A, K.488. Rossini, Stabat Mater.

*Hot Shabbat!*

On Friday, September 2 at 6 p.m., end the summer with a bang and celebrate Shabbat outdoors. Bring a picnic dinner and a dessert to share for the Oneg. There will be games for the kids, a cotton candy machine, and a lively musical Kabbalat Shabbat. All are welcome to this annual event

*Visiting Cantors*

This summer, Hevreh welcomes talented guest cantors to the bima for Shabbat worship. These cantors and student cantors bring their gifts and their song to heighten

prayer and to bring out voices in sacred song.

On Friday, August 5 at 6 p.m., student cantor Lilah Sugarman will conduct service is currently a fourth-year cantorial student at the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music at Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR).

On Friday, August 12 at 7:30 p.m., join Shanna Zell, a singer/songwriter turned cantorial student now entering her fifth (and final) year at HUC-JIR.

On Friday, August 26 at 7:30 p.m., the guest cantor will be Steven Weiss, the cantor and director of Education at Congregation Sha'aray Shalom in Hingham, MA, and president of the American Conference of Cantors. Student cantor Lilah Sugarman will also be there.

For more information, please go to [www.hevreh.org](http://www.hevreh.org).

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## LOCAL NEWS

## Study with Hevreh Rabbis at Two Daytime Classes

GREAT BARRINGTON – Hevreh of Southern Berkshire's rabbis lead two study sessions this August.

*Lunch 'n Learn: "Feminism, Theology, and Prayer"*

For three Wednesdays (August 17, 24 & 31) at 11:45 a.m., join Rabbi Jodie Gordon for "Feminism, Theology, and Prayer." From the *thkines* (personal prayers) of 17th-century women, to the radical feminist reimagining of the Passover Maggid (story), Jewish women have wrestled with prayer and theology throughout history. The class will explore the evolution of women's prayer and spirituality through liturgical texts, and participants will have the opportunity to engage in their own creative prayer-work through writing and art.

All are welcome. Please bring your own lunch and enjoy some learning.

*People of the Book Club Event: The Interestings*

On Sunday, August 28

at 10:30 a.m., the People of the Book Club at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire will meet and Rabbi Neil Hirsch will lead a fun discussion of Meg Wolitzer's bestseller *The Interestings*. This novel is the story of a group of friends who first meet at a summer camp in the Berkshires, and whose lives continue to be intertwined as they grow up, have children, and experience the fullness of adulthood. Says Rabbi Hirsch: "This poignant story that holds together coming-of-age with maturity is certainly a book to include on your nightstand this summer. It's currently being turned into a movie, and is being filmed here in the Berkshires."

Copies of the book can be purchased for a discount from the Bookloft in Great Barrington.

All are welcome to join this discussion. Hevreh is located at 270 State Road in Great Barrington. A light breakfast will be served.

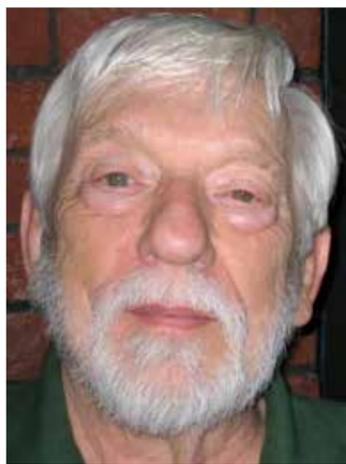
## Berkshire Dramatic Premiere: Choices by Donald Drake

PITTSFIELD – *Choices* by Donald Drake will be performed on Monday, August 22 at 7 p.m. at Congregation Knesset Israel, the second theatrical co-sponsorship this season between Congregation Knesset Israel and Temple Anshe Amunim.

The play is based on a true situation at Philadelphia's Children's Hospital in 1977. The individuals in this modern drama make a decision of biblical proportions. Conjoined twins share a single heart that can support only one of them. The religious Jewish parents debate whether it is moral to sacrifice one twin to save the other. The actual attending surgeon happened to be C. Everett Koop, who later became Surgeon General of the United States.

The play is directed by Dr. Barbara Waldinger, who has taught theatre arts at Queens College, Hofstra University and Marymount Manhattan College. She currently instructs for OLLI and Temple Anshe Amunim. As artistic director of HRC Showcase Theatre in Hudson, and a director for the Association of Theatre in Higher Education, the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival, and the Plays in Progress Annual Short Play Festival at the Hudson Opera House, she seeks the finest actors for her casts. Her extensive background equips her to select the most promising contemporary plays for Berkshire audiences.

Donald Drake's play was selected from a field of 220 submissions to HRC Showcase Theatre and was performed in



Playwright Donald Drake

March 2016 as part of its 25th anniversary season. Mr. Drake was a distinguished special projects writer for 35 years at the Philadelphia Enquirer. He has been a Pulitzer Prize finalist three times and received a Pulitzer for one of the narrative stories he edited. He pioneered the use of playwriting techniques to dramatize complex news events ("narrative journalism"). Although he loved his work as a journalist, newspaper work took a back-seat to theatre when Donald Drake left the Enquirer in 2001 to become a full-time playwright.

Admission is \$20 per ticket; students are free. Refreshments and audience talk-back are included. Rabbi David Weiner of KI and Rabbi Josh Breindel of TAA will co-lead the post-performance talk with cast and playwright. For advance reservations, please contact (413) 445-4872, ext. 16 or [www.knessetisrael.org](http://www.knessetisrael.org). Walk-ins are always welcome.

## "Straight Answers to Gay Questions"

PITTSFIELD – On Friday, September 16, Congregation Knesset Israel will host Ed Sedarbaum, founder of Rainbow Seniors of Berkshire County, as its after Shabbat dinner speaker.

A Shirei Shabbat service, with musical accompaniment will be held at 5:30 p.m., and will be followed by a home-cooked kosher dinner prepared by KI volunteers. Then, at 7:45 p.m., the group moves from social hall to sanctuary where the program, entitled "Straight Answers to Gay Questions" will be presented.

Rainbow Seniors of Berkshire County, a program for LGBTQ seniors and their friends and allies, was founded in October 2015, and in less than a year has grown rapidly. Ed Sedarbaum, 70, of Williamstown founded the group in order to foster a community of LGBTQ seniors. Those who were born in the 1930s, '40s, and '50s often were secretive about their orientation or gender because the consequences of disclosure at that point in history were dire. This often resulted in a smaller informal support network for them, especially in rural areas. Rainbow Seniors seeks to foster new support networks by bringing people together.

Sedarbaum moved to Northern Berkshire in 2003, after a career as a caseworker, editor/writer, and community organizer. He headed the New York State Hate Crimes Bill Coalition to fight for a Hate Crimes Law, which Massachu-

setts already had in place 20 years earlier. He also worked for the Anti-Defamation League in New York City, focused on intergroup relations and public policy.

Attendance began strong – with 17 people at the first exploratory meeting in October 2015 – growing to 20 to 30 lesbians, gay men, transgender people and their friends and allies who now attend each meeting. Meetings are now held twice each month: on the third Tuesday of the month there is a potluck and program at noon at First Congregational Church of Williamstown, and on the first Saturday of each month there is a program at 2 p.m. at the Berkshire Athenaeum.

At the Park Square vigil in June following the murderous attack that claimed 49 lives at the Pulse club in Orlando, FL, Rabbi David Weiner and many members of the Jewish community heard Ed Sedarbaum address the sizeable and diverse gathering. To many in the crowd, the existence of Rainbow Seniors of Berkshire County was a surprise, a well-kept secret. Rainbow Seniors can be contacted through their website, [www.rainbowseniors.org](http://www.rainbowseniors.org), or by email at [rainbowseniorsbc@gmail.com](mailto:rainbowseniorsbc@gmail.com).

To reserve for dinner on September 16, please send \$18 for each attendee's dinner to the Congregation Knesset Israel Office at 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield, MA 01201, or call (413) 445-4872, ext. 10, to make a credit card payment.



Ed Sedarbaum

Payment must be received by September 14. All are welcome to attend the service at 5:30 p.m. There is no additional fee for the program after dinner. For further information, please contact Myrna Hammerling, director of programming, at (413) 445-4872, ext. 16.

## "It All Depends On How You Look At It!" with Ruth Breindel

PITTSFIELD – What does it mean to look at things in a new way? That's the question Ruth Breindel will address on Thursday, August 18 at noon at Temple Anshe Amunim.

She points out that recently scholars have found that the statues from the ancient world were not the pristine white we have always seen, but were really painted. Medieval palimpsests can reveal ancient texts, and that even looking at a common text from a different angle can bring new meaning to it. Using these and other examples, Breindel will deliver a multi-media presentation titled "It All Depends On How You Look At It!"

