

Berkshire JEWISH VOICE

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

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The Race to Save Sephardi Jewish Heritage in the Middle East and North Africa



Moroccan Jews in the early 20th century

GREAT BARRINGTON – On Friday, August 9 at 10:45 a.m., Knosh & Knowledge welcomes Jason Guberman, the executive director of the American Sephardi Federation, who will share the dramatic behind-the-scenes story of how a diverse international team races against time to document sites and memories of the last generation who remember Sephardic Jewish life in the Middle East and in North Africa.

This Jewish Federation of the

Berkshires program will take place at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire at 10:45 a.m., and will be followed by lunch. **Please note:** If you would like to have lunch, you must RSVP and pay in advance. Email federation@jewishberkshires.org, or call (413) 442-4360, ext. 10, to RSVP or if you would like information about this new policy.

Jason Guberman is a social entrepreneur who specializes in building broad coalitions and melding intellectual and technical innovation. He serves as founding executive director of Digital Heritage Mapping (DHM) and is the coordinator of its flagship initiative, the Diarna Geo-Museum of North African and Middle Eastern Jewish Life.

In March 2017, Diarna was featured on the cover of *Newsweek's* International Edition.

SEPHARDI HERITAGE, continued on page 5

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“The Opioid Crisis in The Berkshires”

Maimonides Society of the Berkshires to host addiction specialist and Berkshires DA

LENOX – On Sunday, August 18 from 9:30 a.m. to noon, the Maimonides Society of the Berkshires, organized under the auspices of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, will host a forum exploring the local impact of the opioid addiction crisis.

Speaking about the health consequences will be Dr. Jennifer Michaels, assistant professor at the University of Massachusetts Medical School and the medical director of the Brien Center, Berkshire County’s largest community mental health provider. Discussing the effect on law enforcement and incarceration will be Berkshire County District Attorney Andrea Harrington. Both speakers will respond to questions from the audience.

This event is open to the public, and will be held at Lenox Town Hall at 6 Walker Street. Couvert is \$15 – a breakfast of bagels and spreads will be served.

To RSVP, please contact the Federation at federation@jewishberkshires.org, or call us at



Andrea Harrington

(413) 442-4360, ext. 10 by August 14.

For additional information about the Maimonides Society – now in its sixth year – please contact

MAIMONIDES, continued on page 5

The Posthumous Landscape

Yiddish Book Center exhibit documents remnants of Jewish life in Eastern Europe



PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID KAUFMAN / COURTESY OF THE YIDDISH BOOK CENTER

“The Posthumous Landscape: Jewish Historical Sites in Poland and Western Ukraine” is an exhibition of photographs taken by David Kaufman that is on view through September 30 at the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst. Kaufman’s large scale, highly-detailed images of Jewish life and architecture remaining in Eastern Europe are a testament to the rich, varied lives led by Jews in cities and towns over centuries and a reminder of the challenges in preserving Jewish material culture in countries that have few Jews today and meager resources. Above: Interior of the Tsori Gilad, the sole functioning synagogue in Lviv, Ukraine. For more, please see page 28.

Thanks Again for Your Support

Hundreds turn out for Annual Meeting, Women’s Foundation Brunch, 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 Mount, the Jewish Women’s Foundation brunch, and the Major Donors Celebration at Country Club of Pittsfield.

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 13-17.



Rabbi Reflections

Potential Partners for Peace are Close By and Ready to Join In

By Rabbi Neil P.G. Hirsch



For a while now, our community has been grappling with the implications of the massacre at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, along with other instances of hate and violence. One positive that has come out of such tragedies is a deepened and more meaningful relationship with the Christian community. The evening after the Pittsburgh shooting, we opened our doors at Hevreh to offer sanctuary to those who sought it out. Sixty-five people showed up that evening, including several pastors from area

congregations.

After that evening, the outreach continued – I later received a phone call from the Reverend Erik Olsen of the Church of Christ UCC of Norfolk, Connecticut.

He and I had not yet met. In reaction to the recent shootings, his confirmation students were hoping to do something positive. They were horrified and terrified and, after some conversation and discernment, they decided to reach out to their closest Jewish community to build a new relationship. As the pastor and I spoke about what a meaningful connection would look like, he made an offer: To begin our relationship, his congregation was offering us a Peace Pole as a symbol of solidarity and hope between our communities.

A peace pole is a square pole which has the words “May Peace Prevail On Earth” written in four languages on its sides. These poles are planted all around the world as an essential expression of the great hope and aspiration of Peace. This is fitting, given our traditional focus

on the concept of *Shalom*. In the Midrash, we find the statement that there is nothing greater than peace. In fact, in mystical tradition, “*Shalom*” is considered one of the many names of God.

This past winter, Hevreh welcomed our friends from Norfolk to a Sunday while our religious school was in session. Our students learned about the Jewish value of *Hachnasat Orchim*, of welcoming and hospitality, preparing a meal, songs, and posters for our guests. The congregants from Norfolk came to gift us the peace pole. We held a dedication service, but because of the snow and cold, held off from planting the pole.

This past May, our two communities came together again to place the pole in its permanent home. We each took a turn at digging and, as we placed the pole down, shared blessings.

This moment was made more powerful since we – as an American Jewish community – have continued to encounter hate. Looking at those who had gathered to plant this pole, to make a statement about the hope and promise of peace, I could see that this action meant so much to each person there.

I am increasingly concerned about rising white supremacy in the United States, and increased incidents of hate and anti-Semitism here and in Europe. I may be a short-term pessimist, but I am also, unequivocally, a long-term optimist. Experiences like the planting of this peace pole continue to give me hope. And I will continue – and hope we will as a community – continue to seek out partners in our essential pursuit of peace. Those potential partners are close by and ready to join in.

Rabbi Neil P.G. Hirsch serves Hevreh of Southern Berkshire in Great Barrington.



Volunteers are Vital!

Rosh Hashanah Care Packages For Seniors



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 September 19.
- 2) Adults – Pack the bags with challah, honey, and applesauce on Tuesday, September 24 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Federation office.
- 3) Kids & Adults – Visit the seniors and deliver the holiday packages from September 25 – 27.

