The Things He Carried
A Jewish combat veteran’s return to Vietnam

Bob Waldheim was raised in Hinsdale and attended high school in Pittsfield. Two weeks after graduation, he enlisted in the Marine Corps with six other friends from Hinsdale and Dalton. They all signed up for the two-year active and four-year reserve duty in order to complete a six-year obligation, and departed for boot camp at Parris Island, SC. In May 1967, he was sent to Vietnam and served with the second platoon of Kilo Company, the Third Battalion, Ninth Marines in Dong Ha on the DMZ.

WALDHEIM, continued on page 12

A Song of Ascents
Rabbi Barbara Cohen, newly ordained, continues a career of spiritual service in the Jewish Berkshires

According to Rabbi Barbara Cohen, the secret to the successes she has experienced is her ability to recognize opportunities, and “to feel the confidence and willingness to fail. I’m able to identify an opportunity for growth for myself while offering to help the community.”

For the past 13 years, Rabbi Cohen served, without rabbinic ordination, as spiritual leader of Congregation Ahavath Sholom, a Reconstructionist congregation in Great Barrington. It was a good, enduring fit for her, and her congregants were quite satisfied with her leadership. “The congregation never asked for it,” says Rabbi Cohen.

RABBI COHEN, continued on page 13

Thanks Again for Your Support!
Hundreds turn out for annual meeting, Israel Update, and Major Donors celebration

Thank you to everyone who attended three of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires’ most important annual events – our annual meeting at the Seven Hills Inn, our summer Israel update, and the Major Donors celebration at the Pittsfield Country Club. Hundreds of enthusiastic supporters packed these events, showing support for our work building and sustaining Jewish community in this beautiful part of the world. For more on these events, please see pages 16-20.
In My View

Metrics and Intangibles Both Part of the “Federation Marathon”

By Dara Kaufman

As the busy Berkshire summer draws to a close, I have two thoughts on my mind – preparing for my daughter’s bat mitzvah and successfully completing what I fondly refer to sometimes as the “Federation Marathon.”

In case you’re a runner and getting excited about a new Federation event, I have to admit that it’s not an actual race. However, as summer comes to a close and the High Holy Days approach, we are in fact closing in on an awesome and inspiring accomplishment.

Beginning in April with preparations for our 2018 campaign kickoff on Super Sunday, we have been working all summer long to help us meet this goal. To date we have raised more than 80% of this vital funding. We may be over the hump but there is still a long and winding road ahead.

Last year, we implemented a systematic tracking of metrics to help us better understand the scope of the many local programs and services we provide. I don’t want to bore you with lots of numbers, but a few in particular stood out to me. Over a 12-month period, Federation produced more than 140 community programs and events, engaging more than 10,500 attendees of all ages. For a small Federation like ours, this is an impressive reach.

As the Jewish year draws to a close and we begin our personal “accounting,” Federation also begins a process of reflection and evaluation. While tracking the numbers (programs, attendees, website visitors) is important, it is the stories and service that engage thousands of community members and help strengthen and care for our beloved community, as well as for our brothers and sisters in Israel and overseas.

I recently returned from my trip to Israel and I wanted to thank all of you for helping to make this trip financially possible for me! It was an incredible moment to watch this connection and community in action as the “Federation Marathon.”

As the shofar blows and the Book of Life is opened, let us recognize the tremendous power we have to make a difference in our own lives and in the lives of others.

The marathon is not over. We cannot rest just yet. The 2018 Annual Campaign continues until December 31. If you have not yet made your contribution, please take this moment to do so. There is still more work to be done.

As we approach the new year, Omer, Maya, and Yom Kippur join me in wishing you Shanah Tovah, a sweet New Year. May we all be blessed with peace, health, happiness, and prosperity in the coming year.

Dara Kaufman is executive director of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires.

Young Judaism

Experiencing Community in Action on a Federation-supported Israel Experience

By Alexandra Hochfelder

I recently returned from my trip to Israel and I wanted to thank all of you for helping to make this trip financially possible for me.

My experience in Israel exceeded my expectations. Practically from the moment I stepped off the plane in Tel Aviv, I felt a connection to Israel. I could not wrap my head around the fact that I was actually in Israel. It was all so surreal to me. I had spent so much time in Hebrew school learning about all the wonderful places, and I had never really imagined how incredible it would actually be to be there.

I have never before entered a new place and felt so at home. I had this strong sense throughout my entire visit that I was meant to be there. Being immersed in all the culture and history gave me this insane sense of purpose. It may sound clichéd, but this feeling was so remarkable to me and was one that I had never really felt before.

And it is no coincidence that the first time I felt this way was surrounded by other Jewish teens searching for that same connection and sense of belonging. In addition, the staff on the trip was absolutely incredible. It was evident that every single one of them believed strongly in learning about and being proud of one’s Jewish identity.

I think that the most rewarding part of the trip for me was my visit to the Kotel. I had heard stories of people having emotional experiences at the Western Wall, but I did not anticipate that I would be one of those people. However, the moment I approached the Wall, I was completely overcome by emotion. I could not believe that I was touching the same wall that has been standing for so many centuries.

Seeing all the notes nestled so tightly into the wall actually brought me to tears. As I put in my note, I felt this intense connection to the Wall and to all those who had placed in notes before me. I was shocked by just how many notes there were there. I couldn’t help but think about all the stories and wishes and struggles held in the notes. I was thinking about how touching it is that for years and years, people have come and placed their notes in the Wall.

There were women all around me who were clutching their Siddurim and praying. Many of them were in tears as well. I had this epiphany about the sheer power of spiritual connection. I did not know of any of the women around me, and many of them did not even speak the same language, but we all shared this same connection.

The twinkling of hundreds of memorial lights as we stood together in prayer with members of our local Catholic community, remembering the Jews murdered in the Holocaust, and recognizing the courage of the righteous Italians at our Yom HaShoah remembrance this past spring.

The grateful smile of a community member reaching out, with a shaky hand, to receive a meal from our Meals on Wheels delivery volunteers.

The swell of hundreds of voices rejoicing in the words “Salam, dûnî ve’al kol hâlam” (Peace, upon us and upon the whole world) at our recent Shabbat Across the Berkshires.

The light in the eyes of a fragile Holocaust survivor when receiving a care package from a Federation-supported JDC aid worker bringing warm blankets and food supplies in Odessa, Ukraine, this past winter.

The laughter of kids, arm in arm with their forever friends, around the campfire Havdallah service at Jewish overnight camp this summer.

The comment, “Is everything okay? I haven’t seen you at lunch lately,” recent- ly overheard at our Connecting With Community kosher lunch program.

The awe of a college student as she touches the ancient wall of the Kotel while reciting a silent prayer during a Birthright trip to Israel.

These are the moments that stay with us. These are the moments when we are proud to be part of something important, something real, and something holy.

As the Jewish year draws to a close and we begin our personal “accounting,” Federation also begins a process of reflection and evaluation. While tracking the numbers (programs, attendees, website visitors) is important, it is the stories and service that engage thousands of community members and help strengthen and care for our beloved community, as well as for our brothers and sisters in Israel and overseas.

To date we have raised more than $800,000 needed to fulfill our mission each year. At the same time, as a functional Federation, our staff and volunteers are busy delivering hundreds of programs, meals, and services that engage thousands of community members and help strengthen and care for our beloved community.

As the Jewish year draws to a close and the High Holy Days approach, we are in fact closing in on an awesome and inspiring accomplishment. It was evident that every staff member on the trip was absolutely incredible. It was evident that every Federation like ours, this is an impressive reach!

As the shofar blows and the Book of Life is opened, let us recognize the tremendous power we have to make a difference in our own lives and in the lives of others.

The marathon is not over. We cannot rest just yet. The 2018 Annual Campaign continues until December 31. If you have not yet made your contribution, please take this moment to do so. There is still more work to be done.

As we approach the new year, Omer, Maya, and Yom Kippur join me in wishing you Shanah Tovah, a sweet New Year. May we all be blessed with peace, health, happiness, and prosperity in the coming year.

Alexandra Hochfelder is a junior at Lenox Memorial Middle & High School. Her Federation-supported Israel trip was with BBYO. For five years, she attended Camp Seneca Lake, and also participated in Ivrit Ta’泽l. She is an assistant preschool teacher at Knesset Israel’s Hebrew School during the school year.
Among the most iconic pieces of liturgy from Rosh Hashanah is Uhetneheh Tokeif. I wrestle with imagery of this prayer—the ledger of deeds, a hand that writes, an imperious yet very personal God. Because its literal meaning seems so consonant to me, I find myself returning to this ancient, inseparable prayer with questions and doubts. This year, one letter ou can in this prayer has caught my imagination. This small ou points to a big and important Jewish idea. Exploring the three sections of the prayer—the beginning, the end, and the ou that links them—will help us understand.

The first part of the prayer, before the ou, brings us face to face with our own powerlessness. At the beginning of the paragraph we sing the refrain: On Yom Kippur it is sealed. Then the cantor continues: Who shall live and who shall die, in a timely manner and who before their time... who by fire and who by water... who shall be brought low and who shall be exalted. I choose not to read this passage literally, instead as poetry. I hear the prayer asserting that the consequences of things that happened and decisions we made in previous years will live on into the new year. Perhaps I have already made my own bed, or perhaps others or circumstances have made my bed for me. All I can do in the face of these consequences is bear them and hope for the best.

The end of the passage, however, differs markedly from its beginning: Repentance (teshuvah), prayer (tefilla), and tzedakah transform the harshness of our destiny. Here the prayer tells me that we are powerful. Our choices matter. We see that this one paragraph introduces two ideas: a thesis that I am powerless in the face of inevitable consequences generated by prior events and decisions, and an antithesis that repentance, prayer, and tzedakah transform the harshness of our destiny. But what is the relationship between these two ideas? Most prayer books add a ‘but’ between the two sections of the prayer, i.e., “I am powerless in the face of determinism. But what is the relationship between these two ideas? Though a reasonable way to render the ou that stands between the two sections of the prayer, that but is a translator’s choice in the face of ambiguity. The translator interpreter has decided that the message of agency is more important than the message of powerlessness.

I see that ou differently—a conjunctive ‘and’ rather than as a disjunctive ‘but’. Under the influence of the philosophers of classical Greece and sages like Hillel and Shammai, the poet presents us with a carefully developed thesis and a synthesis is fundamental to Jewish thought and Jewish living. Observance requires routine and intentionality, even though perfect intentionality precludes routine and perfect routine precludes intentionality. Prayer comes to life when some of the words are fixed and other ideas come straight from the heart. A sustainable world demands justice and compassion. If I am not for myself, who will be for me? If I am only for myself, what am I? People must take responsibility for their own lives and we all must attend to systemic wrongs. I am but dust and ashes and the world was created for my sake. I am Jewish and American. I esteem the scientific method and I believe that God draws every being and all of Creation towards the best possible next step. I have responsibility towards the Jewish people and to the wider world. I am powerless and I am powerful. My task as a Jew and as a human being is to recognize the value of multiple ideas and work towards a meaningful synthesis. No one idea will fit every situation; a synthesis of several ideas just might might help us towards this uncomfortable yet powerful conclusion. Part of what I value most about Judaism is how it avoids simple answers and instead offers us a meaningful synthesis. No one idea will fit every situation; a synthesis of several ideas just might help us towards this uncomfortable yet powerful conclusion.

I am powerful. My task as a Jew and 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 any individual. Signed editorials do not represent the views of the Federation, its board of directors, or the newspaper, but rather express the writer’s view.

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Join “Milton’s Gang” for a Passel of Short Plays

On Thursday, August 30 at 10:45 a.m., director Milton Lestz reassembles his “Milton’s Gang” players for what is certain to be a dramatic morning of short play readings. This free program at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield is part of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires’ Connecting With Community series. “Milton’s Gang” is composed of Alyse and Paul Bernstein, Laura and Tom Gardner, Karel Fisher, Peter Podol, and Diana Feld. The short plays that they will present are: A Walk in the Park, She’s Fabulous, October People, So Tell Me About This Guy, and Measuring Matthews.

Film – Andrzej Wajda’s Korczak (1990)

On Thursday, September 13 at 10:45 a.m., join us for a screening of Andrzej Wajda’s 1990 film Korczak, an account of the last days of life of the legendary Polish/Jewish doctor Henryk Goldszmit, known also as Janusz Korczak. This free program at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield is part of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires’ Connecting With Community series. Janusz Korczak created an orphanage for over 200 homeless Jewish children while implementing his experimental educational methods into practice. He resisted calls to save himself while hoping the Nazis would spare the orphans from the camps, and refused to accept a Swiss passport. He boarded the train to Treblinka with his orphans, and perished there.