"As a Latin teacher," Breindel explains, "I tend to think visually – the written word. It is by looking at the words that we come to understand a great deal, not only about the past, but about how we interpret it. I first came to this when I read a fascinating book on the Archimedes codex, and then I continued in that vein when looking at the writing of Julius Caesar in the Gallic Wars. I'll explain all that and more at the talk!"

Ruth Breindel taught Latin and Greek for 30 years at Moses Brown School in Providence, RI. Now retired,



Ruth Breindel

she is president of the Rhode Island Historical Association, treasurer of the Classical Association of New England, the co-founder of a neighborhood association in Providence, and a member of the local Friends of the Library board.

Guests are invited to bring their own lunch to this program. Beverages and dessert will be provided. Admission is \$10.00.

For more information, contact the Temple Anshe Amunim office at (413) 442-5910, email [templeoffice@ansheamunim.org](mailto:templeoffice@ansheamunim.org) or visit [www.ansheamunim.org](http://www.ansheamunim.org). Temple Anshe Amunim is an accessible building located at 26 Broad Street in Pittsfield.

UNICORN · COLONIAL · FITZPATRICK  
**BERKSHIRE THEATRE GROUP**

July 20–August 20  
The Fitzpatrick Main Stage  
83 East Main Street, Stockbridge

Judd Hirsch  
in a World Premiere of  
Shem Bitterman's  
**THE STONE WITCH**  
directed by Steve Zuckerman  
Produced in association with Barlene Kaplan Entertainment and Brerpatch Productions

AUGUST 3–27  
AT THE UNICORN THEATRE  
THE LARRY VABER STAGE  
6 EAST STREET, STOCKBRIDGE

KATE BALDWIN AND GRAHAM ROWAT  
IN DRAMA LEAGUE AWARD-NOMINATED AND  
TONY AWARD-NOMINATED  
**CONSTELLATIONS**  
BY NICK PAYNE  
DIRECTED BY GREGG EDELMAN

August 11–19  
at The Colonial Theatre  
111 South Street, Pittsfield

Tony Award-Nominated and  
Drama Desk Award-Nominated  
**BEAUTY AND THE BEAST**  
directed by Travis G. Daly  
music direction by Mark Gionfriddo  
choreography by Kathy Jo Grover  
BTG's 11th Annual  
Community Theatre Production

SEPT. 29–OCT. 23  
at The Unicorn Theatre  
The Larry Vaber Stage  
6 East Street, Stockbridge

American Premiere  
**THE BAKELITE MASTERPIECE**  
by KATE CAYLEY  
directed by KRISTEN VAN GINHOVEN  
with DAVID ADKINS and CORINNA MAY  
A co-production with WAM Theatre WAM

111 South Street, Pittsfield, MA  
83 East Main Street, Stockbridge, MA  
6 East Street, Stockbridge, MA  
[www.BerkshireTheatreGroup.org](http://www.BerkshireTheatreGroup.org)  
(413) 997-4444

## MAZEL TOV

Mazel tov to Jessica Passetto and Josh Cutler on their marriage on Saturday, August 6 at Temple Anshe Amunim in Pittsfield.

\*

Chabad's co-directors Rabbi Levi and Sara Volovik welcomed Chava Chaya Luba in June, who joins siblings Mendel, Hershie, Ricki, Chana, and Mushka – a hearty mazel tov to all.

\*

Mazel tov to Rabbi Josh Breindel on assuming the role of president of Pittsfield Area Council of Congregations (PACC), an interfaith organization through which local leaders of faith communities come together to build relationships.

\*

Congratulations to Susan Gold, newly elected Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA). Susan has been a member of that Board since 2010, and became its chair in April, after having been reappointed by Governor Charlie Baker to a second 5-year term.

\*

Mazel tov to Odelya Kalmanofsky, granddaughter of Barbara and Michael Kaplan, on becoming a bat mitzvah.

\*

Congratulations to Gary Schiff on being named managing director of October Mountain Financial Advisors, an alliance of Lee Bank and St. Germain Investment Management, based in Springfield. Schiff is chair of the Investment committee of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires.

\*

Mazel tov to Congregation Beth Israel's recent b'nai mitzvah – Jordan Callahan, Jeremy Guy, Gabe Schoenbaum, and Sasha Rooney.

\*

Mazel tov to Bob Greenberg on his 50th Anniversary of becoming a bar mitzvah.

\*

Mazel tov to Nina and Yael Snowise on becoming b'not mitzvah, with many good wishes to parents Elisa and Mark Snowise; grandparents Jeff and Judy Cook, vice president of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires; and great-grandmother Helen Maislen.

\*

Madelyn Cherry and Gabe Rich recently became b'nai mitzvah at Temple Anshe Amunim – mazel tov!

\*

Mazel tov to Barbara and Michael Wasserman on their daughter Stacy Wasserman's marriage to Tod Damon in June.

\*

Mazel tov to Jacob Fanto (and parents Clarence Fanto and Andrea Goodman) on his July 2 bar mitzvah at Chabad of the Berkshires.

\*

Mazel tov to Temple Anshe Amunim's House Committee on being named 2016 Temple Members of the Year at the temple's 146th Annual Meeting in June. Rob Proskin, Stu Besnoff, Rabbi Josh Breindel, Joel Colker, Michael Margolis, Alba Passerini, Howard Shapiro, and Dave Wallace worked to renovate the temple to make it accessible to persons with disabilities.

\*

All the best to Ellen and Allan Cutler on their special anniversary.

\*

Way to go Anna Abrahams, a freshman at Monument Mountain Regional High School, who won a statewide essay contest sponsored by the Massachusetts Foreign Language Association on the topic "Languages as the Keys to Global Understanding."

\*

Mazel tov to Alba Passerini and Charles Wohl on their daughter Hannah Wohl's marriage to Jesse Gelburd-Meyers in June. Alba serves on the board of directors of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires.

\*

Congratulations to Frederic Rutberg who, along with his business partners, has embarked on a new venture with the acquisition of The Berkshire Eagle, The Brattleboro Reformer and The Bennington Banner.

\*

Mazel tov to Janie and Larry Pellish on their special anniversary.

\*

Finally, mazel tov and yasher koach to Margie Metzger for 25 years as the driving force behind Congregation Knesset Israel's Berkshire Jewish Film Festival. We appreciate all you do.

Temple Anshe Amunim held its first annual Education Celebration on July 2, with almost one hundred people gathered in support of the religious school and to witness Emeritus Rabbi Harold Salzman receive the inaugural award for Lifetime Achievement in Jewish Education. Tributes to Rabbi Salzman highlighted his dedication to the community, the congregation, and its religious school, as well as his overall commitment to educating young and old throughout his life. Mazel tov to Rabbi Salzman and family.



Rabbi Josh Breindel, Robyn Rosen, Rabbi Harold Salzman, Audrey Salzman, Esther Benari-Altman

## LOCAL NEWS

### Preparing for the High Holy Days

PITTSFIELD – Congregation Knesset Israel's Rabbi David Weiner will present a three-part series of classes anticipating the Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur holidays. Classes will be held on two consecutive Mondays, September 12 and 19 at 7 p.m., and then culminate at the Selichot service on Saturday, September 24, at 7 p.m.

Using text and commentary to prepare attendees for services of greater length and contemplation at this holy time of year, Rabbi Weiner will apply his soulful education techniques to inspire and move those attending to a deeper experience. This will be the first Tishrei (Jewish month having the most Jewish



Rabbi David Weiner

holidays) in the renewed sanctuary at 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield. For questions about High Holy Day services and tickets, please contact the synagogue office at 413-445-4872 ext. 10 or www.knessetisrael.org.

### Howard Dean to Speak at 49th Annual Feigenbaum Lecture at Temple Anshe Amunim

PITTSFIELD – The 49th annual Hilda Vallin Feigenbaum Memorial Foundation Lecture will be held on Sunday, August 28 at 7:30 p.m. at Temple Anshe Amunim. The speaker will be Howard Dean, previously the governor of Vermont and chairman of the Democratic National Committee

Dean's topic will be "Election 2016: Which Path Will America Choose?", a Washington insider's look at the future of the presidency and makeup of the House and Senate for the next four years and beyond. The lecture, sponsored by the Temple Anshe Amunim Feigenbaum Lecture Endowment, is free and open to the public.

Howard Dean, former DNC chairman, presidential candidate, six-term governor, and physician, currently serves as a senior strategic advisor and independent consultant focusing on the areas of healthcare and energy issues. He is a frequent contributor to MSNBC and is the founder of Democracy for America.