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

Readers’ Gallery



Rose Tannenbaum, *Antique Cottage*, oil

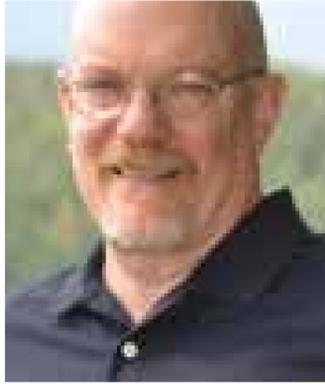


Jeff Kramer, *Exodus*, colored pencil

Punching Above Our Weight

Support your Jewish community newspaper with a volunteer subscription

By Albert Stern / BJV Editor



When someone tells me how much they admire this Federation's work, most of the time that person will add how surprised they are by how much we accomplish given our size. This is especially true if that person lives or has lived in a large Jewish community.

Without a doubt, this Federation punches far above its weight. The annual report published each year in the *Berkshire Jewish Voice* provides the statistics about what this Federation achieves, but I've found that what really motivates our supporters is their proximity to what we do. They see, up close, the difference Federation makes in the lives of our community members by providing essential services to our

elders; in funding opportunities for positive Jewish growth for our youth; and in forging connections among the diverse Jewish population of Berkshires, as well as with Jewish groups in other parts of the United States, Israel, and overseas.

What's more, they recognize Federation's meaningful outreach beyond the Jewish community, and its effective advocacy for local, national, and international Jewish interests and causes.

The *Berkshire Jewish Voice* is one of the key tools the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires has to communicate the breadth of its work to our community – which includes full-time residents, seasonal residents, and visitors seeking Jewish connection. *Berkshire Jewish Summer* is the definitive guide to Jewish programming taking place during the busy tourist season, an essential publicity resource not only for Federation, but for local congregations and Jewish groups. Copies of the paper are mailed to donors, and are also distributed throughout Berkshire County.

This publication's revenues do not cover all its costs, and so your financial help as voluntary subscribers is essential in our efforts to bring you meaningful, positive, and entertaining stories both by and about your neighbors, as well as Jews around the world.

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

Last year in my appeal for volunteer donors, I highlighted the paper's visual appeal, original writing, and local focus. Over the past 12 months, we've continued to improve.

Visually, we've featured work by two fantastic artists we "discovered" – the gifted young Israeli graffiti art-influenced muralist Solomon Souza and the late William Papas, one of the most prominent illustrators of his day, whose

drawings of a bygone Israel in the late 1960s we were given permission to republish. (It was the first time those images had appeared in print in nearly 50 years.) We were able to share new work by Berkshires artists **Nina Lipkowitz** and **Susan Miller**, as well as examples of "Tehillim B'Zug," the Book of Psalms-inspired artwork created in collaboration by local artists and Israelis from the Afula-Gilboa region. We also featured Jewish-themed artwork on view the Turn Park Art Space and the Norman Rockwell Museum, as well as **Rabbi Michael Strassfeld's** private collection of signs and memorabilia.

As for original writing, it all starts with regular contributors like **Carol Goodman Kaufman**, whose "Traveling With Jewish Taste" column never fails to provide offbeat insights into Jewish cuisine (plus recipes that work). In the past year, **Avi Dresner** has contributed personal essays and fascinating interviews with bestselling Jewish authors like Tova Mirvis, Angela Himsel, Barry Joseph, and Rabbi Leah Rachel Berkowitz. Additionally, **Rabbi Seth Wax** gave us a lively interview with Great Barrington-based novelist **Aaron Thier**.

Clergy and lay leaders of a scholarly bent are able to share their always interesting insights about Jewish faith and culture in Rabbi Reflections columns, while our Berkshire Jewish Voices section allows community members to share their experiences and interests – I especially enjoyed **Alex Rosenblum's** musings on whiskey and **Jodie Friedman's** essay on being young, single, and Jewish in the Berkshires that appeared in our last issue. This month, don't miss **Helene Berger's** moving and insightful story about how she dealt with her husband's Alzheimer's Disease diagnosis – it's excerpted from her memoir and conveys important coping strategies.

As a writer, I especially enjoyed telling the stories of **Bob Waldheim's** emotional return to Vietnam, where he had served in the Marine Corps; of **Yevgeny Kutik's** recording of new works he commissioned about the experience of family; and of **Uri Regev's** efforts to foster Jewish religious pluralism in the State of Israel. I learned a great deal from all of them – from Bob, about the emotional scars combat veterans still carry with them decades after conflict; from Yevgeny, how a performing artist advances his career in the world of contemporary classical music; and from Uri, many things I didn't know about the intersection of Israel's secular and religious values, and why non-Israelis should care.

Also this year, I covered the way Berkshire County's faith and civic communities came together in displays of unity to memorialize the victims of anti-Semitic shootings in Pittsburgh and Poway. These were melancholy assignments, yet ones I came away from feeling uplifted by the good will of our neighbors and their shared commitment to combating hate in our community. As is said, we should meet only at *simchas* in the future.

As I noted in the first paragraph, people often tell me they are surprised by how much Federation accomplishes given our size. After working for several years as editor of the *Berkshire Jewish Voice*, I am not surprised. As an editor, I am grateful to have access to so many individuals with interesting stories – authors, scholars, religious leaders, visual artists, dancers and choreographers, entrepreneurs, actors and directors, musicians, philanthropists, and so many more.

And I am especially grateful that the *Berkshire Jewish Voice* supports the Federation's efforts to build community and grow Jewish life and identity in this part of the world.

Please consider supporting your Jewish community newspaper as a volunteer subscriber.

Thank you volunteers **Ellen Rosenblatt** and the BJV delivery team, **Michael Albert**, **Roman Rozenblyum**, and **Colin Ovitsky**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Berkshire
JEWISH VOICE

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

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Just email us at
federation@jewishberkshires.org
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Jenny Greenfeld: Advertising Sales Representative and Assistant Editor

Editorial opinions expressed in the *Berkshire Jewish Voice* are those of the newspaper and not those of any individual. Signed editorials do not represent the view of the newspaper, but rather express the writer's view.