We will begin the film at 10:45 a.m., break for lunch at noon and finish the film by 1:45 p.m.

How Habitat for Humanity Helps Our Community

On Thursday, September 27 at 10:45 a.m., we welcome Carolyn Valli, executive director of Central Berkshire Habitat for Humanity, who will talk about the impact her organization has on the local community. This free program at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield is part of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires’ Connecting With Community series. Founded in 1992, Central Berkshire Habitat for Humanity has been providing homeownership opportunities for people that are working hard to provide decent housing for their families for more than 25 years. Over the past 11 years, Carolyn Valli has grown Habitat’s construction capacity, identified, and filled the need for financial stability education in Pittsfield with the “Building for Tomorrow” program, and partnered with Berkshire United Way to administer the VITA program to reach hundreds more people and bring dollars back to the community.

Valli says she embodies the tagline, “I am Habitat.” She says she is a proud ambassador wherever she goes and seeks to build meaningful connections with other Habitat affiliates to share ideas, resources, and best practices. She is skilled at resource development and connecting funding opportunities to growing the organization’s capacity.

Valli also spearheaded the Boston FED Working Cities Challenge grant in 2016 to overcome systemic poverty in Pittsfield, leading the coalition to become one of five municipalities to win a $400,000 multi-year grant.

CELEBRATE A SWEET NEW YEAR!

Family Apple Picking
Sunday, September 16

10 AM
Lakeview Orchards
94 Old Cheshire Rd.
Lanesborough, MA

3 PM
Windy Hill Farm
686 Stockbridge Rd.
St. Barrington MA

Young families, join us for a fun day of apple picking, games, a story, and tasty apple cider and doughnut treats while we explore the holiday of Rosh Hashanah—the Jewish New Year.

FREE! Children of all ages welcome.
RSVP: (413) 442-4360, ext. 14
shlhrn@jewishberkshires.org

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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!
Connecting With Community Programs / Kosher Hot Lunch

Programs in the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires’ Connecting With Community series are free and start at 10:45 a.m. most Mondays and Thursdays at Knesset 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.

Kosher & Knowledge events take place each month on a Friday at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire (270 State Road, Great Barrington). Programs start at 10:45 a.m. and are now free – the buffet lunch that follows the presentation is $11 and must be reserved in advance by calling (413) 442-4360, ext. 10.

For further information on all programs, please call Nancy Maurice Rog- ers, program director, at (413) 442-4360, ext. 15. For lunch menus and a chronological list of all scheduled programs, please see page 27. Note that lunch menus are subject to change. Also note that through the summer months, the Tuesday kosher lunch program at KI will be on hiatus. Tuesday lunches will resume on September 4.

Current Affairs: Contemporary American and International Politics

On Thursday, September 6 at 10:45 a.m., join Professor Steven J. Rubin for “Current Affairs: Contemporary American and International Politics.” This course meets to discuss and explore current issues that influence our lives and society at large. This free program at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield is part of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires’ Connecting With Community series.

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

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

IF YOU GO
Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community
Venue: Knesset Israel
Date & Time: Thursday, September 6 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 27).

The Process of Aging, with Maggie Bittman

On Monday, September 17 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires presents “The Process of Aging” with therapist Maggie Bittman. This free program at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, in Pittsfield, is part of the Federation’s Connecting With Community series.

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

Bittman will highlight how this is a lifelong process, and the ways people return to these existential truths at each stage of life with the added wisdom that comes with aging. Within this context, participants will discuss, share and offer support, as they explore these existential truths.

IF YOU GO
Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community
Venue: Knesset Israel
Date & Time: Monday, September 17 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 27).

Film – My Italian Secret Tells the Story of Forgotten WWII-era Heroes

On Thursday, September 20 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires will screen My Italian Secret, the fascinating story of the clandestine Italian resistance movement that helped save thousands of Jews during the Holocaust. This free program at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, in Pittsfield, is part of the Federation’s Connecting With Community series, and offers a second chance to view the compelling documentary film shown at the last Yom HaShoah remembrance ceremony.

My Italian Secret tells a heroic story that was all but lost to history. The film recounts how during World War II, Tour de France bicycling champion Gino Bartali, physician Giovanni Borromeo, and other Italians worked with high-ranking officials of the Catholic Church, risking their lives by defying the Nazis to save thousands of Italy’s Jews.

Their high risk methods were ingenious. Bartali, at the behest of the Jesuit-ruled University of Florence, crisscrossed Northern Italy while transporting fake identification documents in the frame of his bicycle. (In 2013, Bartali was awarded the title “Righteous Among the Nations” by Yad Vashem.) A prominent physician, Dr. Borromeo, invented a fictitious disease to scare the SS away from the hospital where he was hiding Jews. Others disguised Jewish girls and women as nuns and hid them in convents.

In this epic documentary, living characters return to Italy to reveal their stories, and to thank those who were willing to sacrifice their own lives to save strangers with(out) ever seeking recognition or reward for their courage. Through these witnesses, stories, revisit a time when an entire continent was engulfed in genocide. However, approximately 90% of Jewish people living in Italy, including foreign Jews, survived the Holocaust.

Oscar-nominated director Oren Jacoby resurrects the dramatic story of this secret underground, giving it the attention it so richly deserves. The film draws from a vast archive of rare documentary images that were recorded by Italians, Germans, Americans and British during the war. The film, which was released in 2015, is narrated by Isabella Rossellini with Robert Loggia as the voice of Gino Bartali.

IF YOU GO
Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community
Venue: Knesset Israel
Date & Time: Thursday, September 20 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 27).
Etched in Glass: The Legacy of Steve Ross

The story of a Holocaust survivor who dedicated his life to helping at-risk youth

On Monday, August 27 at 10:45 a.m., we will screen the award-winning documentary film Etched in Glass: The Legacy of Steve Ross. We will be joined by filmmaker Roger Lyons and Daniel E. Levenson, associate regional director at ADL New England, who will share more about Ross, a child from Lodz, Poland, who endured the horrors of ten Nazi concentration camps, and was liberated at Dachau by a US soldier who showed him kindness. He has devoted the rest of his life to counseling at-risk youth, and founded the iconic Jewish Holocaust Memorial in Boston while searching for his liberator.

This free program at Knesset Israel, 10 Cole Road in Pittsfield is part of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires' Connecting With Community series.

The film Etched in Glass: The Legacy of Steve Ross is the compelling, true story of survival, tolerance, and hope timely today, as it focuses on the inspirational story of a Polish immigrant who came to America and thrived against all odds. Ross survived to bear witness to the horror of the Holocaust, and dedicated his life to helping disadvantaged young people for over 40 years. He searched tirelessly for kindness and changed the course of his life, and the lives of thousands of other people. It is a story of hate and hope, adversity and triumph also told in Ross’s powerful new memoir, Prom Broken Glass.

The program will feature filmmaker Roger Lyons, creator of the film, and Daniel Levenson of the ADL, who will discuss ADL’s role and motivation in bringing this story to communities and classrooms. Following the program, copies of Prom Broken Glass will be available for sale.

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community
Venue: Knesset Israel
Date & Time: Monday, August 27 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 27).

An Execution in the Family: A Rosenberg Son’s Journey

Robert Meeropol talks about his parents’ famous case and his own activism at the September 28 Knosh & Knowledge Series.

Great Barrington – On Monday, September 28, Knosh & Knowledge welcomes activist, author, and attorney Robert Meeropol, the son of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, who History.com describes as “a married couple convicted of conspiracy to commit espionage in 1951, [who] were put to death in the electric chair on June 19, 1953. Their dual execution marked the dramatic finale of the most controversial espionage case of the Cold War.”

This Jewish Federation of the Berkshires program will take place at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire at 10:45 a.m. Please note – lunch will not be served following this program. Light refreshments will be available at no cost.

Meeropol was six years old when his parents, Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, were sent to the electric chair in 1953, executed by the U.S. government after one of the most contentious previously secret trials in American history. Hours before their execution, the Rosenbergs wrote to their sons, Robert and Michael, that they died secure in the knowledge that others would carry on after them. The Rosenberg Fund for Children (RFC) – the foundation Robert started in 1990 – is the embodiment of that trust. Organized at six, kicked out of school, and seized by police, it took Robert Meeropol 40 years to transform horrendous childhood circumstances into a positive vision. In the 1970s, he and his brother Michael, successfully sued the FBI and CIA to force the release of 300,000 pages secret documents about their parents.

In this presentation, he will discuss how the public’s understanding of the facts about his parents’ case has evolved as this groundbreaking, previously secret evidence has emerged in recent years, and how that new evidence led to a national campaign asking President Obama to exonerate his mother. Meeropol will also share how his experiences inspired him to start the RFC to help what he characterizes as “today’s children of resistance” – kids whose activist parents have been targeted because of their work to combat racism, protest police brutality, preserve civil liberties, safeguard the environment, wage peace, and organize on behalf of immigrants, workers, prisoners, queer and trans people, and others whose lives are under threat.

About the presenter

Robert Meeropol is the younger son of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg. For over 40 years, he has been a progressive activist, author and public speaker. He graduated and received a graduate and law degrees in Anthropology from the University of Michigan, graduated law school in 1985, and was admitted to the Massachusetts Bar. In 1990, after leaving private practice, Robert founded the Rosenberg Fund for Children and served as its executive director until he retired from that position when his daughter took over the Fund’s leadership in 2013. Robert remains on the RFC’s Board of Directors.

The RFC mission is to serve as “a public foundation that provides for the educational and emotional needs of children in this country whose parents have been harassed, injured, jailed, lost jobs or died in the course of their progressive activities. The Fund also supports youths who have been targeted for their own activism. In its history, the RFC has awarded more than 84.5 million in grants to benefit thousands of children and youth in this country.”

Robert’s memoir, An Execution in the Family, was published by St. Martin’s Press on the 50th anniversary of his parent’s executions. The book details his odyssey from Rosenberg son to political activist and founder of the Rosenberg Fund for Children. His blog, Still Out on a Limb, is at robertmeeropol.com/blog.

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires
Date & Time: Monday, September 28 at 10:45 a.m.
Venue: Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Road, Great Barrington
Cost:Free. Lunch will not be served following this program.
For more information, email federation@jewishberkshires.org, or call (413) 442-4360, ext. 10

About the presenter

Robert Meeropol is the younger son of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg. For over 40 years, he has been a progressive activist, author and public speaker. He graduated and received a graduate and law degrees in Anthropology from the University of Michigan, graduated law school in 1985, and was admitted to the Massachusetts Bar. In 1990, after leaving private practice, Robert founded the Rosenberg Fund for Children and served as its executive director until he retired from that position when his daughter took over the Fund’s leadership in 2013. Robert remains on the RFC’s Board of Directors.

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For more information, email federation@jewishberkshires.org, or call (413) 442-4360, ext. 10
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(413) 528-4211

"Hey. That wasn’t so bad"

Yeah. We get that a lot.
The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires wishes all a happy and healthy 5779

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

The congregational directory with contact information and addresses is on page 29. Services will take place at the locations appearing in the directory, except as noted in the listings that follow. Candle lighting and havdallah times are for Pittsfield and were taken from the Hebcal calendar.

### Services

#### Selichot
- **Sukkot** – Service at 7:30 p.m.
- **Rosh Hashanah 1st Day** – Service at 10:30 a.m. Family service at 9 a.m. Tashlitch/Great Barrington river walk at 4 p.m.

#### Rosh Hashanah 2nd Day – Service at 10:30 a.m.
- **Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre** – Service at 7:30 p.m.
- **Yom Kippur** – Service at 10:30 a.m. Family service at 9 a.m. Spiritual learning at 1:30 p.m. Afternoon service **(with Yizkor)** at 2:45 p.m., followed by break-the-fast that is open to all. Note: Hevreh provides High Holy Day services for all those wishing to attend, but tickets are required for non-members. Please contact Hevreh for more information.

#### Sukkot events
- **Sukkot retreat, September 26-29** (see page 18). Sukkot Shabbat evening service **(with Yizkor)** on Friday, September 28, at 6 p.m.

#### Temple Anshe Amunim
- **Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre** Tuesday, September 18 6:38 p.m.
- **Yom Kippur** Wednesday, September 19 7:44 p.m.
- **Yom Kippur Kol Nidre** Tuesday, September 18 6:38 p.m.
- **Yom Kippur** Wednesday, September 19 7:44 p.m.
- **Yom Kippur Kol Nidre** Tuesday, September 18 6:38 p.m.
- **Yom Kippur** Wednesday, September 19 7:44 p.m.
- **Yom Kippur Kol Nidre** Tuesday, September 18 6:38 p.m.
- **Yom Kippur** Wednesday, September 19 7:44 p.m.