"We are delighted to host Governor Dean and feel that his expertise will be particularly insightful as we approach the upcoming elections this fall," said Andy Hochberg, lecture committee co-chairman. "This is the 49th year of the Hilda Vallin Feigenbaum Memorial Foundation Lec-

ture series and it presents an opportunity to emphasize the civic and spiritual legacy of this outstanding woman. It is also an occasion to pay a special tribute to her sons Dr. Armand Feigenbaum and Dr. Donald Feigenbaum, of blessed memory, who established the Hilda Vallin Feigenbaum Lecture Series in perpetuity as a living memorial to their mother's spirit."

#### About the Guest Speaker

Dean's campaign for the presidency and subsequent four years as DNC chair provided him with both an insider's view and a reformer's commitment to the economy, foreign trade policy, and international relations. His stewardship of the Democratic Party began in 2005 and continued through the inauguration of President Barack Obama in 2009.

Dean currently serves on the Board of the National Democratic Institute, a democracy building organization chaired by former Secretary of State Madeline Albright. He has extensive experience in Southeastern Europe including in Ukraine, Moldova, and the Balkans. He also has an extensive knowledge of Iraqi and Iranian affairs, and has spent time in China and Myanmar as a result of his National Democratic Institute



Howard Dean

activities. He has been active in anti-human trafficking efforts in Asia and in the United States.

After achieving national prominence in his bid for the Democratic nomination for president, Dean founded Democracy for America. Since 2004, Democracy for America has grown to over a million members who work at the grassroots level to elect fiscally responsible and socially progressive candidates to all levels of government.

#### About the Hilda Vallin Feigenbaum Lecture Series

The Hilda Vallin Feigenbaum Memorial Foundation enhances the spiritual and intellectual life of Temple Anshe Amunim and the larger community. The Foundation has sponsored lectures by leaders in American government, literature, theology, and journalism including such personalities as Julian Bond, Representative Barney Frank, Isaac Bashevis Singer, Bernard Kalb, Stephen Roberts, Steven Emerson, Mara Liasson, and Ambassador Martin Indyk.

Refreshments will be served after the lecture.

Seating will be limited and early arrival is recommended. The doors may close before the lecture begins.

For more information, please call the Temple office: (413) 442-5910 or visit the website at www.ansheamunim.org. Temple Anshe Amunim is an accessible building located at 26 Broad Street in Pittsfield.

**Homebound  
or recovering  
from an illness  
or injury?**

Let us help you arrange for Kosher Meals on Wheels, to be delivered to your home. Call the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires at (413) 442-4360, ext 10. We are here to help!

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

Tuesday kosher lunches resume on September 6

Tuesday kosher lunch, which is not served during August, will resume at Kneset Israel on Tuesday, September 6. Lunch will be also served on Mondays and Thursdays in conjunction with the Connecting With Community series.



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# Connecting with Community

## Nourish Your Body, Mind, and Soul!

Enjoy an educational program followed by a delicious kosher hot lunch!

Programs take place Mondays and Thursdays at 10:45 a.m. Lunch is served Mondays and Thursdays at noon through the summer months.

Venue: Congregation Kneset Israel, 16 Colt Rd, Pittsfield, MA.

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!

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.

### AUGUST

**Monday, 8** ..... 10:45 a.m., "Julius Rosenwald: How One Man Effected Change" with Laura Ferber-Hazen. **Lunch: Oriental tuna salad platters, borscht and potato, rolls, watermelon, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.**

**Thursday, 11** ..... 10:45 a.m., "Refugee Resettlement, Exploring an Ethic of Hospitality" with Deirdre Griffin, Director of New American Programs at Jewish Family Service of Western MA. **Lunch: Greek salad platters\*\*, chef's choice of juice, Italian bread, tropical fruit salad, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.**

**Monday, 15** ..... 10:45 a.m., Shakespeare and Co. actor, Jonathan Epstein, on *The Merchant of Venice* and his role as Shylock. **Lunch: Turkey tenders chef's way\*\*\*, salad, mixed vegetables, rice pilaf, whole wheat bread, applesauce, and tea.**

**Thursday, 18** ..... 10:45 a.m., "Halachah, Sex, Lies, and Darwin" with Sigmund Tobias, PhD, clinical psychologist. **Lunch: Fresh fish\*\*, borscht and potato, salad, rice pilaf, summer vegetable medley, whole wheat bread, raspberry pillow cookies, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.**

**Monday, 22** ..... 10:45 a.m., "Questioning Return – a reading" with author Beth Kissileff. **Lunch: Salisbury steak\*\*\*, gazpacho, mashed potatoes, peas & carrots, potato bread, applesauce, and tea.**

**Thursday, 25** ..... 10:45 a.m., Annette Miller on her role in Shakespeare and Co.'s *Sotto Voce*. **Lunch: Grilled cheese and tomato, pineapple juice, cucumber slices and tomatoes, coleslaw, multi-grain bread, pudding, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.**

**Monday, 29** ..... 10:45 a.m., "The Process of Aging" with therapist, Maggie Bittman. **Lunch: Roasted chicken, salad, potatoes O'Brien, broccoli cuts, Challah, peaches, and tea.**

### SEPTEMBER

**Thursday, 1** ..... 10:45 a.m., "Where Have All the Small Stores Gone?" with Leonard Quart. **Lunch: Hot dogs\*\*\*, tomato juice, vegetarian beans, coleslaw, potato salad,**

**potato chips, hot dog rolls, dessert TBA, and tea.**

**Monday, 5** ..... Closed for Labor Day

**Tuesday, 6** ..... **Fish sticks, vegetable soup, sweet potato fries, peas, salad, Farmer's loaf, strawberry shortcake, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.**

**Thursday, 8** ..... 10:45 a.m., "Hiding Horst, a play reading" with Laura Ferber-Hazen. **Lunch: Macaroni and cheese, apple juice, green beans, stewed tomatoes, pumpernickel bread, melon coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.**

**Monday, 12** ..... 10:45 a.m., "Jewish Humor: An Antidote for the Harsh World of Reality" with educator, writer and raconteur, Dick Macht, PhD. **Lunch: Meat loaf\*\*\*, salad, mixed beans, roasted potatoes, rye bread, fruit cocktail, and tea.**

**Tuesday, 13** ..... **Sweet and sour chicken, egg drop soup, rice, Oriental vegetables, potato salad, pineapple, and tea.**

**Thursday, 15** ..... 10:45 a.m., "Our Wise and Intelligent Bodies" with Jewish Federation of the Berkshires' Social Worker, Francine Licata. **Lunch: Chef's choice of pizza, juice, beets, salad, pudding, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.**

**Monday, 19** ..... 10:45 a.m., "The Process of Aging" with therapist, Maggie Bittman. **Lunch: Spaghetti and meat sauce#, noodle soup, green beans, Italian bread, mandarin oranges, and tea.**

**Tuesday, 20** ..... **Turkey piccata\*\*\*, salad, rice pilaf, mixed vegetables, multi-grain bread, apricots, and tea.**

**Thursday, 22** ..... Frederikke Borge speaks about her Father, Victor Borge. **Lunch: Fresh fish\*\*, mushroom soup, asparagus cuts n tips, noodle kugel, rolls, ice cream and cookies, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.**

**Monday, 26** ..... Program to be Announced. **Lunch: Meat loaf, minestrone soup, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots, rye bread, grapes, and tea.**

Homebound or recovering from an illness or injury?

Let us help you arrange for a kosher lunch to be delivered through our Kosher Meals on Wheels Program. Call (413) 442-4360, ext 17



## OBITUARIES

### Philip Cohen, 86, ardent classical pianist

PITTSFIELD – Philip Cohen, 86, died on Sunday, July 3 at home after a brief battle with lung cancer.

Born to the late Pauline and Harris Cohen, he grew up in Brooklyn, NY. He attended local schools, graduating from James Madison High School in 1948. He earned his BA from New York University in 1951 and MS (Chemistry) from the University of Michigan in 1952.

Mr. Cohen began his career as a research chemist for DuPont in Wilmington, DE. He later was founder and president of Premier Vacuum Process Corp. in Queens, NY. After selling this business 21 years later, he became vice president and general manager of Bee Chemical Co. in Fairfield, NJ. He later founded and was president of Webtronics, Inc. of Fairfield, manufacturers of plastic film slitting, coating, and laminating equipment.

An ardent classical pianist, Mr. Cohen loved playing chamber music with his friends in the Berkshires and at the Northampton Community Music Center, where he was also a member of the Piano Connection group which he dearly loved. He was an enthusiastic tennis player for most of his life, and in recent years, delighted in biking the Ashu-willticook Trail up to Adams and back. He loved to ski in Aspen, while Lilianna worked as a volunteer in the thrift shop and at the local hospital. They spent every winter for the past 30 years in Aspen, where they made many dear friends in the town for which they had much affection.

Mr. and Mrs. Cohen were 20 year Tanglewood volunteers and were recognized for their many years of service by the Boston Symphony Associa-

tion of Volunteers. They also attended almost every concert each summer.