The *Berkshire Jewish Voice* is under no obligation to accept any advertisement. It does not guarantee the kashrut of any merchandise or service advertised.

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

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Your Federation Presents

Connecting With Community Programs/ Kosher Hot Lunch

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

Knosh & 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 and prepaid in advance** by calling (413) 442-4360, ext. 10.

For further information on all programs, please call Nancy Maurice Rogers, program director, at (413) 442-4360, ext. 15. **For lunch menus and a chronological list of all scheduled programs, please see page 26.** Note that lunch menus are subject to change.

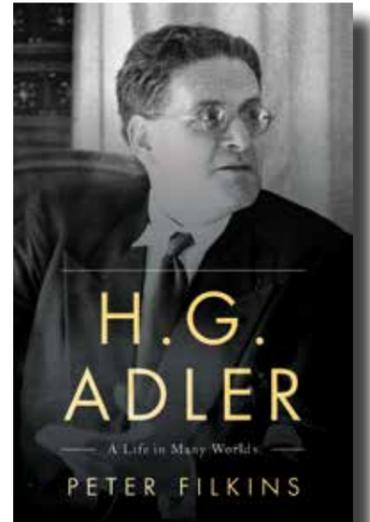
"H.G. Adler: A Life in Many Worlds," with Biographer Peter Filkins

On Monday, August 12 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires hosts poet and translator Peter Filkins, who will talk about the life and career of H.G. Adler, who was born in Prague, survived the Holocaust, fled post-war communist Czechoslovakia, became a freelance writer and scholar in the United States and went on to author 26 books on history, sociology, and philosophy, as well as poetry, fiction, and autobiographical works. The author is the subject of Filkins's just-published biography, *H.G. Adler: A Life in Many Worlds*.

This free program at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, in Pittsfield, is part of the Federation's Connecting With Community series.

Poet, novelist, author of two seminal Holocaust studies, one of the earliest historians of Auschwitz, a last representative of Kafka's Prague, and expert for the Eichmann trial, H.G. Adler (1910-1988) survived Theresienstadt, Auschwitz, and two other camps. With friends Elias Canetti and Heinrich Böll, he forged a deeper understanding of the Shoah, engaging Leo Baeck, Hannah Arendt, and Gershom Scholem in critical questions facing modern societies to this day. Translator Peter Filkins will explore Adler's life and work on the publication of his authorized biography, *H.G. Adler: A Life in Many Worlds*, by Oxford University Press.

Peter Filkins is an award-winning poet and translator. He has translated three novels by H.G. Adler,



Panorama, The Journey, and *The Wall*, as well as the collected poems of Ingeborg Bachmann, *Darkness Spoken*. He is the author of numerous books and scholarly articles. The recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Leon Levy Center for Biography, the DAAD, and the American Academy in Berlin, he is the Richard B. Fisher Professor of Literature at Bard College at Simon's Rock, and also teaches translation at Bard College.

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community

Venue: Knesset Israel

Date & Time: Monday, August 12 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 26).

"Self-Examination and Improvement – Guidance from the Plant Kingdom in Preparing for the High Holidays"

On Thursday, August 15 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires hosts agronomist Dr. Jon Greenberg, whose topic will be "Self-Examination and Improvement – Guidance From the Plant Kingdom in Preparing for the High Holidays."

This free program at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, in Pittsfield, is part of the Federation's Connecting With Community series.

Writes Dr. Greenberg: "With Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur on the horizon, it is time to begin taking stock of our successes and failures over the last year. Come learn how lessons drawn from Biblical stories and metaphors involving plants can help us to chart a way through this often challenging task. We'll learn the stories of the revolt of the trees, Jonah and the castor bean, the woman who plucked pomegranates from the Red Sea, and a poisonous pasture weed that replaced lettuce on a medieval German

Passover table. Find out how these stories can help us to navigate the process of self-improvement!"

Dr. Greenberg is devoted to biblical ethnobotany, a way of using the tools of botany to better understand the Torah. He received his doctorate in agronomy from Cornell University, and has also studied with Rabbi Chaim Brovender at Israel's Yeshivat Hamivtar and conducted research on corn, alfalfa, and soybeans at Cornell, the US Department of Agriculture, and the University of Pennsylvania's Institute for Cancer Research. Since 1989, he has been a science teacher and educational consultant. Dr. Greenberg was senior editor of science textbooks at Prentice Hall Publishing, and was previously on the faculty of Yeshivas Ohr Yosef, the School of Education at Indiana University, and the University of Phoenix. He has taught at the Heschel School since 2008.



Dr. Jon Greenberg with grapes at HaGafen Winery in Napa, CA

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community

Venue: Knesset Israel

Date & Time: Thursday, August 15 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 26).

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

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



Anonymous (10)
Ed Abrahams
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Rabbi Deborah Zecher &
Rabbi Dennis Ross

**Of blessed memory*



Jewish Federation
OF THE BERKSHIRES

Your Federation Presents

MAIMONIDES, *continued from page 1*

Development Officer Leslie Kozupsky at lkozupsky@jewishberkshires.org or (413) 442-4360, ext. 19.

About the Speakers

Dr. Jennifer Michaels is dual board certified in adult and addiction psychiatry. She is a national mentor for the Physician Clinical Support System, a SAMHSA-funded program providing training and education to physicians treating people with addictions. Dr. Michaels is a frequent guest on WAMC Northeast Public Radio, and is a committed community educator on topics related to mental health.