#### Temple Anshe Amunim
- **Rosh Hashanah** – Second Day Tuesday, September 11 7:59 p.m.
- **Rosh Hashanah – First Day** Monday, September 10 8:00 p.m.
- **Rosh Hashanah** – Second Day Tuesday, September 11 7:59 p.m.
- **Rosh Hashanah** – First Day Monday, September 10 8:00 p.m.

#### Temple Anshe Amunim
- **Rosh Hashanah** – First Day Monday, September 10 8:00 p.m.
- **Rosh Hashanah** – Second Day Tuesday, September 11 7:59 p.m.
- **Yom Kippur** Wednesday, September 19 7:44 p.m.
- **Rosh Hashanah** – Second Day Tuesday, September 11 7:59 p.m.
- **Rosh Hashanah** – First Day Monday, September 10 8:00 p.m.
- **Rosh Hashanah** – Second Day Tuesday, September 11 7:59 p.m.
- **Yom Kippur** Wednesday, September 19 7:44 p.m.
- **Rosh Hashanah** – Second Day Tuesday, September 11 7:59 p.m.
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- **Rosh Hashanah** – Second Day Tuesday, September 11 7:59 p.m.
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- **Rosh Hashanah** – First Day Monday, September 10 8:00 p.m.
- **Rosh Hashanah** – Second Day Tuesday, September 11 7:59 p.m.
- **Yom Kippur** Wednesday, September 19 7:44 p.m.
**Knesset Israel**

This Jewish holiday season at Knesset Israel will be celebrated by families and guests with tuneful, lay-led services, along with readings and music, and the spiritual atmosphere of this awe-filled time.

**SERVICES**

- Selichot – Mincha/study session at 7 p.m. Service at approximately 8:30 p.m.
- Erev Rosh Hashanah – Service at 6:15 p.m.
- Rosh Hashanah 1st Day – Service at 8:15 a.m., Torahhöfner at 9:45 a.m. approximately. Family programming 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Babysitting (please RSVP) 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. tashlich at 5:30 p.m. Evening service at 7 p.m.
- Rosh Hashanah 2nd Day – Morning same as Rosh Hashanah 1st Day.
- Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre – Mincha at 6:20 p.m., instrumental Kol Nidre at 6:30 p.m., followed by Kol Nidre and Maariv.
- Yom Kippur – Service at 9 a.m. Torah service and Yizkor after 10:30 a.m. Family programming and services 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Babysitting (please RSVP) 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Avodah experience at 1:30 p.m. Afternoon service at 4:30 p.m. and Ne’illah at 6:15 p.m.
- Erev Sukkot – Service at 6:15 p.m.
- Sukkot Yom Tov – Services ( lulav and etrog) both days at 9:30 a.m. Evening service on Tuesday at 7 p.m.
- Hoshanah Rabba – Morning service at 8 a.m. Evening service at 6:15 p.m.
- Shemini Atzeret – Service (with Yizkor) at 9:30 a.m. Festive dinner at 5:30 p.m. Erev Simchat Torah service, with hakafot, at 6:30 p.m.
- Simchat Torah – Service with hakafot and special ali’iyot at 9:30 a.m.

**Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services**

- **Knesset Israel**
  - 413-885-1633
  - www.tgo.com

**Congregation Ahavath Sholom**

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services take place at Berkshire South Community Center, 15 Crissey Road, Great Barrington.

High Holy Day worship with the Reconstructionist Congregation Ahavath Sholom community is an inclusive experience, with members participating in myriad ways. Congregants deliver d’rash Torah, and help Rabbi Barbara Cohen (see cover story) create an atmosphere of intimacy with each other, the prayers, the music, and the spiritual atmosphere of this awe-filled time.

**SERVICES**

- Erev Rosh Hashanah – Service at 7 p.m.
- Rosh Hashanah 1st Day – Service at 10 a.m., followed by tashlīḥ at 6:15 p.m.
- Rosh Hashanah 2nd Day – Service at 10 a.m.
- Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre – Doors open 6:30 p.m., with Kol Nidre at 7 p.m.

**Chabad of the Berkshires**

Now in its 14th year, Chabad of the Berkshires welcomes all to its friendly traditional services at its Pittsfield location. Co-directors Rabbi Levi and Sara Volovik say membership is not required – “According to Chabad, at the new Year the Doors of Heaven are open – G-d accepts all prayers, from anyone. We open our doors, as well.”

Readings from the machzor (holiday prayer book) will be in Hebrew and English. Chabad asks that all intending to attend please RSVP, so that all can be comfortably accommodated.

**SERVICES**

- Selichot – Service at 9:30 p.m. at the Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker Street in downtown Lenox.
- Erev Rosh Hashanah – Service at 6:30 p.m., followed by traditional dinner at 7 p.m. ($36 per person please RSVP by 92 – $36 adult/$12 under 12).
- Rosh Hashanah 1st Day – Service at 9:30 a.m. Shofar at approximately 11:30 a.m. Inquire for time of tashlīḥ.
- Rosh Hashanah 2nd Day – Same as Rosh Hashanah 1st Day, sans tashlīḥ.
- Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre – Service at 6:30 p.m.
- Yom Kippur – Service at 9:30 a.m. (Yizkor at noon).
- Sukkot Yom Tov – Services both days at 10 a.m.

For Hoshanah Rabba, Shemini Atzeret, and Simchat Torah information, please consult Chabad of the Berkshires’ website.
Genealogy Event — “Life Under the Tsars”

SPRINGFIELD – On Sunday, September 30 at 1 p.m., the Western Massachusetts Jewish Genealogical Society presents “Life Under the Tsars: Registration, Residence and Exit Rostro,” with Alan Shuchat, a retired professor of mathematics at Wellesley College and experienced genealogist.

This event will take place at Springfield Jewish Community Center at 1160 Dickinson Street.

How did our ancestors obtain steamship tickets and travel from their ships to the steamship ports? Records from the Russian empire, which were often registered as citizens of one town but lived in another, what was the system of registration and residence permits under the Tsars and later in the Soviet Union? How were people divided into social estates? How can these records and historical knowledge help us trace our families before they immigrated?

Alan Shuchat will answer these questions. He has researched his family’s history for several decades and traced branches back to the Middle East. Shuchat was a leader in the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Boston, provides access to special interest groups that focus on research in Poland, Ukraine, Lithuania, Belarus and Bessarabia.

The Western Massachusetts Jewish Genealogical Society, based in Northampton, offers lectures and events and, through its sister group, the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston, provides access to special interest groups that focus on research in Poland, Ukraine, Lithuania, Belarus and Bessarabia.

The retreat concludes with a lively, interactive discussion and recharging experience. The retreat will be held at Mithuselah, 391 North Street in Pittsfield. Space is limited; additional dates will be considered.

As Summer Wanes, Hevreh Tackles Death, Dissects the Mid-Term Elections, and Parties Outdoors

GREAT BARRINGTON – As the summer season draws to a close, Hevreh of Southern Berkshire has some special programs in the offing.

Death Over Dinner: Jewish Edition

On Wednesday, August 22 at 7 p.m., Hevreh invites all to an intergenerational meal to consider the end of life in a taboo-free space. “What, to you, is a good death?” Thinking about death and that which we choose to live. We are opening a candid conversation about dying.

The cost is $25. The event will be held at Mithuselah, 391 North Street in Pittsfield. Space is limited; additional dates will be considered.

Hot Shabbat

The summertime is always beautiful in the Berkshires, and what better way to celebrate than with a family friendly Shabbat service at Hevreh? On Friday, August 24 at 6:15 p.m., Hevreh hosts a “ طريق השבת” (Trend Shabbat) in the sanctuary and a picnic dinner outside (BYOB). There will be games, singing, and special summertime treats. “ Хот Shabbat is a wonderful time to come together and embrace summer one more time before the leaves begin to turn.”

Wave or Washout? Our Upcoming Election

On Thursday, August 30 at 4 p.m., Hevreh member Richard Kirsh will present data and analysis about the upcoming mid-term elections, informed by his 40 years of activism and study of history. Mr. Kirsh is the director of Our Story – The Hub for American Narratives. A former fellow at the Roosevelt Institute, he led the national coalition campaign to enact the Affordable Care Act.

Issues to be addressed at this free event include: “Around the country, Democrats have been winning in districts long-held by Republicans. What is behind this wave? What are the issues and dynamics moving people? And which people are being moved? What does it say about long-term changes in our culture and politics? And will it end up as a washout, another surprise like the 2016 election?”

Except where noted, events will be at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Road in Great Barrington.

Harvesting Jewish Wisdom
Hevreh to host Sukkot retreat with scholars and song

GREAT BARRINGTON – Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, in partnership with Derekh: A Pathway into Adult Jewish Learning, will host a Sukkot retreat from Wednesday, September 26 through Saturday, September 29.

Derekh (formerly known as Hevreh: A Community of Adult Jewish Learners) is a retreat for adults wanting to broaden their Jewish experience through study, prayer, spiritual renewal, and growth with leading Jewish scholars. Join Hevreh congregants and visiting community members in strengthening their Jewish knowledge through conversational and immersive experience.

The retreat features four days of Jewish learning, celebration, and recharging, exploring the theme “Harvesting Jewish Wisdom.” The faculty includes Cantor Ellen Dreskin, Rabbi David Teutsch, Rabbi Andrea Weiss, Rabbi Joan Glazer, Rabbi Joel Kisch, Rabbi Mendel Hirsch, and Marilyn Price. Participants will study together, pray together, and celebrate Sukkot as a community.

The retreat concludes with a celebration of Shabbat and the time spent together with a presentation of song and story led by Rabbi Deborah Zecher, Rabbi Merrira of Hevreh. All programming will take place at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire. Participants from out of town can stay at inns and hotels in the Great Barrington area.

For more information and to register, visit the Derekh website at www.derekh.net.

David Gergen to Speak at 51st Annual Feigenbaum Lecture at Temple Anshe Amunim

PITTSFIELD – The 51st Annual Hilda Vallin Feigenbaum Memorial Foundation Lecture will be held on Sunday, August 26 at 7:30 p.m. at Temple Anshe Amunim. The speaker will be David Gergen, a senior political analyst for CNN and advisor to four US presidents.

Gergen will be “Eyewitness to Power: Leadership in America.” The lecture, sponsored by the Temple Anshe Amunim Feigenbaum Lecture Endowment, is free and open to the public.

Refreshments will be served after the lecture.

Seating will be limited and early arrival is recommended. 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, at 26 Broadway Street in Pittsfield, is an accessible building.

Rabbi Uri Regev of Hiddush to Speak at Two Local Congregations in October

Rabbi Uri Regev – recently in the news for representing a Conservative rabbi arrested by Israeli police last July for performing an “illegal” wedding – will speak at two local congregations this October.

Also an attorney, Rabbi Regev is director of Hiddush: Freedom of Religion and Equality in Israel. An advocacy group, he will be speaking at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire in Great Barrington on Friday evening, October 26, and lead the 9:30 a.m. Torah study on Shabbat morning, October 27, at Temple Anshe Amunim. The Berkshire Jewish Voice will feature a profile of Rabbi Regev and Hiddush in our upcoming edition.

You may request that the Berkshire Jewish Voice be mailed to your home. Just email us at federation@jewishberkshires.org for information.
Wishing You A Sweet New Year
L’Shana Tova Tikatevu 2018-5779

2/$4
Osem Cake
8.8 oz.
Barnyards or Marble

5/$5
Manischewitz Egg Noodles
22 oz. Select Varieties or Box Tix 7 oz.
When Available

2.99 lb.
Empire Kosher Frozen Whole Turkey
Kosher/Parve Kosher
Frozen Organic Turkey
$1.08 lb.