Mr. Cohen is survived by his beloved wife of 36 years, Lilianna; four daughters, Martha Stine, Amy Cohen, Susan Hirsch, and Patricia Putney; his ex-wife, Harriet Newman Cohen; nine grandchildren; his sister Norma Barasch; two nieces; two stepsons Robert and Andrew Romano, and four step-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his grandson Benjamin Ziegelbaum. At Mr. Cohen's request, there were no services or calling hours. A private family gathering will be held at a later date. Memorial donations may be made to HospiceCare in the Berkshires, Inc.

The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires mourns the passing of Dr. Stanley R. Sacon, 74, of Hingham on Friday, July 15. Dr. Sacon was the husband of 53 years to Carol Bloom and the father of Federation Board member Jennifer Sacon, her husband Scott Hochfelder, and treasured "Biggie" to his grandchildren Noah, Alexandra, and Ely. Funeral services were held at Congregation Sha'aray Shalom, Hingham on Monday, July 18. Burial followed at Or Emet Cemetery, West Roxbury. Contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 417005, Boston, MA 02241-7005.

### Dr. Raymond G. Colby, 97, dedicated, caring and highly respected physician

PITTSFIELD – Dr. Raymond G. Colby, 97, died peacefully at his home on Wednesday, June 15.

Born in New York City on October 25, 1918, he was the son of Phillip Colby and Sadie Sherman Colby. Dr. Colby was a 1935 graduate of DeWitt Clinton High School in the Bronx, NY and earned his undergraduate degree from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD in 1939. In 1943, he graduated from New York Medical College, completing his internship and residency in Surgery at Morrisania City Hospital, Bronx.

Dr. Colby proudly served his country during World War II as a Captain in the U.S. Army, where he was an Officer in Charge of officer surgery at the 250th Station Hospital in Regensburg, Germany.

Following his honorable discharge from the military, Dr. Colby moved to Pittsfield with the encouragement of his brother, Ira Colby, who had moved there the previous year to set up his dental practice. Dr. Colby was a dedicated, caring and highly respected physician and surgeon for forty years, retiring in 1987.

He was a member of the American Medical Association, International College of Surgeons, and the Berkshire District Medical Society, of which he was a past president.

Dr. Colby was an instrument-rated private pilot who also performed pilot flight physicals; he flew his own plane for 26 years. World travel was one of his greatest pleasures; he and his wife toured extensively, visiting every continent with the exception of Antarctica. In addition, he was an accomplished photographer, documenting each trip with numerous pictures that he shared with family and friends.

An enthusiastic hobbyist, he spent many hours constructing model airplanes, cars, and miniature buildings for his beloved G-scale train

collection. He also enjoyed golf and bridge. He was frequently seen walking around the neighborhood and in town hand in hand with his wife.

Dr. Colby is survived by his beloved wife of 72 years, the former Irene Fay Berger, as well as two proud daughters and their spouses, Jill and Donald Shulman of Boston and Ellen and Joseph Fabino of Pittsfield. He also leaves five grandchildren residing in MA: Robert Fabino and his wife Jaye of Methuen; Amy Fabino Michael and her husband Stephen Michael of Acton; Christopher Fabino and his wife Heidi of Lenox; Alex Shulman of Brookline; and Lydia Shulman of Stockbridge. He also leaves three great-grandchildren.

At Dr. and Mrs. Colby's request, there will be no services. A gathering in celebration of Dr. Colby's life will be announced in the near future. In lieu of flowers, friends may make memorial donations to Berkshire Medical Center or to an organization of their choosing, in care of Devanny-Condran Funeral Home, 40 Maplewood Avenue, Pittsfield, MA 01201.

### Marilyn Margolis, 71, long term community organizer & union activist

DALTON – Marilyn Margolis, 71, died suddenly at home on Tuesday, June 21.

Born in Bronx, NY, she was a graduate of Flushing High School, Hunter College, and CW Post University's Graduate School of Library and Information Science. Her career included work as a home economics teacher in Massapequa, NY, as head of Children's Services for the West Hempstead Public Library, and as a library media specialist in the public schools. Her last position, prior to retirement, was for six years in the Hewl-

ett Woodmere Public Schools.

A long term community organizer and union activist, Mrs. Margolis served as treasurer of a 500 member teacher union and as a negotiator for the Maritime Workers' Union. She was the sole plaintiff in a successful lawsuit to prohibit Nassau County, NY's efforts to obtain personal financial and health information from civil service employees and their spouses.

For two consecutive years, she chaired the Freeport Historical Tour Committee, which sponsored tours of historic homes and former residences of stage and screen personalities that included Broderick Crawford, Leo Carrillo, Victor Moore, and Joan Bennett.

For close to ten years, Mrs. Margolis facilitated discussions at the monthly meetings of the Temple Anshe Amunim book club. She also served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Temple.

Mrs. Margolis is survived by her husband Michael; sons David and Joshua; daughters-in-law Sabine and Jennifer; grandchildren Ethan, Jakob, and Sophie; step-grandchildren Emma and Grace Holland. She is also survived by her two sisters Helene and Sandra Benedick.

Funeral services were held Monday, June 27 at Temple Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield, MA with Rabbi Joshua L Breindel, Spiritual Leader, officiating. Burial followed at Pittsfield Cemetery, Temple Anshe Amunim Section. Memorial Donations may be made to Temple Anshe Amunim or Planned Parenthood in care of the Flynn & Dagnoli-Bencivenga Funeral Home, 5 Elm St., Pittsfield, MA 01201

The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires extends condolences to Elaine and Lenny Lipton on the passing of Elaine's mother, Marian (née Glazer) Liverman on Friday, June 24 at the age of 102. She was the beloved wife of the late Leonard Liverman. Mrs. Liverman was the cherished grandmother of Mark and Cindy Lipton, Karen and Spencer Newman, Peter Lipton, and delighted great-grandmother of Ella and Joshua Lipton and Halle and Colby Newman. Funeral services and burial were held on Monday, June 27 in Montreal. Contributions in her memory may be made to the Elaine and Lenny Lipton Music Endowment Fund at Congregation Kneset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield, MA 01201 or to a fund of the donor's choice.

### 49TH ANNUAL

## HILDA VALLIN FEIGENBAUM

MEMORIAL FOUNDATION LECTURE

SUNDAY – AUGUST 28, 2016 – 7:30 PM



## Election 2016: Which Path Will America Choose?

with Guest Speaker

## Howard Dean

Former Governor of Vermont, Architect of the 50-State Strategy for Election Campaigns, former Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, and Founder of Democracy for America.

Sponsored by

### The Hilda Vallin Feigenbaum Lecture Endowment

The lecture is free and open to the public. A reception follows the lecture.

Limited seating – arrive early. The doors may close before the lecture begins.

Temple Anshe Amunim is an accessible building.

Temple Anshe Amunim – 26 Broad Street – Pittsfield, MA – 413-442-5910

**Donate  
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Make a  
Difference**

# 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](http://www.jewishberkshires.com).

**New England Holocaust Institute & Museum** – Artifacts from the collection of founder Darrell English are now on view at the Adams Free Library, 92 Park Street, Adams, telephone (413) 743-8345. Mr. English remains available to bring selections from his collection of Holocaust artifacts to presentations for organizations, schools, and private functions. To schedule offsite presentations, call Ed Udel at (413) 446-8409.

**Monthly** – Ruthie’s Lunch Bunch meets at Congregation Beth Israel, or a local restaurant. Call for details. Congregation Beth Israel, 53 Lois Street, North Adams. Information: (413) 663-5830.

**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](mailto:office@cbiweb.org).

**Monthly** – One Monday a month (date varies according to length of book), the CBI Book Discussion Group meets at Congregation Beth Israel at 7 a.m. Check the CBI Newsletter for current books and schedule. Information: Chaim Bronstein at (917) 609-6732.

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

**Sundays, 10:30 a.m. (every seven weeks)** – Congregation Ahavath Sholom’s “Bagels and Brainstorms.” Contact Guy Pancer, [GPancer2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:GPancer2@sbcglobal.net) or (860) 435-2821 for topic and location.

**Tuesdays, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.** – Torah Portion of the Week study group at Congregation Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield. Facilitator Myrna Hammerling

guides the group through the triennial cycle, year-round in the K.I. 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 1 p.m.** – “Beginner Hebrew” Learn to speak Hebrew from a native Israeli with Esther Benari-Altmann at Temple Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield. Open to the community at large. Registration, full information: (413) 442-5910, extension 12, or [eba@ansheamunim.org](mailto:eba@ansheamunim.org).