Andrea Harrington is the sixth district attorney of Berkshire County, and the first woman to hold the office. She was elected to the office in November 2018 after campaigning on "a progressive and reform-minded platform that called for vigorously prosecuting dangerous offenders, while also enhancing public safety through community involvement and prevention." Harrington was born in Berkshire County and earned a Juris Doctor from American University Washington College of Law in 2003. As a first-year



Dr. Jennifer Michaels

law student, Harrington studied under Professor Angela Davis, whose criminal law scholarship critiqued the use of prosecutorial discretion, mass incarceration, and the devastating effect of bias on communities of color in the criminal justice system. The studies inspired her work representing convicted death row inmates in their post-conviction appeals at the Capital Collateral Regional Counsel in South Florida. She is a graduate of EmERGE Massachusetts and is a co-founder of the Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus – Berkshire Committee.

SEPHARDI HERITAGE, *continued from page 1*

Come learn the behind-the-scenes story of how a diverse, international team of volunteers is racing against time to document the sites and memories of the last primary source generation who remember Sephardic Jewish life in the MENA region, ranging from synagogues on the edge of the Sahara to Jewish fortresses in Arabia.

A summa cum laude graduate of Sacred Heart University, Jason Guberman was named to *Connecticut Magazine's* "40 under 40" and to the Jewish Week's "36 under 36." He has presented Diarna at Stanford University's Digital Humanities Center and the USC Shoah Foundation, conferences of the Association of Jewish Studies, Association of Jewish Libraries, and Moroccan Millennium Leaders; guest lectured classes at Harvard's Middle East Studies Center and at Wellesley College; served on the Council of Young Jewish Presidents; and represented the American Sephardi Federation (where he also serves as executive director) on the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations' Missions to Morocco, Egypt, Israel, Cyprus, United Arab Emirates,

and Jordan. He has written for *AJS Perspectives*, *Sh'ma Journal*, Wexner Foundation Newsletter, *The Algemeiner*, and MyJewishLearning.com, and has appeared on

NPR's "Here & Now" and in SmartHistory. Jason is an alumnus of the Tikvah Fund's Fellowship and Core18 Leaders Laboratory.



Group portrait of youth in Mahane David, an immigration camp in France for North African Jews en route to Israel, holding an Israeli flag (Photo from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Shimon Sousson, who is pictured bottom right)

Choosing Joy – Alzheimer's: A Book of Hope

Helene Berger shares her journey as a caregiver at Knosh & Knowledge

GREAT BARRINGTON – On Friday, September 20 at 10:45 a.m., Knosh & Knowledge welcomes Helene Berger, who will talk about her memoir, *Choosing Joy – Alzheimer's: A Book of Hope*.

This Jewish Federation of the Berkshires program will take place at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire at 10:45 a.m., and will be followed by lunch. **Please note:** If you would like to have lunch, you must RSVP *and pay in advance*. Email federation@jewishberkshires.org, or call (413) 442-4360, ext. 10, to RSVP or if you would like information about this new policy.

Join author Helene Berger as she shares the mistakes and the successes that allowed her and her husband to build the best life possible in the face of a terrible illness. Helene's personal journey to stay positive in the face of her husband's diagnosis offers concrete guidance and delivers a message of hope, joy, and support to all who must make the journey as a caregiver for a loved one facing any type of debilitating condition, or the challenges of aging.

For an excerpt of *Choosing Joy*, please see page 22. Visit www.heleneberger.com for more information on *Choosing Joy*, plus links (on the Media tab) to podcast and television interviews where Helene talks about her journey.

About the Author

Helene Berger has held top

leadership positions in local, state, and national organizations devoted to Jewish, educational, and women's issues. She has served for over forty years on the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation (GMJF), a position she still occupies. She also served for two years as president of the GMJF Women's Department and two terms as president of the Miami Central Agency for Jewish Education (now renamed the Center for the Advancement of Jewish Education).

On the national level she has served: two years as the National Chair of the Jewish Education Service of North America (JESNA); two years on the Council of Jewish Federations Board and Executive Committee (now merged into Jewish Federations of North America, JFNA); and over 25 years on the board of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, holding various leadership positions. *Choosing Joy* is her first book. Helene is a longtime resident of the Berkshires and is active in the Jewish community here.

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires

Date & Time: Friday, September 20 at 10:45 a.m.

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

Cost: \$11 with fresh buffet



Helene Berger

lunch. Free admission to program only.

Advance lunch reservations and prepayment required for this event.

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

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Your Federation Presents

“Robert Frost: New Light on Old Poems”



Robert Frost

On Thursday, August 1 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires welcomes Phil Holland, author of *Robert Frost in Bennington County*, who will discuss the great American poet's work in a talk titled “Robert Frost: New Light on Old Poems.” This free program at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, in Pittsfield, is part of the Federation's Connecting With Community series.

Writes Phil Holland: “Most of us, I suspect, have known poems by Robert Frost for as long as we can remember, and a few of us will remember the living poet, too, from President Kennedy's inaugural in 1960. But perhaps we don't know the poems – or the poet – as well as we might think. We'll take a brief look at Frost's life and a fresh look at a few of the old favorites – as well as at some wonderful poems that are less well known.”

Phil Holland is a writer from Shaftsbury, Vermont. A graduate of Bennington College, he holds a Ph.D. in English from the University of London and is former chair of the English Department at Anatolia College in Greece. His *Robert Frost in Bennington County* and *A Guide to the Battle of Bennington and the Bennington Monument* are local best sellers. He writes for the *Berkshire Edge* and moonlights as a voice actor, Vermont Council on the Humanities speaker, and writer of light verse.

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community
Venue: Knesset Israel
Date & Time: Thursday, August 1 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 26).

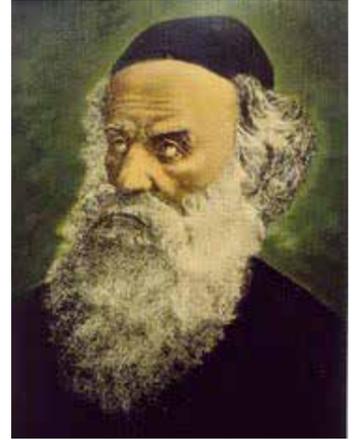
“A Jewish Mystic's Approach to Loving God”

On Thursday, August 8 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires hosts Rabbi Seth Wax, Jewish chaplain at Williams College, whose subject will be “A Jewish Mystic's Approach to Loving God.” This free program at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, in Pittsfield, is part of the Federation's Connecting With Community series.