12.99 lb.
Meal Mart 1st Cut Brisket
Chizer

2.99 lb.
Empire Kosher Roasting Chicken
Kosher/Parve Kosher
2 lb. $3.79

3.99
24 oz.
Challah Bread
Large
$4.99

3.39
Temp Tôe Whipped Cream Cheese
8 oz.

2/$4
Osem Kosher Recipes Secrets Soup & Dip Mix
1.8-2.35 oz.
When Available

2.99
14.1 oz.
Soup & Seasoning Mix
Soup & Dip Mix
Select Varieties

11.99
Meal Mart Stuffed Cabbage
Bratz or 5 oz. wholehead and Matzo Ball Sauce

2.99 with AdvanceEdge
Fresh Macintosh or Empire Apples
New York State
2 1/4" Min.
U.S. #1

$1 off
Manischewitz Gefilte Fish
25 oz. frozen loaf or pre-sliced

2/$6
Lipton or Golden Sautéd Chicken Breasts
52 oz.
Select Varieties

2/$6
Lipton or Manischewitz Nacho Ball & Soup Mix
2 lbs.
Select Varieties

2/$8
Gold's Blistered 6 Pack
12 oz. Select Varieties or Gourmet Pan Ales
10 oz.
Select Varieties

3.99
12 oz.
Soup & Dip Mix
Recipe Secrets
Lipton Kosher
Select Varieties

2.99 with AdvanceEdge
Breakstone's Whipped Butter
8 oz.

2.99 with AdvanceEdge
Welsh's Manischewitz or Redem Grape Juice
64 oz Select Varieties

2/$1
Rokeach Yahrzeit Candle

2/$4
Manischewitz Gelte Fish

5.99
14 oz.
Kedem Sparkling Juice
Select Varieties

2/$5
Kedem Sparkling Juice
Select Varieties

$1 off
Osem Mini Molds
14 oz.
Canister

5.99
14 oz.
Kedem Sparkling Juice

6.99
100 oz.
Kedem Sparkling Juice

$1 off 2
Kedem Sparkling Juice
Select Varieties

FREE
3 Lb.
Select Varieties

FREE
2 Lb. Chicken Breasts $12.99

In-store only. Cannot be combined with any other coupon, offer, deal, customer loyalty program, or special offer. Cannot be used or combined with any other offer. Expires 9/22/2018

Offers effective Sunday, August 12 thru Saturday, September 22, 2018 in all Price Chopper, Market Bistro and Market 32 stores located in CT, MA, NH, NY, PA & VT. Not all items are available in all stores.
have returned – some to revisit the hamlet of their youth, some to confront their demons, some to honor their fallen comrades. Some simply to see how things worked out for the Vietnamese. For many, the most bittersweet thing of all is the reality back can be summed up by an observation made by Richard Parker, a veteran quoted in a story reported by the BBC: “As long as you don’t return, you will remember Vietnam as the country of the war.”

Waldheim says that over the years he has talked to veterans who have made the journey back, and that those veterans, realizing that returning to Vietnam was an individual’s choice, did not really weigh in on whether returning would be a good or bad thing to do. For a long time, he couldn’t imagine going back. “I was buried in shadows of remorse about having gone to Vietnam,” he says. Still, others’ stories offered him “a glimmer of positivity that something good would happen if I did.” Before he decided to go back, he developed four personal reasons for returning that together would address the matters in his mind. Waldheim nearly perished when a shell hit his shoulder – glancing contact that still “felt like a prizefighter’s punch” – and landed a few yards away, fortunately not exploding.

Waldheim was relocated to different locations during his tour of duty, eventually joining a CAG (Civic Action Group) in the town of Lea Noong. As part of a CAG, he and approximately a dozen other Marines and South Vietnamese soldiers were tasked with protecting the local populace and building goodwill. It was, as he remembers, a challenging time for a mission designed to win over Vietnamese hearts and minds. Much of Waldheim’s time in Vietnam coincided with North Vietnam’s military offensive, a coordinated series of attacks on more than a hundred targets designed to break the will of the United States and to turn South Vietnamese civilians against the military presence in their country. It was a period of time that saw some of the most intense fighting in the war, and Waldheim was deeply marked by the brutal and destructive A Shau Valley battlefields he fought on. He says Waldheim to return to Vietnam. And that’s when black spots started to appear.

Waldheim recognized the words of a man he met just months after he ended his tour of duty in 1968, for Waldheim had been stationed at the Marine base in Con Thien, which received extensive barrages of artillery fire, causing numerous casualties on a daily basis. Waldheim nearly perished when a shell hit his shoulder – glancing contact that still “felt like a prizefighter’s punch” – and landed a few yards away, fortunately not exploding. Walheim kept that photograph of a 4-year-old boy wearing it. “He’s doing fine,” says Waldheim. “He has a wife and kids. I saw kids on their bikes and they were saying hello to us. And that’s when black spots started to appear. Life goes on.”

The fourth reason Waldheim had in returning to Vietnam would prove the hardest to realize. While stationed in Let Nong, he bonded with one of the village children. “Every day, we would come out of our compound,” he remembers, “and kids would be there. We figured good will starts with kids, and so we gave them candy and C-ration boxes. Jim-Mie was the most outgoing, the first to run out and hug me.” At some point, Waldheim gave Jim-Mie a military-issue cap, and photographed the smiling 4-year-old boy wearing it. Waldheim kept that photograph for decades, wondering what had happened to Jim-Mie in the war’s long years that followed. After the Waldheims’ initial efforts to locate him proved unsuccessful, they changed their itinerary at the last minute and, along with their interpreter, made one last push to try and find him in Let Nong. Convinced that they had looked in the wrong place, Waldheim tried a village further north, where the terrain, though changed by development, seemed more familiar. There he encountered a woman chewing a betel nut, and showed her the picture. “Jim-Mie! Jim-Mie!” she ran off to find him.

Waldheim recognized Jim-Mie, who acknowledged that he was the person in the photo. “He’s doing fine,” says Waldheim. “He has a wife and two sons.” Over the course of their encounter – Jim-Mie took the Waldheims around the village to the compound, now destroyed, where Bob was based and then had a beer together – “I found out he is a handyman who builds things in wood, concrete, and stone.” I told him I was a handyman, too. “Jim-Mie said that makes strong muscles. He cleared the table and put his arm down to wrestle. I couldn’t budge him.”

When they parted, Jim-Mie and Waldheim hugged and cried. “With that hug,” says Waldheim, “the black spots on my soul were gone. They had been lifted.”


SAM WOLFE PHOTOGRAPHER.
Local News

Rabbi Cohen, continued from page 1

regarding ordination. "They were completely respectful, and I knew it was my role for them." Still, she experi- enced an inner struggle that lasted many years as she won- dered. "Was becoming a rabbi just about the five letters? Was it just about wearing a robe?"

As Rabbi Cohen recounts the evolution of her spiritual life after his time in the Jewish community, it becomes clear that her journey to the rabbinate has been a song of growth, one marked by an open-minded curiosity and exploration of Judaism as a spiritual path, plus a little political intrigue thrown in for good measure.

Barbara Kipnis Cohen grew up in the Conservative movement during the 1950s and 1960s, but found that the halaacha-Judaism that predominated in that era was "not a place for spirituality for me as a young woman." Nevertheless, when she and her husband, Mark, moved to the Berkshires in 1986 and started a family, they joined Pittsfield's Knesset Israel, a Conservative synagogue. "I did not know of any other way to be Jewish," she admits.

By 1988, Cohen was teaching at TAA's religious school, a role she assumed with her son Alex's encouragement. Her abilities as a singer were "opened up a world of deep spirituality," says Cohen.

"I had a willingness to take on those roles. I'm fearless in that when I'm given the opportunity, I believe I can succeed." Rabbi Barbara Cohen from page 1

Cohen began as an Orthodox seminary student, and was led by Rabbi Jacob Axelrod — remembered locally for his deeply traditional adherence to the faith — for 10 years. In the 1980s, the synagogue re-organized and became the Reform Conservative shul, and in 1995, affiliated with the Jewish Reconstructionist movement, now known as Reconstructionist Judaism. Pioneered by Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan in the 1920s through the 1940s, the Reconstructionist movement approaches Judaism as "the evolving civilization of the Jewish people in an ongoing relationship with God," according to the Reconstructionist website. It values halaacha and tradition, but also embraces modernity as expressed in this statement, also from the website: "Reconstructionist communities study our inherited traditions and shape our practices with the assumption that the past has a vote, but not a veto."

For seven years from the mid-1990s through the early 2000s, Congregation Ahavath Sholom relied on student rabbis coming in from the Reconstructionist seminary in Philadelphia to lead services every other week. Although Cohen had no connection to the movement, she assumed the role of spiritual leader within three weeks of being contacted.

"The congregation was happy to be led by," says Cohen. "That's completely consistent with Reconstructionist ideas, which believe in a laity that is intelligent and capable, and in a congregation that is less hierarchical.

"The expectation was that the spiritual leader would perform all the tasks expected of an ordained rabbi, and that's what Cohen did for more than a decade at Ahavath Sholom.

In 2014, however, her perspective changed after Rabbi Deborah Waxman, president of Reconstructionist Judaism, spoke at Ahavath Sholom. "She was so beautifully articulate about Judaism," remembers Cohen, "and how she en- visioned the evolving nature of the Jewish people. She was so inspiring, and it was then that I decided that being ordained as a Reconstructionist rabbi would be meaningful to me."

With characteristic confidence, Cohen applied to and was accepted to the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, located in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania. But by that time, life had presented Cohen with obstacles that even the most determined individuals struggle to overcome. Her husband, Mark, had suffered a long decline from Parkinson's Disease, and Cohen had spent years caring for him; yet, she had raised two sons, one of whom, Alex, has special needs. By 2015, Mark had moved to a nursing home. Cohen said she felt safe being away from home for a week a month in the training of 2017. In October 2017, Cohen lost her husband. 

"My expectation of it being an inspirational and transfor- mational experience was far surpassed by the beauty and magnitude of ordination," she says.

Now that she is a rabbi, Cohen says "nothing has changed and everything has changed." Cohen is still in awe of the wonder of it and hopes she never lose it. "I'm not going anywhere, and I feel like I'm just getting started. I feel new in my role at Ahavath Sholom. It's the wonder of childhood in my soul. Everything is new."

"I used to say I was the luckiest spiritual leader. Now I say I'm the luckiest rabbi."
The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires is committed to ensuring the well-being and continuity of the Jewish people both in our community and beyond. Twice a year volunteers bake, pack, and deliver challot (and honey) before Rosh Hashanah and hamantaschen (shalach manot) before Purim to Jewish seniors who reside at home and in senior residences, to folks in the hospital, and to those with special needs – reaching 300+ individuals in Berkshire County, Southern Vermont, and New York’s Columbia County.

Known as Joe’s Project in memory of the late Joe Madison, who started this program with a group of his hiking buddies, this is a communitywide program engaging 100+ volunteers of all ages. Many of our local kids help decorate the bags which, once filled, are delivered by numerous volunteers, including some of our PJ Library and Federation families. This program is more than just a gift bag delivery; it is a personal visit to someone who may not get many of them. Three ways you can help:

1. Kids – Pick up bags at the Federation, decorate them, and return them to us by August 29.
2. Adults – Pack the bags with challah, honey, and applesauce on Tuesday, September 4 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Federation office.
3. Kids & Adults – Visit the seniors and deliver the holiday packages from September 5 – 7.

For more information, contact Susan Frisch Lehrer, Coordinator of Volunteers and PJ Library, (413) 442-4360, ext. 14 or slehrer@jewishberkshires.org.

Come Pick Rosh Hashanah Apples with PJ Library

Enjoy the New Year! We invite PJ Library Families for some special apple picking on Sunday, September 16 at two locations:

- Lakeview Orchards, 94 Old Cheshire Road in Lanesborough, at 10 a.m.
- Windy Hill Farm, 686 Stockbridge Road (Route 7) Great Barrington, at 3 p.m.

Pick some apples, listen to a story, and enjoy apple cider and donuts together with other young families. FREE to all.

PJ Library is a program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and is offered locally by the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires thanks to generous funding from local donors the Spitz Tuchman Family Fund and the Jewish Women’s Foundation of Berkshire County.

RSVP to Susan Frisch Lehrer at slehrer@jewishberkshires.org or (413) 442-4360, ext. 14

Volunteers are Vital!
Rosh Hashanah Care Packages For Seniors

HELP US MAKE IT A SWEET NEW YEAR THIS ROSH HASHANAH

- **DECORATE** Rosh Hashanah care packages: Families are invited to pick up and decorate bags at home and return to the Federation offices by Wednesday, Aug. 29.
- **PACK** Rosh Hashanah care packages: join us in packing the bags with challot, honey and applesauce on Tuesday, Sept. 4 at 10 a.m.
- **DELIVER** Rosh Hashanah care packages to seniors in assisted living facilities, hospitals, and homebound at your leisure between Sept. 5-7.