**Wednesdays, from 10 to 11:30 a.m.** – optional meditation 11:30 a.m. to noon – “Yoga @ KI” with instructor Jane Rosen at Congregation Knesset Israel social hall, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield. \$5 per class for Knesset Israel members; \$10 for non-members. Open to the public. Information: Jane Rosen at (413) 464-0173 or [janerosen@berkshire.rr.com](mailto:janerosen@berkshire.rr.com).

**Wednesdays, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.** – Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Road, Great Barrington, offers “an hour of morning stillness” with Nina Lipkowitz, a certified Kripalu Yoga Teacher. Donation of \$10 is asked for from non-members. Information: (413) 528-6378.

**Wednesdays at 6:15 p.m.** – “Conversational Hebrew”. Practice speaking Hebrew with native Israeli Esther Benari-Altmann, Temple Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield. Open to the community at large. Information and registration: (413) 442-5910 ext. 12 or [eba@ansheamunim.org](mailto:eba@ansheamunim.org).

**Thursdays, 10:45-noon.** – Congregation Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Rd, Pittsfield. The Book of Deuteronomy. Rabbi Weiner guides conversations about the book in its historical context. Discussions touch on comparisons to other parts of the Torah and scripture, underlying philosophical issues and spiritual implications. Full information and schedule: (413) 445-4872, ext 10.

**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](mailto:rozlk@yahoo.com).

**Thursdays at 6:15 p.m.** – “Intermediate Hebrew,” with Esther Benari-Altmann. Teens and adults join together for lively study of Modern Hebrew with an expert instructor. Temple Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield. Open to the community at large. Information and registration: (413) 442-5910, ext. 12 or [eba@ansheamunim.org](mailto:eba@ansheamunim.org).

**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](http://www.jewishberkshires.com).

**Fridays, at 9 a.m.** – Meditation with Rabbi Rachel Barenblat in the Congregation 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](http://www.cbiweb.org).

**Fridays, last of the month** – The Berkshire Hills Hadassah Summer Book Club discusses books with a Jewish theme. All Hadassah members — and those wishing to become members — are welcome to join. For more information on time and location, please contact Carol Goodman Kaufman at [c Kaufman@hadassah.org](mailto:c Kaufman@hadassah.org).

**Fridays, once a month at 5:30 p.m. (followed by a family style Shabbat dinner at 6:30 p.m.)** – Congregation Knesset 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 max-

imum. Dinner reservations are due by the Monday before services. Full information: (413) 445-4872, ext 10.

**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](mailto:templeoffice@ansheamunim.org).

## Congregation Knesset Israel 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield

### 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

August 5 ..... 7:48 p.m.  
August 12 ..... 7:39 p.m.  
August 19 ..... 7:28 p.m.  
August 26 ..... 7:17 p.m.  
September 2 ..... 7:05 p.m.  
September 9 ..... 6:53 p.m.  
September 16 ..... 6:41 p.m.

See “Berkshire Jewish Congregations and Organizations” on page 12 for information on all regularly scheduled services in the area. Contact a congregation directly if you wish to arrange an unscheduled minyan.

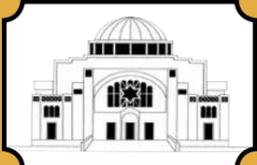
[www.jewishberkshires.org](http://www.jewishberkshires.org)

## Affiliate with a Congregation.

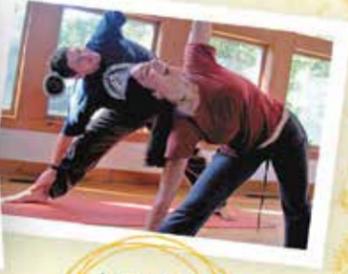
You, the congregation, and the Jewish community benefit when you do.

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- YOU RECONNECT with your community and your Jewish roots.
- YOU CAN PARTICIPATE in a variety of services, classes, and programs that keep Judaism alive and flourishing in Berkshire County.
- THE CONGREGATION IS THE INSTITUTION that has sustained the Jewish people for two millenia throughout the world. Orthodox, Conservative, Reconstructionist, or Reform, the Jewish community wins when you join the congregation of your choice.

The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires encourages you to affiliate.



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## BERKSHIRE JEWISH VOICES

### Traveling with Jewish Taste

#### *Blessing and Peace and Acts of Loving Kindness and Sand in Your Shoes*

By Carol Goodman Kaufman



The sun was blazing as we hiked up the short but surprisingly steep Synagogue Hill to the St. Thomas Synagogue, located right in the heart of downtown Charlotte Amalie on Crystal Gade (Dutch for street). When we arrived, we were rewarded with a brisk and cooling breeze, and we stood for a while gazing out at the beautiful view of the town on the sea.

Leafing through the guest book, I saw names of people I knew from all over. Of course, I thought, Jews will visit synagogues, particularly if they are located in exotic places and have histories that differ from the kinds with which we are familiar.

The St. Thomas Synagogue is indeed different from those we frequent here in New England. Officially known by the very long Bera-chah V'shalom Vegimult Hasadim Synagogue (Blessing and Peace and Acts of Loving Kindness), it is a National Historic Landmark and claims to be the oldest shul in continuous use under the American flag and the second-oldest in the Western Hemisphere (after Newport, Rhode Island's Touro).

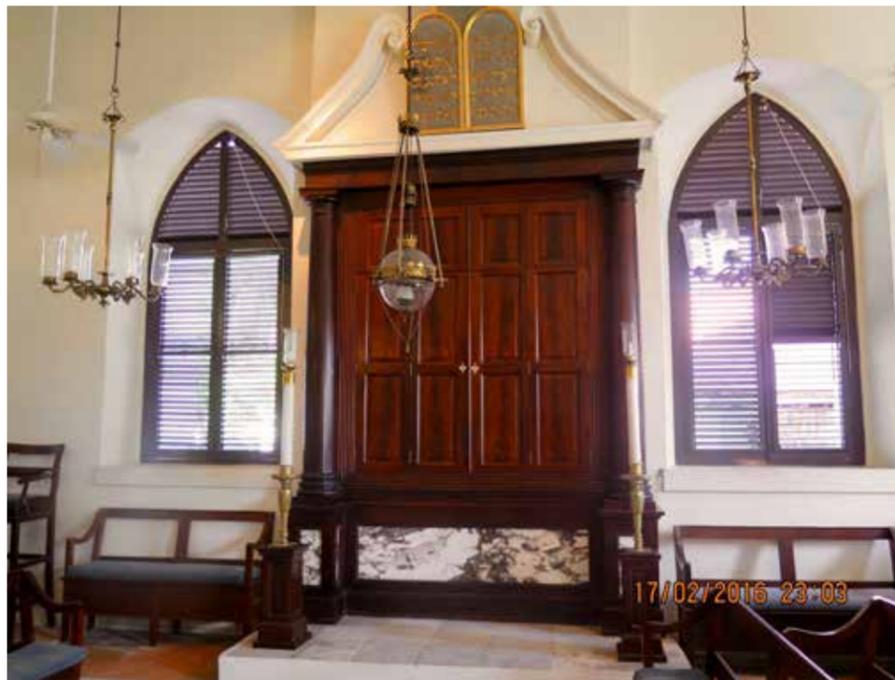
Sephardic Jews, most fleeing the torments of the Inquisition, came to settle in the Caribbean as early as the 18<sup>th</sup> century and established trade between Old and New Worlds. The National Park Service cites Danish colonial records that refer to Jews as Portuguese from Brazil. These Jews founded their congregation in 1796, and then built their synagogue in 1833.

A second distinguishing feature of the St. Thomas Synagogue is its sand floor. According to the Israeli newspaper Haaretz, there are only five sand floor synagogues in the entire world, and all differ slightly. The one in St. Thomas, for example, has a wooden base, while the one in Kingston has one of brick. While several stories circulate as to the origin of the sand floor custom, most scholars agree that because the founders were all of Sephardic ancestry, they had had to adopt a method of practicing their religion out of the prying eyes – and ears – of neighbors who would be only too willing to turn them into the authorities. A sand floor muffled the sounds of prayer. The practice in Europe became a tradition in the Caribbean.

Although the St. Thomas Synagogue is affiliated with the Reform Movement, the synagogue is structured like a traditional Sephardic space, with its benches facing one another rather than forward. These benches, the ark, and the bimah are all made of mahogany, a wood native to the Americas and probably not seen in Europe that early. Adorning the sanctuary is an 11<sup>th</sup>-century menorah brought from Spain, and Dutch chandeliers. Most interesting from a feminist perspective are the four pillars representing Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah. The matriarchs' presence made me wonder if the *ushpizin* visiting the islands at Sukkot might include women as well.

The congregation may be small – about 70 families – but is active. Between Shabbat services and dinners, study sessions, and participation in the Jewish film festival, things are hopping. Several dozen b'nai mitzvah and weddings from the States also take place each year at the historic synagogue.