Writes Rabbi Wax: “Descriptions of the mystic's journey often discuss how one becomes absorbed within the divine. But how do we train ourselves to have that experience, and what does it feel like? In this session, we will explore teachings of Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liadi, the founder of the Chabad school of Hasidism, who points the way through the deepest of emotions, love.”

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community
Venue: Knesset Israel
Date & Time: Thursday, August 8 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 26).



“There is love like fire, and there is love like water.” – Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liadi (1745-1812), founder of Chabad

Bullying in the Older Adult Population

On Thursday, September 12 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires welcomes Torrie Dearborn of Glenmeadow Retirement Community in the Springfield area. She will speak on the serious subject of “Bullying in the Older Adult Population.” This free program at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, in Pittsfield, is part of the Federation's Connecting With Community series.

Writes Torrie Dearborn: “Bullying isn't just for teenagers. It's a problem older adults grapple with as well—at senior centers, in exercise facilities, clubs for seniors, and places of worship. Bullying is defined as

the display of repetitive, negative behaviors toward another person that occur over time. Examples of bullying include verbal intimidation to excluding people from taking part in routine activities to physical violence.”

Torrie will teach how to use humor to defuse anger, and to support those being bullied with kindness and compassion.

Torrie Dearborn has been working at Glenmeadow for over 11 years and worked as a funeral director for 13 years prior. She is responsible for helping older adults transition to living at Glenmeadow. She also helps people receive

support in their current homes throughout Greater Springfield. Glenmeadow at Home provides personal care and support, pet care, handyman service, housekeeping and meal delivery.

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community
Venue: Knesset Israel
Date & Time: September 12 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 26).

Volunteers Are Vital!

In April, seven Jewish residents of Devonshire Estates Senior Living and Retirement Community in Lenox welcomed in Shabbat and the last day of Passover with Federation volunteers Avi, Lev, and Sasha Dresner. This was the second of their monthly Shabbat visits together, which began when the Dresners delivered Federation's Rosh Hashanah packages to the residents in the fall, and which have continued through the summer. As with the first visit, this one began with a good deal of schmoozing – in this case about how everyone spent their Seders, and the Dresners' recent family trip to Israel, which was the first for Avi's wife, Natasha, and sons, Lev and Sasha. The boys proudly showed the residents a video of their first – and last – camel ride at The Dead Sea. They then welcomed in Shabbat with candle lighting, kiddush and a special *motzi* over *shmurrah* matzah, followed by macaroons and, of course, more schmoozing.

For more volunteer opportunities in our community, please contact Susan Frisch Lehrer at (413) 442-4360, ext. 14.



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BCD Head of School, Jenifer Fox



Early Learning Scholarships available for K-Grade 4
Learn why BCD is voted Best Private School in the Berkshires.
Check the BCD website and Facebook pages for summer happenings.

“Hey. That wasn't so bad.”

Yeah. We get that a lot.



Your Federation Presents

“Presidents: Their Lives and Sports,” with Evan Weiner



Gerald R. Ford played football for the University of Michigan 40 years before serving as president

On Monday, August 19 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires welcomes radio journalist and newspaper columnist Evan Weiner for “Presidents: Their Lives and Sports,” a look at how sports affected the lives and decision-making of various Chief Executives. This free program at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, in Pittsfield, is part of the Federation’s Connecting With Community series.

Says Evan Weiner: “Presidents, of course, impact all areas of life including sports. Theodore Roosevelt is credited with saving football. William Howard Taft had a bad morning at the office in 1910 as women demanded the right to vote, and he fled to watch a baseball game which would become the first ever Presidential opener. Roosevelt, Kennedy, and Johnson all had sports impacts. Richard Nixon opened up China because of sports. Jimmy Carter used sports as leverage in dealing with the Soviet Union’s invasion of Afghanistan in 1979. And there are other times when presidential decisions were made with a sports calculus in mind.”

A radio journalist from the age of 15, Evan Weiner won

two Associated Press Awards in 1978 and 1979. In the 1980s, he started his long association with Westwood One Radio. Evan was a contributing columnist for several newspapers throughout the US. He did a daily commentary called “The Business of Sports” for Westwood One Radio between 1999 and 2006. He has written six books about the business and politics of sports.

Evan also lectures at colleges and universities about the business and politics of sports, including the globalization of North American sports and how technology is changing sports. His book, *The Business and Politics of Sports* has been critically acclaimed by academic journals and is used as part of a number of sports business management courses at schools throughout the United States.

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community

Venue: Knesset Israel

Date & Time: Monday, August 19 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 26).

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

On Thursday, August 29 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, Patricia Duckworth, Laura and Tom Gardner, John Grayzel, Karel Fisher, Peter Podol, and Nancy Vale.



Milton Lestz

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community

Venue: Knesset Israel

Date & Time: Thursday, August 29 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 26).

Intergenerational: The Process of Aging

On Monday, August 5 and Monday September 9 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires presents “Intergenerational: 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.



Therapist Maggie Bittman

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community

Venue: Knesset Israel

Date & Time: Monday, August 5 and Monday September 9 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 26).

Schindler’s List: Film Screening and Book Discussion (led by Hugh Black)

The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires will host two programs related to the film *Schindler’s List*.

On Monday, August 26, join us for a screening of Steven Spielberg’s 1993 film about the German industrialist who saved Jewish lives during World War II. On Thursday, September 5, educator Hugh Black will lead a discussion of the film. This free program at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, in Pittsfield, is part of the Federation’s Connecting With Community series.

Schindler’s List was directed and co-produced by Steven Spielberg and written by Steven Zaillian. Based on the novel *Schindler’s Ark* by Australian novelist Thomas Keneally, the film follows Oskar Schindler, a Sudeten German businessman, who saved the lives of more than a thousand mostly Polish-Jewish refugees from the Holocaust by employing them in his factories during World War II. It stars Liam Neeson as Schindler, Ralph Fiennes as SS officer Amon Göth, and Ben Kingsley as Schindler’s Jewish accountant, Itzhak Stern. The film will begin at 10:45 a.m., run until noon, break for lunch and continue at 12:30 through to the end.