SIGN UP TODAY! Contact Susan Frisch Lehrer at (413) 442-4360, ext. 14 slehrer@jewishberkshires.org

The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires’ Tikkun Olam Volunteer (TOV) Network connects community members of all ages with Mitzvah opportunities to make a difference in our community.
SALE EFFECTIVE AUG. 20 THROUGH SEPT. 19, 2018

SALE EFFECTIVE IN OUR GREAT BARRINGTON BIG Y, 700 MAIN STREET, RTE. 7 & OUR LEE BIG Y, 10 PLEASANT ST. LOCATIONS ONLY

meat

Empire Frozen Turkey
3.99 lb

dairy

TempTee Cream Cheese
8 oz
2.99

produce

Gala Apples
1 lb
1.49

frozen

Tabatchnick Soup
14.5 to 15 oz, Assorted Varieties
2 for $4

grocery

Manischewitz Egg Noodles
12 oz, Assorted Varieties
10 for $10

Wolff’s Kasha
13 oz, Assorted Varieties
2 for $5

Lipton Kosher Soup Secrets Soup Mix
Assorted Varieties, 1.9 to 4.09 oz
4 for $5

Gold Borscht
24 oz, Assorted Varieties
2 for $4

seafood

Vita Wild Nova Salmon
3 oz, Previously Frozen
$4

Vita Wild Nova Smoked Salmon
2 oz
1.99

bakery

Fresh Baked Round Challah
16 oz, Plain or Raisin
4.99

Lilly’s Rugalech
8 oz, Chocolate, Cinnamon, Raspberry or Apricot
4.99

TempTee Cream Cheese
8 oz
2.99

Tabatchnick Soup
14.5 to 15 oz, Assorted Varieties
2 for $4

Wolff’s Kasha
13 oz, Assorted Varieties
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24 oz, Assorted Varieties
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FOR SHANA TOVA

SHANA TOVA

ROSH HASHANAH BEGINS SUNSET SEPT. 9, 2018

USE YOUR SILVER SAVINGS CLUB CARD TO SAVE ON ITEMS IN THIS AD

F/or Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur

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Thank You Major Donors!

Our Major Donors celebration at the Pittsfield Country Club on July 15 was an inspiring morning that brought together 200 of our key supporters to celebrate the impact Federation has on the lives of others.

Event co-chair Elaine Roberts spoke eloquently about the importance of supporting Federation in creating and sustaining a strong Jewish community in the Berkshires, where full-time residents, second-homeowners, and visitors all benefit from our programming and services. She and husband/co-chair Bernie have long led by example, and conveyed their enthusiasm for this Federation and all we accomplish together.

Federation Executive Director Dara Kaufman spoke about the impact our partnership with the ADL’s WORLD OF DIFFERENCE® Institute peer training is having on educating young people in the local middle and high schools throughout the Berkshires about bias behaviors.

Sarah Drucker, age 14, shared her experience as a member of the Federation’s B’nai Tzedek Youth Foundation, where she and her peers learned how tzedakah and philanthropy create positive change. She related how she and her classmates solicited grant proposals and allocated $3,000 of Federation funding to local non-profits.

In a moving musical performance of ‘Kol Nidre,’ Israeli cellist Yehuda Hanani reminded us that even in our most sacred moment of atonement, we ask for forgiveness as a community. As Jews, our sense of accountability and responsibility is collective, and Yehuda reminded us that our caring efforts lift our entire community and transform the lives of so many across the Berkshires and around the world.

Thank you again, major donors and Elaine and Bernie Roberts, for all you do!
Thank You Major Donors!
Israel Update

Gil Troy and Alon Tal on Israel’s Excellent Adventure

On July 2, a crowd of more than 200 at Shakespeare & Company’s Bernstein Theater heard Israeli environmentalist Alon Tal and historian Gil Troy weigh in on the “Sustainability of Israel’s Environment and Zionist Ideas.” The speakers at this Federation-sponsored event opened by sharing insights from their particular areas of expertise. Tal spoke about the ideological challenges Israel faces as growth and development redefine the character of the Jewish state and put pressure on the natural resources available to it. Troy talked about the current social and political climate driving Jewish issues both in Israel and the Diaspora, and drew on his latest book, The Zionist Ideas, to illustrate how long-held ideas about Jewish peoplehood and aspirations have evolved in the 70 years since the founding of the Jewish State. Tal and Troy then engaged in a compelling conversation about their ideas, concluding with a lively Q&A session.
Federation Annual Meeting Celebrated a Year of People-to-People Connections

On the perfect late spring evening of June 19, more than 175 community members attended the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires’ 78th annual meeting at the Seven Hills Inn in Lenox. Innkeepers Robin Gerson Wong and Denis Wong graciously hosted this event for the fifth straight year. At the meeting, Robin surprised attendees by announcing the sale of the inn to new owners. All of us at the Federation wish Robin and Denis nothing but happiness as they move on to the next stage of their adventure.

Opening the meeting with a d’var Torah was Rabbi Joshua Breindel, who delivered his last address to the community as spiritual leader of Temple Anshe Amunim before leaving for his new pulpit in Sudbury, MA. Again, happy trails—we’ll miss you, Rabbi Josh.

Federation president Judy Usow shared some observations about how “people-to-people” connections are so critical to sustaining our community and our ability to extend comfort and care when someone is in need.” She cited some of the highlights of our Federation’s outreach over the past year: emergency hurricane relief to hard hit locales; deepening communal ties to Israel’s Afula-Gilboa region that included a visit to the area by local teens; and funds raised to support the Anti-Defamation League’s efforts to combat intolerance both locally and regionally.

In her report, Judy recognized those who have stepped...
ANNUAL MEETING, continued from page 19

up to assume leadership positions on the Federation’s executive board and board of directors. She first thanked outgoing board members Josh Cutler, Len Tab, and Mara Goodman-Davies for their service. Joining the Federation’s board of directors for their first 3-year terms are Ellen Heffan, Norman Michaels, and Ed Udell. Directors starting their second 3-year term are Anne Schneid and Jeffrey Siegel.

At the meeting, the Federation installed Gail Orenstein as its executive board as vice president, and also Jennifer Saxon as secretary; continuing their service as vice-presidents are Joshua Bloom and Stuart Masters, and Amy Lindner-Leeser as past president. Elected to serve additional two-year terms in their current positions Judy Usow as president and Michael Ury as treasurer.

Executive Director Dana Kaufman took the podium to describe another year of community service and achievement for our Federation. “With your loyal support, our 2017 campaign raised over $802,000, our highest level ever,” she said. “This funding has allowed us to increase programming, utilize more community based venues, expand opportunities for our young people, and increase our support of humanitarian and social service programs for the most fragile Jews in need around the world.” Kaufman recounted some of the year’s highlights: Adding 30 new Jewish children to our PJ Library program; family outings throughout Berkshire County; partnering with Eisner Camp to fund local day campers; bringing in the ADL’s A WORLD OF DIFFERENCES® anti-bias training and Peer Training program to local schools; and the newly launched Friendly Visitors Program that connects home-bound elderly seniors with weekly visitors.

Star Students

Judith Cook, the Federation’s scholarship chair, introduced the recipients of the Henry Simkin and Frances Simkin Schiller and Dr. Stanley and Faye Simkin Scholarship, given to Jewish high school seniors who have demonstrated high academic achievement and leadership in the Jewish and broader communities.

This year’s recipients are:

Noah Hochfelder
Obviously not subject to term limits, Noah was re-elected by his classmates as president of the class of 2018 at Lenox Memorial Middle & High School every year since the 7th grade — he also served on the student council and captained the cross country running team. As a board member of the Berkshire District Attorney’s Youth Advisory Board, he worked to develop programs promoting leadership and positive behavior among Berkshire County youth.

At Knesset Israel, he assisted in leading the Junior Congregation, helping younger students learn the prayer service. He also worked for the Berkshire Jewish Voice, writing follow-up stories on past story subjects over the summer of 2017. Noah will be attending Middlebury College next fall, and hopes to study liberal arts.

Miriam Pomerantz
Miriam, an honor student at Deerfield Academy, served as co-president of the school’s Jewish Student Alliance, as well as the Jewish representative on the Student Spiritual Life Council. She also stepped up to host a conversation about hate speech after anti-Semitic graffiti was found on campus. For two months, Miriam studied in Israel as a Genesis Scholar representing Berkshire County at Alexander Muss High School in Israel. She and her family are members of Temple Anshe Amunin.

In the fall, Miriam will be a freshman at Wesleyan University, where she hopes to study government, anthropology, and Israeli/Jewish studies.

Our Partners, the Ethiopian National Project

This year, we received a special update from representatives of the Ethiopian National Project (ENP), which your campaign dollars have supported for decades. We continue to have an impact in helping to bridge the social, economic and cultural gap for the next generation of Ethiopian Jews through our support of their SPACE Scholaristic Assistance program.

Grace Rodnitzki, ENP’s director of International Relations, shared the story of how, as a young woman from Pennsylvania, she found her life’s calling on a visit to Israel after encountering some of the remarkable Jews who made the trek from Ethiopia. She was joined by Fray Belay-Tadela, who was born in Ethiopia, grew up an Israeli, and now works with members of the Ethiopian Jewish community to help them succeed in Israel’s modern economy. Fray’s inspiring story showed us all how this Federation’s contributions have helped shape lives in positive ways.
Traveling with Jewish Taste
Siete Modos de Guisar las Berenjenas?
By Carol Goodman Kaufman

There is no better therapy for the winter-hardened soul than to feel the sun on one’s back and breathe in the perfume of the earth coming back to life. And for me, one of the best parts of summer is getting down into the soil to plant, weed, and then reap the bounty of my vegetable garden. I like to experiment with different varieties of the same veggie and occasionally will try a new one altogether (this year, it’s fingerling potatoes), but every year I plant at least one type of eggplant. (Just FYI, the eggplant is actually a berry.)

The eggplant, with its skin of taut and shiny purple, is a beauty to behold. And, oh, is it versatile. I can certainly understand why medieval Sephardic Jews penned both poetry and songs in its praise. As just one example, “The Song of the Eggplants,” a Portuguese cantiga, or narrative, is probably the only song in any language that is actually a list of recipes.

There are seven different ways to cook eggplant. The first recipe is that of Elena’s grandmother. She cuts it into bite-sized pieces and serves it for supper. And this meal is called a dish of eggplant.

The second kind is that of the shannah’s wife. She hollows it out and fills it with herbs. This meal is called a dish of delma.

The third one who cooks it is my cousin Ester di Chiote. She hollows it out and fills it with rice. They call this dish the almodrote.

The alhurrisa is a tasty recipe both for its color and aroma. Come, let’s make a supper to enjoy together. Before the worm comes and takes the flavor away, the Janrojo always sparkles on the banquet tables. We make little pastries out of it. They shine on the plates. Waiting to be served with hard-boiled eggs. We make little pastries out of it. They shine on the plates. The majoozo salad is rich and tasty. My neighbor makes it with a lot of olive oil.

This dish accompanies left-over hen. For poetry to have been written in homage, the eggplant must truly be special. Whether the familiar shiny, deep purple pear-shaped giant, long and narrow, or grape-sized, and whether purple, white, striped, orange-red or green, the eggplant is delicious and versatile.

There is disagreement surrounding the origins of the eggplant. Some historians believe it came from India, others from Persia, still others from China. Regardless, one of the oldest written references to the eggplant is found in China in the 5th century, when it was recorded on a scroll that ladies of fashion made a black dye from eggplant to stain their teeth that, after polishing, shone like ivory.

Today, we buy tooth whiteners! The eggplant was relatively unknown outside the Far East and Asia until Arab and Persian traders introduced the eggplant to the Middle East in the 7th century, and to Spain and North Africa in the early 8th century.

Chefs of the Ottoman Empire purportedly prepared many eggplant recipes to keep things amorous in the harem. Some of these cooks are said to have boasted up to fifty different recipes each. (A popular Arabic saying holds that a proper bride should know 100 ways to prepare an eggplant.) In great measure due to Turkey’s saturated fat, sodium, and cholesterol, as well as high in vitamins and minerals, it served much as the potato did in Eastern Europe: as a cheap and easy to grow food. And, because it is low in saturated fat, sodium, and cholesterol, as well as high in vitamins and minerals, it kept people alive and healthy.

Today, eggplant is ubiquitous on Israeli restaurant menus, home dinner tables, and mezze platters. Israeli-American historian Gil Troy tells the story of his father, who lived in Palestine in the 1920s. He ate “eggplant for breakfast, eggplant for lunch, and eggplant leftovers for supper.” Once his parents came to the United States, Troy says the fruit was never served in his home.

That old adage of the bride and her 100 recipes? Every Israeli, Arab or Jew, male or female, probably has at least that number.