If you happen to be in the U.S. Virgin Islands and aren't beach-goers, the St. Thomas Synagogue is a worthwhile place to spend time.



The ark



The view



The sand floor

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](http://carolgoodmankaufman.com) and to follow her on Twitter @goodmankaufman.

#### Caribbean Spiced Sweet Potatoes

##### Serves four

For a real taste of the islands, try this twist on sweet potatoes that combines sweet and savory.

##### Ingredients:

4 cups sweet potatoes, peeled and diced  
 1 cup sweet onion, peeled and sliced thin  
 1 medium pineapple, cored and diced  
 ¼ cup balsamic vinegar  
 ¼ cup olive oil  
 1 teaspoon sea salt  
 ¼ teaspoon black pepper, ground  
 ¼ teaspoon fresh rosemary, chopped

##### Directions:

Preheat oven to 450 degrees.

Line a rimmed pan with foil.

Put potatoes, onions, and pineapple in a plastic bag.

Drizzle oil and balsamic vinegar over all and shake it until all pieces are well coated.

Pour out bag contents into the pan, ensuring they are in a single layer.

Sprinkle rosemary, salt and pepper evenly and toss once more.

Roast for 40-50 minutes or until potatoes start to brown, turning occasionally.

CULTURE AND ARTS

With *Sotto Voce*, Actress Annette Miller Makes a Soft Voice Heard

LENOX – “Virtual” is the word Annette Miller returns to over again as she talks about *Sotto Voce*, a drama by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Nilo Cruz that opens August 26 at Shakespeare & Company.

The actress plays Bernadette Kahn, a famous German novelist in her 80s living as a recluse in New York. Bernadette lives in memory of her great love, who was a Jewish passenger on the ill-fated MS St. Louis, the “Voyage of the Damned” ship that in 1939 was turned away from North American ports and forced to return to Europe. Her lover Ariel Strauss, like nearly one-fourth of the ship’s passengers, died in a concentration camp.

Bernadette is contacted by Saquiel Rafaeli, a young Jewish student from Cuba in the midst of a research project about the St. Louis, which carried a family member of his own who also perished. Having unearthed a cache of love letters exchanged by Bernadette and Ariel, the student tries to meet the aging author. She refuses to meet him in person, however, and this is where the “virtual” part of things is manifest – the dramatic narrative consists largely of texts of emails they exchange and a telephone conversation.

Says Miller: “It’s a story of

buried memory, of the loss of love and youthful innocence, of helplessness at not being able to turn the tide of history.” Bernadette has lived a “virtual” life for years, and though she and Saquiel never meet, their virtual relationship develops into “a marriage of souls through history and literature. They unite through imagination.”

Given that the protagonists (there is one additional character on stage, Bernadette’s Colombian maid) cannot interact directly, the words of playwright Nilo Cruz must drive the play. Cruz apparently succeeds. Writes Cristine Dolan of the Miami Herald of an earlier production: “The poetry of Cruz’s writing is what those who love his work cite most often about his style, and *Sotto Voce* has that. Yet it also contains passages that are realistic, whimsical, sensual and heartbreaking. Cruz may be that rarity, a poet of the stage, but he is first and foremost a dramatist.”

Director Daniel Gidron, who was in the early stages of rehearsal with Miller at the time of these interviews, says that the play was, in a certain sense, “about not touching.” Live theater may seem like an unlikely medium through which to explore a virtual world, but that, Gidron says,

is his challenge as a director. Though the characters communicate by email and telephone, Cruz has written in his stage directions that no electronics can appear on stage. Gidron says that forces audience members “to use their power of imagination, as well,” in experiencing the play.

Miller saw *Sotto Voce* during its original run in New York City, and brought it to Shakespeare & Company for a well-received staged reading last summer. The only other staging of the play was a brief run in Miami, and so this production will introduce *Sotto Voce* to a wider range of theatergoers and critics. Miller knows she has the opportunity to put her stamp on the role of the reclusive Bernadette Kahn. “Her soul came through to me immediately,” says Miller of her attraction to the character. “Maybe I felt her tragedy. But then I had to find her voice. And then I started doing work on what it’s like to be a recluse, to understand why one doesn’t go out of the house. And then, what happens to a person after they decide not to go out of the house anymore?”

Despite being a fictional work much about memory and virtual communication, *Sotto Voce* “is a strong play about a reality,” says Miller. “The story of the St. Louis – that hap-

pened.” Moreover, she asserts, “look at the world today. Look at the ships being turned away right now, at the walls being put up.”

Director Gidron says that Nilo Cruz, a Cuban-American immigrant who is not Jewish, very consciously draws parallels between the past and the present. “The play is very universal because it is so specific,” he explains. Refugees fleeing by sea and then being denied passage to freedom and safety is a repeated historical reality – not only the St. Louis, but also boats carrying Jews to Israel after World War II, the Vietnamese boat people in the 1970s, and the refugees from the Middle East dying in the Mediterranean Sea today. “Cruz being a Cuban has a lot to do with his attitude toward refugees,” says Gidron. “He understands what it’s like not being able to communicate with those left behind. Each of the three characters is displaced” and constrained in their movements. The student Saquiel will have to go back to Cuba. Bernadette’s Colombian maid is undocumented, and cannot return home from the US. And Bernadette is denied passage to the place to which she is most attached, the past.

Annette Miller and Daniel Gidron have forged a successful partnership over the



years, working together on *Golda’s Balcony*, *Full Gallop*, and *Master Class*, all dramas centered around strong female characters. Nilo Cruz’s Bernadette Kahn is the latest in that line. “A role like this is important,” says Miller, “because it shows a woman of substance still contributing to the world. *Sotto Voce* is about making a soft voice heard. That’s how I look at it.”

*Sotto Voce* will be at Shakespeare & Company’s Elayne Bernstein Theatre from August 26 to September 11 (previews begin August 18). For more information and tickets, visit [www.shakespeare.org](http://www.shakespeare.org) or call (413) 637-3353.

See page 9 for details about the August 25 Connecting With Community program with Annette.



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## FOOD AND DRINK

### The New Jewish Cookbooks

By Carol Goodman Kaufman

Like the folks in River City, Iowa, I love getting packages. Who doesn't? And while the Wells Fargo wagon doesn't come down the street to me, the U.S. Postal Service certainly does and it has brought a couple of new cookbooks right to my doorstep. Consequently, we have been eating (mostly) well as I explored their pages and tested out some recipes.

Let's start with Laura Frankel's *Jewish Cooking for All Seasons: Fresh, Flavorful Kosher Recipes for Holidays and Every Day*. What I like about this book is that it is organized by season. While today we can get any fruit and any vegetable at any time from any place in the world, there's nothing like a sun-warmed tomato picked right from the vine, as opposed to the pale and hard version found in the February supermarket.

Indeed, after a long, cold and dreary winter, I look forward to three sure signs of spring in my backyard: the crocus, the red-breasted robin, and asparagus. When asparagus is in season, I tend to go a bit overboard in trying new recipes for the delicate green spears.

A light and lemony way to start a spring meal is Frankel's Asparagus Soup. I do think it is a little too thin and light on flavor and would recommend adding more shallots for flavor, and less broth in order to achieve some texture.

The recipe calls for transferring the ingredients to a blender and then returning the puree to the stockpot. I may sound like a broken record (remember those?), but I would encourage you to invest in an immersion blender. The cost is low and the convenience is great.

OMG is all I can say about Frankel's Herb-Roasted Chicken With Quinoa-Mushroom Pilaf. While the recipe is a bit of a patchke, it is so well worth it. Fresh herbs, wine, citrus juices and zests combine to make a scrumptious roast chicken. It was so good that Joel mopped up the drippings with his challah.

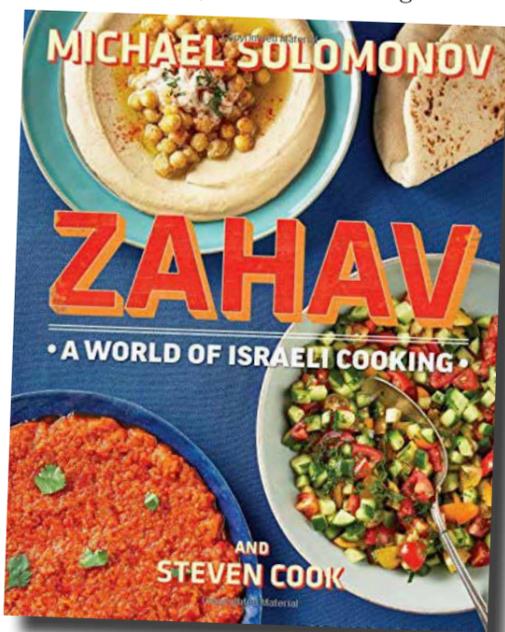
The image of meringue clouds floating in a sea of frothy pink in Floating Islands with Strawberry Fruit Soup was enticing, so I couldn't wait to try it. While the soup was tasty, the instructions should have been vetted for clarity. After macerating the berries to draw out the juice, was I supposed to put all the sugar and juices into the blender with the berries? Not clear. Next, when I poured the pureed berries into the sieve, as instructed, the mixture did not strain through. I ended up using the unstrained puree. And, who has quarter-cup of champagne lying around? I used a mix of cranberry juice and seltzer, which did give the soup a nice bit of fizz.