On September 5, Hugh Black will lead a discussion about the novel *Schindler’s Ark*, as well as other books that were developed based upon the film. They include *Testimony: The Legacy of*



Oskar Schindler’s grave at Mount Zion Catholic Cemetery in Jerusalem

Schindler’s List and the USC Shoah Foundation, *The Making of Schindler’s List: Behind the Scenes of an Epic Film*, and *Schindler’s Legacy, True Stories of the List Survivors*.

Join us for this meaningful community discussion.

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community

Venue: Knesset Israel

Date & Time: Monday, August 26 (film) and Thursday, September 5 (talk), at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 26).

Current Affairs: Contemporary American and International Politics

On Thursday, August 22 at 10:45 a.m., join Professor Steven J. Rubín for “Current Affairs: Contemporary American and International Politics.” This course will meet 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 Rubín in consultation with the class and in view of the issue’s relevance. Members will be encouraged to participate in discussions to express views and opinions in a supportive and informal atmosphere.

Steven J. Rubín is 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, August 22 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 26).

JEWISH EDUCATION IN THE BERKSHIRES 2019/20

The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires has a strong commitment to Jewish youth, helping to provide a high-quality Jewish education for more than 145 children and young adults through substantial grants to congregational religious schools across the Berkshires.

Berkshire County is fortunate to have a diverse Jewish community that offers educational opportunities encompassing a wide range of approaches and family preferences.

Knesset Israel

Pittsfield

The Knesset Israel Hebrew School, a part of this Conservative congregation's Families Together program, welcomes students from pre-school through 12th grade to dynamic classes where they learn Hebrew, Torah, Jewish studies, history, and culture. The school prides itself on its intimate classes and extraordinary faculty. In addition to teaching skills for meaningful Jewish living, the school also incorporates a 'hidden curriculum' helping students learn to value and prioritize their own involvement in Jewish community life.

Judith Weiner is the director of Knesset Israel Families Together and administrator of the Hebrew School, as well as of family engagement and teen programming. These are both generously funded by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. Drawing on her many years of teaching and Jewish camp experience, as well as her graduate-level study of education at the Jewish Theological Seminary, Judith brings creativity, professionalism and passion to her leadership role.

Early Childhood and Primary Grades: Children preschool age and below are invited to attend KI's new program, which will be offered monthly starting in November. This exciting opportunity will incorporate music, games, stories, and an introduction to the Jewish worship experience. Preschool and kindergarten students gather on Shabbat mornings. An hour class with a highly-qualified teacher features song, movement, and Shabbat-friendly crafts. Students in first and second grades also meet on Shabbat mornings for a two hour session, beginning their study of Hebrew, prayer, *mitzvot*, and Jewish holidays. Afterwards classes join together for Purposeful Play, a program that gives the youngest pupils a chance to learn creatively and experientially. A team of experienced primary school educators is working together to infuse this program with best practices and joy.

Elementary Grades: Grades 2-6 meet on Shabbat mornings and Wednesday afternoons. Over the course of their elementary school years, students study stories from the Torah, lifecycle, holidays, and Jewish values. This year, grades three and four will continue their studies of Jewish values, *parsha*, and growing their depth and breadth in their knowledge of the Jewish holidays. Grades five and six will explore the texts from the Mishna as they advance in



Students at KI's Hebrew School

their Hebrew learning, and will use discussion of current events to explore issues in modern Jewish history. All students at this age level also participate in Junior Congregation on a weekly basis. Wednesday afternoon classes use formal and informal techniques to help students learn to read Hebrew fluently. Local Judaica artists enrich the KI Hebrew School program, which continues to grow each year.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah: The crown jewel of KI's education programs, the intensive bar/bat mitzvah program engages students deeply in developing the skills and enthusiasm they will need for lifelong participation and leadership in Jewish religious life. Instruction includes chanting Torah and haftarah and leading of all Shabbat services. The program is complemented by a mitzvah project and the preparation of a short sermon to be delivered to the congregation the day of each student's lifecycle celebration.

High School: Students convene on Shabbat morning for a class with KI's rabbi, David Weiner. This year we will study Jewish values using the Bible together with commentary from Rashi. High school students also have the opportunity to serve as teaching assistants in the Hebrew School, especially in Junior Congregation, the bar/bat mitzvah program and Purposeful Play. This year Knesset Israel will be piloting new youth programming, incorporating the arts, social time, leadership development and opportunities for regional conventions. Participation of members and non-members is welcome.

Family Programming: Exciting programs for the whole family linking themes of the Jewish calendar with contemporary social issues take place throughout the year. Open to non-members as well

as members, these programs are a great way for families to experience the Knesset Israel community. Upcoming fall events include: Family BBQ at KI, September 2, 3-7 p.m.; Fall Gleaning, September 22; Dinner in the Sukkah, October 16. Please check the Knesset Israel calendar (at <https://knessetisrael.org>) or Facebook page for further details.

Registration for Knesset Israel's Hebrew School will take place during the summer months. Members and non-members are welcome, and Hebrew School can be an excellent gateway to becoming more involved in the community. Interested families are invited to contact Judith Weiner at (413) 445-4872 or jweiner@knessetisrael.org.

Hevreh of Southern Berkshire

Great Barrington



Hevreh Religious School students enjoying a break from their studies

Religious School

Hevreh, a Reform congregation, looks forward to welcoming new and returning students in kindergarten through 7th grade to its Religious School this fall on Sunday, September 15 at 10 a.m. "Together we'll learn and grow, play and cook, and sing and create," says Education Director Rabbi Jodie Gordon, "with a few special surprises

This section offers an overview of local Jewish schools.

Please note that owing to the BJV's publishing schedule, some key dates and events for local religious schools may not have been finalized at press time.

Please contact the congregations (contact information on page 25) for complete details.