Almodrote de Berenjena Sefardi

from The Converso Cookbook by Ana M. Gómez-Bravo

Ingredients:
8 garlic cloves, peeled and cut into large chunks, or to taste
1 cup aged manchego cheese, grated or cut into rough small chunks
2 medium eggplants (firm to the touch with shiny dark skins)
1/8 teaspoon salt, or to taste
3 tablespoons olive oil
3 tablespoons chopped cilantro (preferred) or flat-leaf parsley

Instructions:
In a small food processor, chop the cheese and garlic until a thick paste forms. Add one teaspoon of water at a time if the mixture is too dry, but be careful not to make it too runny.

Bring 4 cups of water to a boil.

Dice the eggplants.

Add eggplant to the water and boil for 2 minutes (longer if you prefer a softer texture).

Drain the eggplant in a colander.

While the eggplant drains, heat the oil in a large heavy pan. Avoid using a small pan, as the eggplant will be too crowded and will steam rather than brown.

When the oil begins to smoke slightly, put the eggplant in the pan carefully, as it may splatter.

Over a medium-high fire, stir the eggplant so that it is slightly browned on all sides. This will take just a few minutes. Add more oil if necessary.

Add salt, remembering that the almodrote paste will already be salty from the cheese.

Once the eggplant is lightly browned on all sides, remove from heat and place on a serving platter.

Sprinkle the almodrote paste on top and garnish with cilantro or parsley.

Serve.

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

At the Jewish wedding, no rabbit was eaten nor was fish (butterball) scales as much as the husband could prevent it. Rather, they ate much eggplant and chord with saffron.

Despite its popularity in the East, Northern Europeans weren’t so convinced of the eggplant’s virtues, and it was only seen in Ashkenazi recipes of Hungary and Romania. However, settlers in pre-State Israel in the early 20th century ate lots of eggplant. In fact, because it was so readily available, it served much as the potato did in Eastern Europe: as a cheap and easy to grow food. And, because it is low in saturated fat, sodium, and cholesterol, as well as high in vitamins and minerals, it kept people alive and healthy.

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Married to Jewish Camping
by Avi Dresner / Special to the BJV

My wife, Natasha, and I recently sent our 7-year-old son, Lev, to a two-week session of Jewish overnight camp. Eisner wasn’t right in our Berkshire backyard in Great Barrington, half an hour away from our home in Pittsfield, we probably wouldn’t have done it. And, had we not gotten major financial assistance from the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, Camp Eisner, and our synagogue, Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, we wouldn’t have been able to do it. Fortunately, however, the Jewish stars aligned for us to send him.

And so, on July 1, we found ourselves moving from station to station at Eisner’s Beit Am (literally, “house of the people”) to station at Eisner’s Beit Am, almost like we were moving from station to station at a Jewish summer camp. Without a doubt, Jewish overnight camping has become a chief cornerstone of ensuring the Jewish future. Study after study points to its efficacy as a chief cornerstone of ensuring the Jewish future. And, had we not gotten from our home in Pittsfield, we probably wouldn’t have done it. Fortunately, however, the Jewish stars aligned for us to send him.

In fact, my family, as I know family is living proof of that. Natasha’s choice of husband, my father, Rabbi Israel Dresner (literally, “house of the people”) on opening day. The entire well-organized process reminded me of my induction into the Israel Defense Force, where you go in a civilian, and come out a soldier except, in this case, Lev came out a camper. While we were waiting at one of the stations, I looked around and whispered to him: “Hey, I don’t know if you’ve noticed, but there seem to be a lot of Jews here.” He shot me one of his well-used (with me) exasperated looks, and groaned, “Papa, it’s a Jewish camp!” Of course, this was the main reason and selling point for us, and probably most – if not all – of the other parents, who choose to send their kids to a Jewish summer camp.

Without a doubt, Jewish overnight camping has become a chief cornerstone of ensuring the Jewish future. Study after study points to its efficacy as one of the best predictors and guarantors of Jewish identifica- tion later in life, and my family is living proof of that. In fact, my family, as I know it, would not even exist were it not for Jewish camping. Natasha and I met at a Jewish summer camp in Uzh- gorod, Ukraine in the summer of 1993, the first such camp around the breakup of the Soviet Union. I was accompanying my father, Rabbi Israel Dresner, as an emissary of the Reform movement under the auspices of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, the umbrella movement for Reform Jews throughout the world. My dad was supposed to be a Hebrew teacher at the camp, but got sick soon after our arrival, so I filled in for him. Natasha, who was a counselor in the youth camp, was one of my students. Based on her limited Hebrew vocabulary, I clearly failed her as a teacher, but have tried to make up for it as a husband. Regardless of her Hebrew skills, though, that experience and others like it clearly influenced not only Natasha’s choice of husband, but also her choice of ca- reer. Since 2005, Natasha has been a con- sultant and mentor for the JCamp 180 pro- gram of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, working exclusively with Jewish overnight camps. She helps them do what they do better by mentoring them in strategic planning, governance, board development, fundraising, and more. Everything she does, though, has the ultimate purpose of making the camp experience more mean- ingful and fun for campers like Lev, who are blissfully unaware of all that goes on behind the scenes year round to make those short magical summer weeks possible.

I don’t mean to brag, but we received twelve letters from Lev during his two weeks at camp. Most were short lists of what he did that day, what he ate, and knock-knock jokes. They were all precious, but the one that stands out was this one, which I have edited and condensed for brevity’s sake:

Dear Maama, Papa and Sasha,

Today I ate a hot dog for lunch, I swam in the pool. I played with Elijah. By the way, I got married. By!

It took me and Natasha quite a bit longer – eight years, in fact – to marry after our camp summer. Lev will be fifteen in eight years, so here’s hoping he waits a lot longer, but who knows? It could very well happen that some day he marries someone he met this summer at camp.

In the meantime, Lev and his younger brother, Sasha, are currently attending Eisner Day Camp for three weeks, again with a major financial assist from Federation. So, thank you Federation, and every single one of you who makes scholarships, like the ones Lev and Sasha got, possi- ble. God willing, you will all be at their weddings (hopefully, only one each) whether you’re on the guest list or not!

Avi Dresner is a freelance jour- nalist and author, and co-chair of the Berkshires Jewish Fes- tival of Books. He is currently working on a documentary with his sister, Tamar, about their father, Rabbi Israel Dresner, and his exploits with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the Civil Rights Movement.

Wishing you a sweet new year!

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Special Selections include...

Notte Italiano Prosecco, Italy
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Gabriele Pinot Grigio, Italy
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O’Dwyers Creek Sauvignon Blanc, New Zealand
Golan Cabernet Sauvignon, Galilee
Tishbi Sauvignon Blanc & Reserve Cabernet, Israel
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FREE BOOKS & MUSIC for kids, 6 months – 8 years

Plj Library, a program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, is made possible in the Berkshires through the generous support of

Families in the Berkshires – turn bedtime into a special time for sharing Jewish values and traditions. Sign up to receive free Jewish themed books and CDs sent directly to your home each month.

In addition, enjoy special programs and events with other PJ families throughout the year.

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Berkshire Jewish Voices
August 20 to October 7, 2018

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jewishberkshires.org
A Berkshire Resident’s Journey to Her Childhood Home for Stolpersteine Ceremony

On July 5, Pittsfield’s Lora Tobias returned to her childhood home in Schriesheim, a village near Heidelberg in Germany, to attend a ceremony placing “Stolpersteine” (tripping stones) in front of her former home. A stolperstein (metaphorically a “stumbling block”) is a bronze plate inserted in the sidewalk, 30.0 cm by 3.9 cm, bearing the names and life dates of victims of Nazi extermination or persecution. The project was initiated by the German artist Gunter Demnig in 1992, and as of March 2018, over 67,000 Stolpersteine have been laid in 22 countries, making the Stolpersteine project the world’s largest decentralized memorial.

Lora was accompanied by her husband Sigmand, her daughters, a granddaughter, and cousins. The photo shows the five Stolpersteine for Lora, her parents, her grandfather, and her uncle. Lora’s short speech at the ceremony tells the story.

In the spring of 2018, I received an e-mail from friends in Schriesheim inviting me to a ceremony to place five Stolpersteine in front of the house owned by my family for 98 years from 1840 to 1938. A brass plate engraved with the names, birthdates, and, if needed, dates and place of death of the people who lived in the house is engraved on each Stolperstein as a permanent reminder that they lived there. The originator of the Stolperstein project, Gunter Demnig, would attend and place the Stolpersteine.

My story begins 285 years ago when our grandfather Baruch received permission to settle in Schriesheim, which became our family’s home. My family joined me on our last visit to Schriesheim in 2009. Our home, sold in 1938, was shown to us by the grandson of the man who bought it so that my family could see what I had often described to others. I did not think I would ever return to Schriesheim because I was aging and suffering from arthritis.

My great-grandfather, Loeb Oppenheimer, bought a huge 21-room house in 1840, shortly before he married Fanny Kraemer. They had nine children, every one of whom reached adulthood. My grandfather, Simon Oppenheimer, was born in 1857 and was the only child of Loeb to settle in the village; the others moved elsewhere, but stayed in close touch. My grandfather and his wife Berta Emrich had four children, two boys and two girls. My mother Selma, born in 1896, told me many stories about her life here and her many friends. She married my father, Ludwig Sussmann, in 1928 and I was born in 1929, the 10th generation of our family and the last Jewish child to be born in Schriesheim.

We had a pleasant life in Schriesheim that ended after the Nuremberg Laws were passed and overnight we were shunned by almost everyone. As a child of six, I could not understand how we, after living here for hundreds of years, suddenly became dangerous enemies of the state. Fortunately, we were able to leave and escape the horror of the Holocaust and the murder of 6 million fellow Jews. My uncle Teddy Oppenheimer, my mother’s brother and the father of Tom Oppenheimer and granddaughter of Kim Oppenheimer, who are here today, helped us leave Germany.

But not all of us could leave. My beloved uncle Ludwig was denied a visa because he was intellectually challenged, resulting from the meningitis he had as a child; the high temperatures of the disease left his mark on him. He was able to read and write and became my playmate, companion, and protector from Hitler Jugend (Hitler Youth) hooligans. Leaving Ludwig behind, to live in a nursing home, was the saddest of my youth behind and built a happy and successful life in our new country. I want to thank the many Schriesheimers for their efforts and especially Gunter Demnig for the Stolpersteine and am pleased to return and recall our family’s past in this community.

Lora Tobias in Schriesheim, Germany

Adds Sig Tobias: “The ceremony when the Stolpersteine were set was memorable. In addition to Mayor Hoefler, perhaps sixty villagers and students ranging from elementary school to community college participated in the event, many of whom read messages about the importance of memory, tolerance, and peace. A violinist and cellist played several selections including Bruch’s Kol Nidre. Especially moving was a chorus of early elementary school children singing ‘Hevenu Shalom Aleichem’ accompanied on guitar by their teacher. It was noteworthy that our family represented the only Jews there.”

Wishing You & Yours a Shana Tova. A Happy, Healthy & Sweet New Year!

Thank you to 98 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 have set inspire others to create their own Jewish Legacy.


*Basis of blessed memory
OBITUARIES

Timothy John Golster, 50, originally from North Adams, died on Monday, June 18. He was the son of George F. and Mary A. (Merrigan) Golster. Despite suffering from illness from a very young age, Tim lived each day with gusto, humor, and kindness.

WASHINGTON, DC – Timothy John Golster, 50, originally from North Adams, died on Monday, June 18, 2018. He was the son of George F. and Mary A. (Merrigan) Golster. Despite suffering from illness from a very young age, Tim lived each day with gusto, humor, and kindness.

Berkshire North Adams schools graduated from Drury Senior High School where he was a member of the school band and active in the drama club. After graduating high school in 1985, he continued his education at Westfield State College and graduated from University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Both Tim and his parents are often found good times waiting tables together at the Freight Yard Pub in North Adams during and shortly after their college years.

After college, Tim worked with his father George F. at North Adams Public Schools for several years. He later moved to the Washington, D.C. area where he worked and made his home. For about 15 years, he worked at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), most recently as a program analyst in the NIH Intramural Research Management Branch of the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases Intramural Research Program (NIA/MSKID) and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS). While living in DC, Tim became a member of the Adas Israel Congregation, a Conservative synagogue in Washington. Often described as a cantor, Tim sang with congregations, the Adas Israel Congregation names its diversity of its membership as one aspect of its strength. Tim received great comfort from his faith, and from his discussions about his life with his rabbi. A graveside service was held at the Kehilath Anshei Jacob Synagogue, on Friday, June 22.