One last complaint: the book wouldn't stay open. Note to publishers: we shouldn't have to place heavy weights on a cookbook just to stay on the page.

Next up was Michael Solomonov's *Zahav*, a fabulously illustrated book with great background on the recipes and on his life. I first learned of the chef when we tried (unsuccessfully) to get reservations

at his Philadelphia eatery. I then happened on an interview with him, in which he recalled falling in love with Yemenite Beef Soup when he first came to Israel as a child. When I got a review copy of the cookbook, I immediately set out to make that soup, and can certainly understand why he fell so hard. The house smelled like a Friday afternoon in Jerusalem due to the potent hawaiij, a Middle Eastern spice mixture that gives the soup its oomph, and the flavor was divine.

A real patchke, this dish took three days to prepare, but it was worth it. On Day #1 I prepared the broth. Day #2 called for preparing hilleh, a mixture of fenugreek and



water used to thicken the soup; and dredging the beef in hawaiij. (Solomonov's recipe for the hawaiij is not only simpler, but more flavorful and much less aggressive than that in Ottolenghi's *Jerusalem*.) Finally, on Day #3 I put it all together.

I served the soup with warm Lachuch, a fragrant Yemenite bread seasoned with fenugreek. Made with both yeast and baking soda, it was bubbly and spongy, with a texture similar to that of Ethiopian injera.

The Freekeh with Chicken and Almonds was not as flavorful as I would have liked, perhaps because I used olive oil rather than the called-for schmaltz. (Who knew? Cholesterol be damned, schmaltz is the new "it" food!) I was happy to find that *Zahav*'s recipe for my beloved bourekas is easy, although you do have to leave plenty of time for the non-active phases. Solomonov offers three options for fillings; I chose a savory combination of mushroom, onion and garlic. Make sure to drain the liquid from the vegetables before spooning onto the pastry circles. Otherwise, you will have soggy bourekas.

The recipe for Chicken Albondigas came to Israel with Solomonov's grandmother via Bulgaria, where the family lived after fleeing the Spanish Inquisition. These absolutely delicious little balls of ground chicken are mixed with garlic, onion, sliced almonds, and celery and graced with a nice dose of cinnamon and smoked paprika. I set the albondigas atop a bed of rice and poured over the whole his tomato sauce redolent of coriander, onion, and garlic. Definitely a keeper, and made even more attractive by being easy to prepare.

#### Herb-Roasted Chicken With Quinoa-Mushroom Pilaf

The combination of savory and citrus make this recipe a real winner. If you can't find a whole chicken, a cut-up one will do just fine. Simply adjust the times.

##### Ingredients:

2 whole chickens, about 4 pounds each  
 ½ cup fresh flat leaf parsley-chopped  
 3 tablespoons fresh thyme-chopped  
 1 tablespoon fresh rosemary-chopped  
 1 tablespoon chives-chopped  
 Juice and zest of 1 lemon  
 Juice and zest of 1 orange  
 ¼ cup extra virgin olive oil  
 Salt and pepper

##### For the quinoa:

2 cups quinoa  
 1 shallot-peeled and diced  
 2 cups fresh mushrooms, sliced (use Shiitake, Cremini, button or your favorite)  
 2 tablespoons lemon juice  
 ½ cup pine-nuts, toasted  
 extra virgin olive oil

##### Directions:

Preheat the oven to 450. Rinse the chickens thoroughly. Pat dry and place on a roasting rack.

Place all the remaining ingredients in a small bowl and whisk together.

Use your hands to thoroughly rub the chickens inside the cavity and out with the herb mixture. Tuck the wings under the body of the chicken and tie the legs together if you wish (this will help keep the shape a little nicer).

Roast the chickens for 20 minutes at high heat.

Turn down the oven temperature to 200 and slow roast until a thermometer inserted into the thigh registers 160 (occasionally brushing on more of the herb mixture).

Remove from the oven and cover the chickens loosely with foil. Allow the chickens to rest before carving.

To carve the chickens: Cut down the center along the breast bone on both sides. Remove the breast bone. Pull the chicken apart slightly to expose the back bone. Cut along both sides of the back bone and remove it. Cut the birds into quarters and place on a serving platter.

Rinse the quinoa under water for several minutes, rubbing the grains together to remove the slightly "soapy" film.

Place the quinoa in a medium saucepan and add 4 cups of water. Cook the quinoa over medium heat until it is tender (about 20 minutes).

Drain any excess water and lightly drizzle with extra virgin olive oil. Sauté the shallot and mushroom until lightly browned. Add to the quinoa with remaining ingredients.

Salt and pepper to taste.

### A Blog That Mixes the Perfect Drink for Every Torah Portion

Q: Why don't Jews drink?

A: It interferes with their suffering.

That's the myth, in any case, but the delightful mixology blog Tippling Through the Torah seems destined to explode it. "In every portion, there's a drink just waiting to be discovered," is one of its mottos.

Apparently so. Writes Jewniverse's Tamar Fox:

"Amateur bartender and Kiddush Club devotee at Congregation Rodfei Zedek in Hyde Park, Chicago, Andrea Frazier started the blog in October 2015, on a dare from the rabbi. Each week the Kiddush Club reads the Torah portion and picks a few key themes or passages to help her create a new drink. For the end of the Ten Plagues (Parashat Bo) a Dark and Stormy. For Lot's Wife turning into a Pillar of Salt (Vayera) a drink called the Pillar of Salt, which combines coconut water, tequila, lime juice, Bacos, and a salt rim. Frazier and the Kiddush Club even do drinks for Jewish holidays, including an alcoholic Sed-



All the fixings for a Red Heifer

er plate, and two different drinks for Purim, the Golden Scepter, and Vashti's Tuchis.

"The cocktails are fantastic and really creative, but the best part is Frazier's funny and irreverent Torah commentary. ("So Pharaoh's heart was still hard, and G-d decided to re-enact a pivotal episode of *Little House On The Prairie*.") She's like Rashi, if he had access to really great liquor (which, as a vintner, maybe he did)."

In the weeks leading up to our publication date, Frazier pondered the bewildering rituals laid out in Parshat Hukat, "that all of the Sages, who presumably were not under the influence...were completely confused by," while sharing

her creation "The Red Heifer," concocted from Aperol [an aperitif], rhubarb simple syrup, cranberry juice, and pale ale. Her commentary about Parsahat Balak, about Balaam and his donkey, is hilarious, and completely inappropriate for a family publication (as is Rashi's commentary, at least according to Frazier's Kiddush Club compatriots).

So *l'Chaim*. As Tippling Through the Torah aims to prove, according to another of its mottos: "Sometimes, tradition can only be explained with a glass of something delicious."

Tippling Through the Torah is at: <https://tipplingthroughthetorah.wordpress.com/>.

Jewniverse is at [thejewniverse.com](http://thejewniverse.com).

## FOOD AND DRINK

# It's not a bird – it's SuperMeat: Israeli startup aims to grow meat without the animal

By Andrew Tobin

TEL AVIV (JTA) – The founders of an Israeli food tech startup want you to enjoy your meat without the guilt – in fact, without the animal.

SuperMeat, which launched in December and began an online crowdfunding campaign in July, is developing a method for bioengineering “cultured meat” from animal cells. Its tagline: “Real meat, without harming animals.”

Imagine a chicken breast without the chicken, developed in a machine from cells taken from a living bird and cultured in a nutrient-rich stock.

The company has won notice in Israel with slick marketing, celebrity endorsements, and news coverage. But the increased awareness has raised tough questions for two highly principled groups of Israeli eaters: Kashrut observers and vegans.

SuperMeat's co-founder and co-CEO, Koby Barak, himself a longtime vegan and animal rights activist, said his company's cultured meat will be both kosher and vegan-friendly, and he has the supporters to prove it.

“I have spoken to about 10 rabbis and I don't see any problem. It will be kosher,” Barak told JTA. “The vast majority of the vegan-vegetarian movement is very supportive, and we thank them for really supporting us.”

Among rabbis and vegan activists, though, the debate over exactly what to make of SuperMeat, and cultured meat in general, is far from resolved.