Congregation Beth Israel

North Adams



Purim fun at Congregation Beth Israel

The Congregation Beth Israel Community Hebrew School offers a vibrant after-school Jewish learning program for pre-K through 7th grade. This Reform congregation's program supports children's Jewish development through song and prayer, creative exploration, Jewish literacy, Hebrew learning and acts of caring. Located in the northern Berkshires, classes meet on Mondays from 3:30-5:15 p.m. Special family and community programs are also held throughout the year.

This year, CBI's Community Hebrew School begins on Monday, September 9.

The education team is headed by Rabbi Jarah Greenfield, a seasoned and passionate Jewish educator who is in her second year at CBI as director of education.

Students benefit from the presence of beloved teachers: Rabbi Rachel Barenblat, CBI's spiritual leader, is a poet,

rabbi, chaplain, and blogger who works closely with students as they move through the b'nai mitzvah experience. Jane Shiyah is a school counselor, family coach, storyteller and magician with 45 years of working with children and their families. Ellery Shiller, a junior at Bennington College, is a playwright and artist who engages students in real-life topics such as Jewish ethics, belief in God, and the contemporary emergence of non-binary Hebrew.

CBI offers special programming throughout the year, including community picnics, field trips, concerts, artists-in-residence, holiday celebrations, and more.

To learn more about the CBI Community Hebrew School and staff, please visit the website at www.cbihebrewschool.weebly.com. Education Director Rabbi Jarah Greenfield can be reached at rabbijgreenfield@gmail.com.

along the way. Parents and siblings are invited to join us for our Opening Day blessing and celebration at 11:45 a.m. in the sanctuary."

Religious School meets weekly on Sunday mornings for kindergarten through 7th grade from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Hebrew Skills meets weekly on Wednesdays from 4 to 5:30 p.m. for grades 3 through 7.

Hevreh welcomes interfaith families, GLBTQ families, new members, first timers, neighbors, and friends to explore all the education programs have to offer.

To schedule a one-on-one appointment and tour, please contact:

Rabbi Jodie Gordon, Education Director: jgordon@hevreh.org

Jodie Friedman, Program Associate: jfriedman@hevreh.org.

Go to hevreh.org/school to register!

Tiny Talmidim

On Sunday, September 22 from 10-11:30 a.m., Tiny Talmidim begins. It's a hands-on class that allows parents and their pre-school aged children the opportunity to explore the Jewish calendar together each month through movement, music, cooking, and crafts related to Jewish holidays and Jewish values. Each month in Tiny Talmidim, expect to learn something new, make something new, taste, sing, and experience something new. If you have any questions please be in touch with Rabbi Gordon.

Go to hevreh.org/school to register!

JEWISH EDUCATION IN THE BERKSHIRES 2019/20

Temple Anshe Amunim

Pittsfield

“Join us for a new kind of Religious School,” says Rabbi Liz Hirsch, who serves as both spiritual leader of this Reform congregation and director of education for a dynamic and innovative learning environment. The cutting-edge, one-day-a-week, experiential program is open to students of all grades, K-12, meeting on Saturday mornings at Temple Anshe Amunim.

TAA’s Shabbat Religious School begins on Saturday, September 14 at 10:30 a.m., coinciding with Shabbat morning services. “Our brief, fun, musical service is open to all ages,” says Rabbi Hirsch. “We don’t have a bar or bat mitzvah service attendance requirement, because coming to services is one of the best parts of the week for our

students and families. After Shabbat blessings and snacks, we continue with a program, activity, or field trip appropriate for all ages. This year, we’re celebrating the 150th anniversary of Temple Anshe Amunim. Each week, we’ll do something new!”

Hebrew education is integrated into the Shabbat morning program, with additional tutoring and support available to bar and bat mitzvah students and others on an as-needed basis. From time to time, students meet on a Friday evening for a Shabbat evening service, dinner, and family education experience. If they meet on a Friday, they won’t usually meet on that Saturday morning.

According to Rabbi Hirsch, Religious School at TAA is....

Experiential. “We often

do our learning beyond the walls of the synagogue by getting outside, exploring local Pittsfield cultural sites, volunteering, being active (think skiing, hiking, and sports), and using social media to tell our Jewish stories.”

Communal. “We bring together elementary, middle, and high school students to learn and grow together. We forge inter-generational relationships between our students and congregants of all ages. Teens are always welcome to attend, as our oldest students are role models for our youngest. When appropriate, we’ll break into smaller groups based on age.”

Flexible. “We take attendance to ensure health and safety, not to reward or guilt those who do or do not attend. We are happy to discuss our



Rabbi Liz Hirsch (left) leads the religious school program at Temple Anshe Amunim

flexible options with your family. We tailor our program to you and your children.”

Fun. “We have fun together!”

To learn more or register, visit ansheamunim.org, email templeoffice@ansheamunim.org, or call at (413) 442-5910.

LOCAL NEWS

The B'Shalom Chorale of the Berkshires Returns!

GREAT BARRINGTON – The B'Shalom Chorale of the Berkshires will present a concert of Jewish choral music at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, August 14 at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire.

This is the sixth season concert for this summer chorus of singers who enjoy exploring the great wealth of Jewish music, sacred and secular, as well as classical and contemporary.

The B'Shalom Chorale is conducted by Jack Brown, who is also the artistic director of the Berkshire Lyric Chorus and the choral director at Simon's Rock College and the Hotchkiss School. The accompanist is Joe Rose, also of Berkshire Lyric and a well-known musician in the region. The music for this concert will include various styles, genres and cultures, for example, Sephardic, Yiddish, Israeli, and others.



Admission to the concert is \$15. All are welcome.

For more information call (413) 418-1836, or email BShalomChorale@gmail.com. Hevreh is located at 270 State Road in Great Barrington.

Jewish Federation of the Berkshires' 2019 Annual Campaign GOAL \$855,000



DOING EXTRAORDINARY THINGS **YOUR IMPACT IS REAL** **ANNUAL CAMPAIGN 2019**

The Secret Deal To End The Holocaust

PITTSFIELD – On Sunday, August 18 at 6:30 p.m., Chabad of the Berkshires hosts Holocaust historian Max Wallace, who will talk about his new non-fiction book, *In the Name of Humanity: The Secret Deal to End the Holocaust*.