Survivors include two brothers, Dr. Todd Hernandez of North Adams and Daniel F. Golster of Long Island, NY; a sister, Anna (McGover) McGovern; an uncle, Fred McGovern; many cousins and dear friends.


Born in Adams, she graduated from the former Adams Memorial High School and went on to attend Simmons College in Boston. Her early working years were spent on the West Coast. Later, she moved on to philanthropic service. She was well known for her many years of service to women who had experienced domestic abuse.

A private burial was fol- lowed by a family service at Congregation Beth Israel in North Adams on Sunday, July 1. Contributions in her memory can be made to the Emergency Rescue Committee (ERC) of Flynn & Dagnoli-Montagna Home For Funerals, Central Chelmsford, MA, 01863.

Joshua Louis Weinstein, 35, smart, creative, open minded, and kind

JOSHUA LOUIS WEINSTEIN, 35, passed away unexpectedly at his home in Pittsfield on June 25.

Born June 21, 1983 in Pittsburgh, he was the cherished son of Charles and Diane (Israelite) Weinstein. Joshua attended Pittsfield public schools, was a gradu- ate with honors from Brown University, and attended Tufts University Medical School. He was most recently employed as a miller therapist at Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. He also worked as a research scientist and tutor and his goal was to em- power people with needs. Joshua was a wordsmith who devoured good books, loved music, and was an avid dancer. He was smart, creative, open minded, and kind.

In addition to his parents, Joshua is survived by his adoring sister, Laura Israelite Cline and her husband, Jon. A family graveside funeral service was held in Pittsfield, CT on Friday, June 29. A memorial service will be sched- uled at a later date.

Clemens Kalischer, 97, Holocaust survivor and world-class photographer

CLEMENS KALISCHER – Clemens Kalischer, 97, died peacefully at his Westover Rd. home in Sandwich on Thursday, June 29. A memorial service will be scheduled at a later date.

Clemens' memories in Joshua's memory may be made to Resolve Crisis Center Services, 333 Hadlock Ave., Pittsfield, MA 01208.

KALISCHER, Clemens

KALISCHER, Clemens Kalischer, 97, Holocaust survivor and world-class photographer STOCKBRIDGE – Clemens Kalischer, 97, died peacefully at his residence in Sandwich on Thursday, June 29. His lasting legacy is his lifelong support of Israel and the Jewish people. Clemens was survived by his loving family, including his daughters, Cristina (Kalischer) Apfelbaum and nieces of 62 years, Angela (Wottitz) Apfelbaum and nieces of 56 years, Laura (Israelite) Kalischer, his daughters Cor- nelia Kalischer (Kevin Smith) and his adoring sister, Laura Israelite Cline (Jon).

A family graveside funeral service was held in Pittsfield, CT on Friday, June 29. A memorial service will be sched- uled at a later date.

He was adored by his family. He was a devoted husband and a true believer in the innate goodness of mankind and our capacity to heal the world. We will miss him forever. For more information about his family and his charitable works, visit: https://berkshires.org/berkshires-eagle/berkshires-eagle/

He was a beloved father, mentor, educator, community leader, and one who was vibrant and delightful through the recent celebration of his 100th year just a few weeks before his death. He was a beloved father, mentor, educator, community leader, and one who was vibrant and delightful through the recent celebration of his 100th year just a few weeks before his death.

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OBITUARIES

OBITUARIES, continued from page 24
his Florida home on Tuesday, April 17 after a long illness. Son of Frank and Dresden Ellenoff, Neil was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 1961, and opened an accounting firm in New York City, and in later years in Doylestown, PA. Neil was a benefactor to many organizations and most recently served as treasurer on the boards of The Berkshire Theater Group, The Mount, and The Broward Library Foundation. He had a wide range of interests, including theater, music (he could write the lyrics of most of Gilbert and Sullivan’s operettas), books, crossword puzzles, and bridge. He had a keen mind, a prodigious memory, a great sense of humor, and was kind and generous to all. Neil was predeceased by his wife, Bette, and is survived by his loving husband, Richard Talbot, and many of their friends. The memorial service was planned for this summer in the Berkshires.

Beverly Elaine Scheer, 86, remarkable life, service to others

WILLIAMSTOWN – Beverly Elaine Scheer, 86, died Monday, July 9 after a long illness. She was survived by her adoring husband of 67 years, Ray Scheer; four children, David (Jean) Arata, Janice (Rich) Marione (NC), Gene (NY); and Michael Scheer (NJ); their spouses, Rosetta Cohen, Michael Beren, and Kristina Lechowski; and one grandchild, Elizabeth Cohen Scheer (Madison, WI).

Beverly led a remarkable life, filled with love, service to others, and meaningful work.

Born in Queens, NY, she moved to northern New Jersey where she taught elementary and middle school in the Chester school system for many years. During this time, Bev and her family spent their summers at Camp Mohawk in Cheshire, where she herself had once been a camper. Western Massachussetts held deep importance for her, and when she retired from teaching in 1988, Bev and Ray moved to Williamstown. There, she ran Goldberg’s, a bed and breakfast on Cold Spring Road, welcoming visitors with her warm heart and wonderful cooking.

During her retirement, Bev also worked tirelessly on behalf of the local community. She volunteered at the Berkshire Food Project, road to the blind, and supported a wide range of progressive causes. Beverly leaves behind a professional family and great numbers of friends, all of whom will miss her deeply.

Donations in her honor may be made to the Berkshire Food Pantry, 134 Main Street, PO Box 601, North Adams, MA 01247.

Robert J. Silman, 83, legacy of kindness and generosity

GREAT BARRINGTON – Robert J. Silman, 83, died peacefully at home on Tuesday, July 31. Most beloved by his wife of 62 years, Roberta; children, chil-
dren, Miriam (David Gardner), Joshua (Heidi), and Ruth (Tim Clark); grandchildren, Eli, Graham, Hannah, Lily, and Jay; step-grandchildren Ben, Sadie and Sam; sister Judith Marzec; and Finn.

A leader in his field, Bob was the founder (1966) and President Emeritus of SILMAN, formerly Robert Silman Associ-
cies, and dedicated his profes-
sional life to the construction, preservation, and sustainabil-
ity of an aesthetically pleasing and socially and environ-
mentally conscientious built environment. His innovative approach will be remembered by his colleagues at The Pitch Foundation, National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT), Inter-
national Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering, (IABSE), and the students he mentored so passionately at the Institute for Architecture and Urban Studies, Columbia, Yale, and Harvard.

Close friends and family will cherish memories of his love of the outdoors, his gar-
den, Mahler, and his travels all over the world. His kindness and generosity will be a legacy to all who knew him.

Funeral services were held at Hevreh of Southern Berk-
shire on Sunday, August 5. A memorial service in New York will be held later.

Donations in Bob’s memory can be made to the Center for Architecture, 536 LaGuardia Place, New York, NY 10012.

OBITUARIES

MY ISRAEL

My Journey to Jerusalem, December 1965

By Margo Golos

Here’s an Israel reminiscence of approximately the same year as a Letter From Israel, unraveling the fascinating history of a young Israeli who was part of the early days of the state.

It was 1965, and a dream of a lifetime was becoming reality – I was joining a group of Young Judeans for our first convention with our sister/brother organization, the Tzofim. I was a high school senior who had been raised in a very Zionist home – I had prepared my entire 17 years for this adventure, or at least that’s what I thought.

My journey included my first flight out of Elmira, NY on a propeller plane to Kennedy Air-
port. As I was afraid of flying, I thought I was going to throw up. But when I climbed aboard the jet that would take us Young Judeans to Israel, I realized that it was El Al really being brave to be taking a large group of enthusiastic teenagers to Israel (long before Birthright, when few American teens actually visited Israel). Fear of flying, pshaw – I overcame it through the excitement of my group. Landing so many hours later in Israel, we board-
ed our bus amid the cheers of our welcoming group of Tzofim and smiles of relief from the El Al flight crew.

We voyaged up to Jerusalem from Lod Airport. My heavy eyelids stayed open as every time the veteran bus driver shifted gears, the entire bus groaned and shuddered. For us, it was like riding a car, or – as we all held our breath, then all gasped for air, and finally all breathed a sigh of relief when the driver successfully shifted to another gear.

In between these gear shifts, we climbed very slowly up the curvy switchback road to Jerusa-
lem. I saw the many burnt-out tanks on the side of road...tanks that not so long before, had opened fire. Around us, the entire 17 years for this adventure, or at least that’s what I thought.

Being selected means a lot to us. A Top Financial Advisors 2018

But it means even more to you.

Making this list is no small feat, and we’re humbled to be honored—yet again—as one of the industry’s elite advisors.

The editors of the Financial Times evaluate a variety of factors, from advanced industry credentials to reliability and experience managing assets to investment skills and positive compliance records.

Have a conversation with Gary Schiff, Managing Director, and discover the qualities which contributed to our inclusion in the 2018 Financial Times FT300.
Mazel Tov to...

Holly and Larry Steinberg on the engagement of their daughter, Lindsey, to Ron Lane.

* Dennis LaRochelle and Dawn LaRochelle on their son, Andrew, becoming a bar mitzvah at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire.
* Maya Kaufman on her August 18 bat mitzvah at Knesset Israel.
* Robbie Bogard and Robert Kronenberg on their son, Adam, becoming a bar mitzvah at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire.
* Judge Richard Simons on becoming president of Temple Anshe Amunim.
* Allison Lamm on her August 11 bat mitzvah at Knesset Israel.
* Michael Kusmin and Michele Piot on their son, Liam, becoming a bar mitzvah at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire.
* Elliot Krantz on his June 2 bar mitzvah at Temple Anshe Amunim.

Calendar – Ongoing Events
Around the Community

Mazel Tov

- Hilary and Richard Drucker on their son, Sam, becoming a bar mitzvah at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire.
- Sarah G. Schiff on her graduation from the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University with the degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. Sarah was awarded the Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society Award in recognition of outstanding achievement in veterinary studies, as well as the Certificate of Clinical Excellence from the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine in recognition of outstanding knowledge and clinical ability in veterinary internal medicine. Sarah is the daughter of Arlene and Gary Schiff of Lenox.
- Eiran and Michele Gaet on the engagement of their son, Adam, to Kriza Archer.
- Rose Sutter on her August 4 bat mitzvah at Knesset Israel.
- Amy Richman and Jim Caron on the birth of their grandson.
- Myrna Hammerling. Newcomers always welcome. Information: (413) 445-4872, ext. 16.

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

Fridays, last month, time varies with candle lighting – Chabad of the Berkshires “Friday Night Live,” traditional Kabbalat Shabbat service. Information: (413) 499-8989 or visit 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.ciweb.org.

Fridays, once a month at 5:30 p.m. (followed by a family style Shabbat dinner at 6:30 p.m.) – 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 ruchah filled (“spirited”) family friendly experience. Cost for dinner $20 adult; $15 teen, children free. Dinner reservations are due by the Monday before services. Full information: (413) 445-4872, ext 10.

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

Mazel Tov at... 

- to Ron Lane.
- to Joshua Cutler, on his June 2 bar mitzvah.
- to Rabbi Arthur and Linda Starr whose grandson, Noah Raney, became a bar mitzvah.
- to Debbie Friedman and Camp Ramah to create a ruchah filled (“spirted”) family friendly experience.
- to Rabbi Levi, unique service combines melodies from Carlebach, Debbie Friedman, and Camp Ramah to create a ruchah filled (“spirted”) family friendly experience. Cost for dinner $20 adult; $15 teen, children free. Dinner reservations are due by the Monday before services. Full information: (413) 445-4872, ext 10.
- to Rabbi Liz F.G. Hirsch for a conversation based on the texts of the Jewish people and reflect on Jewish values and thinking and what it means “to be Jewish.” All texts are offered in English. Free and open to the public. Information: (413) 442-5910 or templeoffice@ansheamunim.org.
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, Tuesdays, and Thursdays at noon. Beginning on June 1 and continuing through the summer months, the Tuesday kosher lunch program will be on hiatus. Tuesday lunches will resume on September 4.

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

Adults 60 and over: $2 suggested donation
Adults under 60: $7 per person
Program only is free!

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

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

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, 20 ............... 10:45 a.m., Decoding the Bible for Modern Readers: The Mystery of the Arar with Dr. Jon Greenberg.
Lunch: Chicken with sundried tomatoes and artichokes**, rice pilaf, salad, green beans, potato bread, grapes and tea.

Thursday, 23 ............... 10:45 a.m., Film: Schmatta: Rags to Riches to Rags.
Lunch: Middle Eastern Day, Hummus platters to include stuffed grape leaves, feta, olives, etc. **, Hearts of Palm salad, pita bread, baklava, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.