SuperMeat is not the first cultured meat company, but it is the first to focus on chicken. Others have already produced beef, and at least one is working on pork. Mark Post, who made headlines with the first cultured hamburger in 2013, told JTA he hopes to be the first to get his product, recently branded Mosa Meat, to market – in four to five years.

What SuperMeat thinks makes it unique is its patented technology, which is being developed by a company co-founder and its head of research, Yaa-kov Nahmias, a biomedical engineer at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Production is to work like this: Cells will be harmlessly taken from a chicken and put into a special machine that simulates the bird's biology, allowing them to self-assemble into meat.

Barak said the process could revolutionize how the world eats, striking a major blow against environmental degradation, animal suffering and global health pandemics. Other meats could be made using more or less the same process, he said.

The Indiegogo fundraising goal is \$100,000, which Barak hopes will demonstrate consumer interest to investors, from whom it will need to raise millions more.

Science aside, SuperMeat certainly stands out for its marketing. Between the videos of actors and models on the company's Facebook page are taped testimonials by haredi Orthodox and religious Zionist rabbis.

Dov Lior, the chief rabbi of Hebron and Kiryat Arba in the West Bank, and Yuval Cherlow, a Ranaana rabbi who helped found the religious Zionist rabbinical group Tzohar, argue on video that SuperMeat will be parve. They say animal cells don't count as meat and that SuperMeat's process anyway transforms the cells into an entirely new substance. Based on similar logic, they say, gelatin derived from pigs is kosher – a position with which many other Orthodox rabbis disagree.

“Here, from the beginning it's not considered meat because it's a microscopic thing.... And even if it were really meat, because it changed its form, a ‘new face has arrived here’ and it's not considered meat, and it's clearly *parve*,” said Lior, using a Talmudic expression meaning that something that had previously been forbidden is no longer forbidden because of changing circumstances.

On the other hand Yisrael Rosen, head of the Zomet Institute, which works to reconcile Orthodox Jewish law and technology, says SuperMeat is meat and suggests it will need rabbinic supervision.

Cherlow told JTA he expects haredi Orthodox and religious Zionist rabbis

to be divided on this issue. He said that's partly because religious Zionists are willing to consider extralegal factors, like the welfare of the planet, more than haredi Orthodox rabbis would. Israel's Chief Rabbinate will err on the side of the haredim, Cherlow predicted.

“The Rabbinate is trying to include everyone, so therefore it will go to the more extreme opinions,” he said. “But I think when there is a big need, I think most of the rabbis will say you should” accept the more lenient position.

Asked if cultured pork would be kosher, Cherlow said: “Emotionally it's more difficult. But logically it's the same answer.”

The New York-based Orthodox Union has yet to take a position on cultured meat. (The group doesn't recognize pig gelatin as kosher.) But Rabbi Moshe Elefant, the chief operating officer of the OU's kashrut department, suggested the product sounded a lot like meat. He also confirmed that the OU's position would be based solely on Jewish law.

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Chickens, such as this featherless variety created at the Rehovot Agronomy Institute near Tel Aviv, would be spared under a bioengineering method being developed by the Israeli food tech startup SuperMeat.



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WORLD NEWS

# 13 Insects and Other Strange Organisms Named After Jews

By Gabe Friedman / JTA

The Cleveland Museum of Natural History last spring announced that a newly identified species of praying mantis was named after Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Researchers from the museum said they meant to honor the Jewish justice's "relentless fight for gender equality."

It makes sense. *Ilomantis ginsburgae* is the first mantis classified by distinct qualities in its female reproductive parts, rather than its male ones. Plus, the bug has a neck plate that resembled Ginsburg's trademark ruffled collars.

As it happens, Ginsburg is far from the first Jewish celebrity to be so honored. Here are 13 more of the world's most Jewish insects and organisms, preceded by their namesakes.

**Lou Reed — *Loureedia* (spider)** This species is classified among a rare group of "velvet spiders" and lives underground — so it's only natural that it bears the name of the late Velvet Underground frontman. Israel is one of the few countries in the world where the species is found.



*Loureedia*

**Joey Ramone — *Mackenzieurus joeyi* (trilobite)** Since 1997, this extinct marine arthropod (an invertebrate creature with an exoskeleton and antennae) from the Silurian geological period has been named after the late punk icon (née Jeffrey Ross Hyman). The other, non-Jewish members of The Ramones have their own trilobite namesakes as well.

**Andrew Garfield — *Pritha garfieldi* (spider)** This one is a no-brainer. The Jewish actor starred as Spider-Man in two films released in 2012 and 2014. And yes, Tobey Maguire, who played Spider-Man in a series before Garfield did, also has a spider species named after him.



*Pritha garfieldi*

**Karl Marx — *Marxella, Marxiana* (wasps)** The German-Jewish philosopher and economist (whose maternal grandfather was a rabbi) has a pair of wasps named for him. No word on the wasps' feelings about the division of labor in their nests.

**Steven Spielberg — *Coloborhynchus spielbergi* (pterosaur)** The *Jurassic Park* director has a real-life dinosaur — a pterosaur found in Brazil — named after him.

**Harry Houdini — *Houdinia flexilissima* (moth)** This moth is described as one of the thinnest in the Lepidoptera (moth and butterfly) family, and it burrows so deep inside the plant it feeds off of that it seems to disappear. Sound like a magic trick?

**Noam Chomsky — *Megachile chomskyi* (bee)** (See page 1.) Some forget that the far-left political theorist was first a linguistics professor — which may be the reason this long-tongued bee species was named after him.

**Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel — *Avalanchurus simoni, Avalanchurus garfunkeli* (trilobites)** Other musicians who have *Avalanchurus trilobites* named for them include John Lennon and Ringo Starr.

**Jon Stewart — *Aleiodes stewarti* (wasp)** Researchers didn't explain why this specific wasp was named after the former Daily Show host. But Stewart was known to make the occasional WASP joke.

**Carole King — *Anacroperia carole* (stonefly)** The legendary songwriter's dedication to environmental causes inspired Mississippi College professor Bill Stark to name one of the 390 or so stoneflies he classified after her.

**L.L. Zamenhof — *Zamenhofella* (wasp)** Eccentric American taxonomist Alexandre Girault named this wasp after the Polish-Lithuanian inventor who created Esperanto, the world's most successful constructed language, because he liked him. You need a better reason?

**Sigmund Freud — *Cyclocephala freudi, Lepithrix freudi* (beetles)** In 1897, the pioneering psychologist wrote about a patient who had an anxiety-inducing experience with scarab beetle as a child and associated a variety of feelings with the bug. But what really motivated researchers to name this beetle after him is anyone's guess.

ALL PHOTOS: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS EXCEPT AS NOTED



*Aleiodes stewarti*



*Coloborhynchus spielbergi*

PHOTO: ZOOKEYS

## NOT A BIRD, continued from page 27

"We of course are very concerned about the environment, but our first consideration is always halachah," he told JTA.

SuperMeat's concerns are more in line with those of vegans and animal activists. After all, much of the company's staff comes from that world. Like Barak, SuperMeat co-founder and co-CEO Ido Savir has been a vegan and animal rights activist for nearly two decades. Both men left jobs in Israel's high-tech industry to join the company and focus full time on the cause of cultured meat.

These deep roots in Israel's surging vegan and animal rights movement give SuperMeat street cred. Enthusiastic supporters include the vegan activist and restaurateur Ori Shavit and leaders of the Israel-based advocacy groups The Vegan North and 269.

"I'm a great admirer of the dedication of the people

behind the project," said 269 founder Sasha Boojor, who is known for having used a hot iron to brand himself with his movement's numbers during a 2012 animal rights protest in Tel Aviv. "Of course it would be best if people decided to stop eating animals all together, but it's not the reality we're facing right now. And this research can address the suffering of hundreds of billions of animals who are suffering each year for no reason at all."

Boojor added: "If people eat cultured meat, I have no problem at all. I don't have a problem eating it myself."

But other activists caution against being seduced by SuperMeat.

"SuperMeat is not the change of mindset that we are working on," said Sharbel Balloutine, the founder of an Arab-Israeli group called The Vegan Human, which works with Jews to promote veganism and animal rights. "We are

working on compassion. We are working on justice. And that's what really attracts me to my vegan activism."

Anonymous, another Israeli activist group, sent JTA a statement saying: "We wish SuperMeat best of luck with the research, we welcome any initiative that can help animals. However, we must remember that as consumers, we don't need to wait for a scientific breakthrough in order to save animals. ... There is no nutritional need for meat."

Nahmias, the scientific brain behind SuperMeat and a rare omnivore on staff, told JTA his work is motivated by his love of schnitzel, an Israeli staple that he said is becoming increasingly unsafe to eat.

"As a kid, I was eating what my mother and my grandmother were cooking. And I want my kids to be able to eat the same kind of schnitzel," he said. "That's the reason that I do this."

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