Monday, 27 ............... 10:45 a.m., Survival, Hope and a Lifetime of Service.
Lunch: Salisbury steak**, hash browns, broccoli, salad, marble rye bread, apricots, and tea.

Thursday, 30 ............... 10:45 a.m., Annual Play Readings directed by Milton Lestz.
Lunch: Fresh fish**, salad, zucchini medley, rice, Challah, coconut cake, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.

SEPTEMBER

Monday, 3 ............... Closed for Labor Day
Tuesday, 4 ............... Fish sticks**, peas, French fries, salad, rye bread, brownies, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.

Thursday, 6 ............... 10:45 a.m., “Current Affairs” with Professor Emeritus, Steven J. Rubin. Lunch: Macaroni and cheese, stewed tomatoes, salad, Challah, peaches, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.

Monday, 10 ............... Closed for Rosh Hashanah
Tuesday, 11 ............... Closed for Rosh Hashanah

Thursday, 13 ............... 10:45 a.m., Screening of 1990 film Korczak. Film begins at 10:45, breaks for lunch, and completes by 1:45. Lunch: Spaghetti & vegetarian “meat” sauce, green beans, salad, Italian bread, raspberry pillow cookies, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.


Tuesday, 18 ............... Barbecued chicken, mango juice, sweet potato fries, mixed vegetables, oat bread, fruit cocktail, and tea.

Thursday, 20 ............... 10:45 a.m., Screening of film My Italian Secret. Film begins at 10:45, breaks for lunch, and completes by 1:15 p.m. Lunch: fresh fish**, mushroom soup, blintze soufflé, broccoli, farmer’s loaf, chocolate chip cookies, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.

Monday, 24 ............... Closed for Sukkot
Tuesday, 25 ............... Closed for Sukkot

Thursday, 27 ............... 10:45 a.m., The Work of Central Berkshire Habitat for Humanity with Executive Director, Carolyn Valli. Lunch: Vegetarian chili, brown rice, corn bread, peanut butter cookies, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.

OCTOBER

Monday, 1 ............... Closed for Shemini Atzeret
Tuesday, 2 ............... Closed for Simchat Torah
Thursday, 4 ............... 10:45 a.m., Screening of documentary Eleanor Roosevelt. Film begins at 10:45, breaks for lunch, and completes by 2 p.m. Lunch: Black bean burgers with cheese, salsa, sour cream, avocado, yellow rice, mixed vegetables, hamburger rolls, pudding, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.

Monday, 8 ............... Program to be announced. Lunch: Stir fried chicken**, egg drop soup, salad, brown rice, rolls, tropical fruit salad, and tea.

Tuesday, 9 ............... Brisket leftovers**, chef’s choice of potatoes, asparagus cuts n tips, salad, Challah, grapes, and tea.
CULTURE AND ARTS

The Non-Misogynist, Non-Hypocritical Case for Jewish Continuity.

By Andrew Silow-Carroll

(UTA) — This is Leonard Bernstein’s centennial summer, and the Tanglewood Music Center in the Berkshires is staging a series of outdoor performances to celebrate its favorite son. I’m not saying that everyone who goes to Tanglewood is Jewish, although I always think a typical evening there would look like if the Israelites had enjoyed picnics and white wine.

Last month, I had lawn tickets when the Boston Symphony performed Bernstein’s score of “West Side Story” live while the film was shown on large screens. The effect was sort of magical and almost distracted me from my usual activity, which is basically contemplating the fate of the Jewish people. I say almost because there’s an unmistakable gap between the message of the musical about forbidden love and the normative — or should I say, once normative — Jewish preference for Jewish people. I say almost that intermarriage, late marriage, and childlessness are already stepping into the breach. The Forward published two op-eds decrying Cohen’s emphasis on fertility and statistics; three female scholars accused him and the Jewish communal establishment of making “patriarchal, misogynistic, and anachronist assumptions about what is good for the Jews.” Cohen and his colleagues in Jewish sociology have made mistakes. As Jane Eisner at the Forward pointed out, Cohen had license, perhaps unusual for a social scientist, to be an advocate for specific policies. In championing traditional modes of Jewish engagement — synagogue attendance, attachment to Israel, a sense of peoplehood — he and his colleagues could appear dismissive of new ways that Jews were experiencing their Jewishness. Sometimes they shifted blame, intentionally or not, onto women and the choices they make about career, marriage, and childbearing.

That’s the feminist critique of the communal obsession with “continuity.” More familiar is the cultural critique, which you are less likely to find in academic journals than in the Wedding section of The New York Times. Jewish kids marry kids of other faiths because Americans marry Americans. The idea that you should “stick to your own kind,” as Anita spits at Maria, goes against a liberal grain that embraces multiculturalism, diversity, and tolerance. Tribalism is the enemy.

That was Michael Chabon’s point in a speech he gave this year at Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles. The novelist called Jewish-Jewish marriage a “ghetto of two,” which he further likened to “a gated community, a restricted country club” and the heavily guarded Jewish enclave of Hebron. “I am for mongrels and hybrids and creoles, for syncretism and confluence, for jazz and Afrobeat and Thai surf music, for integrating neighborhoods and open borders and the preposterous history of Barack Obama,” Chabon whittimized in defense of intermarriage. “I am for the hodgepodge cuisines of seaports and crossroads, for sampling and mashups, pastiche and collage.”

But where I usually agreed with Cohen and his school of sociology was when, responding to declining Jewish numbers and engagement, they would champion Jewish literacy and distinctiveness. The goal was not to shame people into sticking with the tribe but to identify and promote what it is about Jewish life that is worth preserving in the first place: a textual inheritance; a particular moral and ethical language; a series of distinct and meaningful rituals; a living awareness of a Jewish past, in all its glories and horrors; a profound sense of Jewish community. A generation of Jewish communal professionals was galvanized by studies showing the ways that Jewish connections and behavior diminish among the children and grandchildren of intermarriage.

Cohen has already stepped down from some of his key roles and been removed from some others. Longtime critics of his research and advocacy are already stepping into the breach. But where I usually agreed with Cohen and his school of sociology was when, responding to declining Jewish numbers and engagement, they would champion Jewish literacy and distinctiveness. The goal was not to shame people into sticking with the tribe but to identify and promote what it is about Jewish life that is worth preserving in the first place: a textual inheritance; a particular moral and ethical language; a series of distinct and meaningful rituals; a living awareness of a Jewish past, in all its glories and horrors; a profound sense of Jewish community.
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:

JEWISHERKSHIRES.ORG

BERKSHIRE JEWISH CONGREGATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS

Berkshire Minyan
Lay-led egalitarian minyan held at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Rd., Great Barrington, MA (413) 229-3618, berkshireminyan.org

Berkshire Hills Hadassah
P.O. Box 187, Pittsfield, MA (413) 443-4386, berkshirehillshadassah@gmail.com

B’nai B’rith Lodge, No. 326
Chabad of the Berkshires
450 South St., Pittsfield, MA (413) 499-9899, berkshireminyan.org

Congregation Ahavath Sholom
Reconstructionist
North St., Great Barrington, MA (413) 528-4197, ahavathsholom.com

Congregation Beth Israel
Reform
53 Lois St., North Adams, MA (413) 663-5830, cbieweb.org

Hevreh of Southern Berkshire
Reform
270 State Rd., Great Barrington, MA (413) 528-6378, hevreh.org

Israel Philatelist Society
C/o Dr. Ed Helitzer, (413) 447-7622

Jewish Federation of the Berkshires
196 South St., Pittsfield, MA (413) 442-4360, jewishberkshires.org

Jewish War Veterans
Commander Robert Waldheim
(413) 822-4546, sellit4@aol.com

Knesset Israel
Conservative
16 Colt Rd., Pittsfield, MA (413) 445-4872, knessetisrael.org

Temple Anshe Amunim
Reform
26 Broad St., Pittsfield, MA (413) 442-5910, ansheamunim.org

Chabon wants “syncretism” without explaining where the distinctiveness of the ingredients comes from in the first place. There’s no Afrobeat without the West African musical traditions out of which it grew. Collages would be pretty bland unless the elements were distinct in one way or the other.

Andrea Silos-Corral is editor in chief of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.
A LETTER FROM ISRAEL, continued from page 32

William “Bill” Papas was one of the best-known political cartoonists and caricaturists of his day, and lived a remarkably full life. He was born in South Africa in 1927, and ran away from home at age 15 to join the South African Air Force, for which he flew missions as a tail gunner during World War II. After studying art in London, he returned to South Africa, working as a reporter and artist, even covering Nelson Mandela’s trial in 1958.

After moving back to London, he became a principal illustrator for The Guardian, with assignments that included high-profile reportage from Cyprus, and from Israel during the Six Day War. He also authored several well-received children’s books, work that he claimed to enjoy above all. He retired from regular newspaper work in 1971, and moved to Greece with his second wife, Tessa. The couple spent 12 years there before relocating to Portland, Oregon. While based in the Pacific Northwest, he traveled extensively throughout the United States and recorded his impressions of daily life in the acclaimed art book Papas’s America. With Tessa, he collaborated on illustrated books about Portland and Jerusalem. He died tragically at age 73 in a plane crash off the coast of British Columbia in 2000.

Proving once again that (tied with rock ‘n’ roll) the

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A LETTER FROM ISRAEL, continued from page 30

Internet is mankind’s greatest thing, I was able to track down Tessa Papas at her art gallery in Portland within a few hours. We talked about her late husband and their work together. I told her about how I came upon A Letter From Israel and how it evoked childhood memories of bustling shuks, donkey rides, cat eye sunglasses, Turkish coffee being poured at outdoor cafes, babushkas hanging laundry to dry outside, Akko, Haifa, Beersheva, and so much more. And then I told her that I was a newspaper editor and about my budget for artwork and whether I could…maybe…possibly…you know…  

“Of course,” she said. “Reproduce whatever you’d like.” So it is with great enthusiasm and gratitude to Tessa that I can share these wonderful images of “Israel at 20” by William Papas, most of them not widely seen in quite a long time. You can still find A Letter From Israel on E-bay for about $20, along with many of his other books, including People of Old Jerusalem, his 1980 collaboration with Tessa.  

Two of his best-loved children’s books, Tasso and The Most Beautiful Child (Oct. 2018), have been reissued by Pikko Publishing in the UK, and are available through Amazon or directly from the publisher’s North American distributor, Independent Publishers Group, at www.ipgbook.com.
Since we published our annual appeal for voluntary subscribers in the last issue of the Berkshire Jewish Voice, our loyal readers have showered us with generous supplementary gifts supporting this newspaper (please see page 7). No doubt some of you responded after finding out that while we are committed to publishing high quality art and illustration, we are constrained by a shoestring budget – actually, since shoestrings cost more than 60.00, it’s more accurate to say we operate on less than a shoestring budget.

Well, not only have our readers heeded our call for support, but perhaps so too did what those old Hebrew National hot dog commercials used to call “A Higher Authority.” Because not too long after our appeal for funding – still ongoing, BTW – I received in the mail A Letter From Israel by illustrator William Papas, the source of the engaging and nostalgic images of 1960s Israel that appear on this page, on our front page, and inside.

Published in 1968 and long out of print, A Letter From Israel takes the form of a travelogue written by Papas to his daughter, Peta, accompanied by ink and watercolor images of the sites and denizens of the Holy Land. How did I come by a copy? After my father moved out of the house that I grew up in, my sister moved much of its contents to her house in Miami. Like any good Jew, she could not bring herself to throw out books (much less books with Jewish content), and, like any good Jew, spent decades neurotically wishing those books would one day disappear from her bookshelves, while doing nothing to effect that outcome aside from wishing that houses in Florida had basements.

Until I started getting boxes of books from Miami in the mail. Many boxes. Heavy boxes. A good number of the tomes they contained were obtained by my parents in the late 1960s during our annual family summer sojourns in Tel Aviv. As we mark “Israel at 70” this year, I’ve been getting a real kick out of seeing those books that celebrate “Israel at 20” – all of which sat, largely unopened, on Stern family bookshelves for half a century. A Letter From Israel, its cover featuring canceled Israeli postage stamps, came with the latest batch in July. Curious, I cracked it open and was enthralled by the vibrant and wholly original images inside.

They took me back to my first visits to Israel, when the Jewish State was still

**A LETTER FROM ISRAEL**, continued on page 30

**IMAGES FROM A LETTER FROM ISRAEL**

**USED BY PERMISSION OF TESSA PAPAS**