The book details an audacious scheme by a rescue committee of Swiss ultra-Orthodox Jews led by a remarkable woman named Recha Sterbuch. Wallace, a *New York Times* bestselling author who worked for Steven Spielberg's Shoah Foundation, will reveal newly discovered archival documents proving that the Committee deceived SS chief Heinrich Himmler into destroying the gas chambers at Auschwitz-Birkenau and terminating the Final Solution in November 1944, a full six months before the end of the war, thus saving tens of thousands of Jews.

The *Canadian Jewish News* described his book as “an impressive piece of historical scholarship and a very compelling chapter of Holocaust history.” The book was recently awarded the 2018 Canadian Jewish Literary Award for Holocaust History.

Max Wallace is a journalist, filmmaker and Holocaust historian. Wallace's previous books include *The American Axis: Henry Ford, Charles Lindbergh and the Rise of the Third*

Reich, about the Nazi collaboration of two American icons; and *Muhammad Ali's Greatest Fight: Cassius Clay vs. the United States of America*, about Ali's battle against the US government over the Vietnam War, for which Ali wrote the foreword. In 2013, the book was adapted into a Hollywood film directed by Oscar-nominated filmmaker Stephen Frears. Wallace has been a guest columnist for the *Sunday New York Times*, and has also contributed to the BBC.

Please RSVP to jewishberkshires.com and/or call (413) 499-9899. Suggested donation is \$18.

A Review Of The Liberators – Eyewitness Accounts of the Liberation of the Concentration Camps

Stuart D. Feigenblatt is a former research scholar on the Holocaust and will be addressing the community on Tisha B'Av, Sunday, August 11 at 11 a.m., at Chabad of the Berkshires. Stuart will share his extensive research on eyewitness accounts of the liberation of the concentration camps.

There is no cost, but an RSVP is required.

Chabad of the Berkshires is located at 450 South Street in Pittsfield.

The Maimonides Society of the Berkshires presents

The Opioid Crisis In The Berkshires

Sunday, August 18
9:30 am

Lenox Town Hall
6 Walker Street Lenox, MA

A panel discussion and Q&A with special guests:

Jennifer Michaels, MD

Medical Director, Brien Center and Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at UMASS Medical School

Andrea Harrington, JD

District Attorney, Berkshire County, MA

Open to the Public

This live activity will receive a maximum of two hours of AMA PRA Category 1 Credit through the Joint Providership of Berkshire Health Systems and the Maimonides Society

Couvert \$15
Bagels and spread will be served
RSVP BY AUG 14
(413) 442-4360, ext. 10
federation@jewishberkshires.org



Jewish Federation OF THE BERKSHIRES

NO SOLICITATION OF FUNDS

LOCAL NEWS

Deborah Lipstadt to Speak at 52nd Annual Feigenbaum Memorial Foundation Lecture

PITTSFIELD – The 52nd Annual Hilda Vallin Feigenbaum Memorial Foundation Lecture will be held on Sunday, August 25 at 7:30 p.m. at Temple Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad Street in Pittsfield. The speaker will be Deborah Lipstadt, a Dorot Professor of Modern Jewish and Holocaust Studies at Emory University in Atlanta and a historical consultant to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

The topic will be “Assault on Truth and Memory: Lessons from History.” The lecture, sponsored by the

Temple Anshe Amunim Feigenbaum Lecture Endowment, is free and open to the public.

Dr. Lipstadt has published and taught about the Holocaust and the effects of hatred for almost 40 years. Her most recent book, published in 2019, *Antisemitism: Here and Now*, is an inquiry into contemporary manifestations of anti-Semitism. Her previous book, *Holocaust: An American Understanding*, explores how America has processed and interpreted the Holocaust since 1945. *The Eichmann Trial*, published

in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Adolf Eichmann’s trial, was “a penetrating and authoritative dissection of a landmark case and its after effects.”

Her 2005 book *History on Trial: My Day in Court with a Holocaust Denier* is the story of her libel trial in London against David Irving who sued her for calling him a Holocaust denier and right-wing extremist. The film *Denial*, starring Rachel Weisz, Tom Wilkinson, and Timothy Spall, was based on the book.

Dr. Lipstadt was an historical consultant to the United

States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and helped design the section of the Museum dedicated to the American Response to the Holocaust. On April 11, 2011, the 50th anniversary of the start of the Eichmann Trial, Dr. Lipstadt gave a public address at the State Department on the impact of the trial.

Dr. Lipstadt is often called upon by the media to comment on a variety of topics. She has spoken at the Chautauqua Institute and appeared on Good Morning America, NPR’s Fresh Air, and the BBC. She is also a frequent contributor to and is widely quoted in newspapers and journals including the *Washington Post* and *The New York Times*.

She has held, and currently holds, a Presidential appointment to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council (from Presidents Clinton and Obama) and was asked by President George W. Bush to represent the White House at the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. At the US Holocaust Museum Lipstadt chairs the Committee on Antisemitism and State Sponsored Holocaust Denial.

About the Hilda Vallin Feigenbaum Lecture Series

Andy Hochberg, lecture committee co-chairman, notes that “This is the 52nd year of the Hilda Vallin Feigenbaum Memorial Foundation Lecture series and it presents an opportunity to emphasize the civic and spiritual legacy of this outstanding woman. The series would not be possible without her sons Dr. Armand Feigenbaum and Dr. Donald Feigenbaum (both of blessed



Deborah Lipstadt

memory), who established the Hilda Vallin Feigenbaum Lecture Series in perpetuity as a living memorial to their mother’s spirit.”

The Hilda Vallin Feigenbaum Memorial Foundation continues to enhance the spiritual and intellectual life of Temple Anshe Amunim and the larger community. The Foundation has sponsored lectures by leaders in American government, literature, theology, and journalism including such personalities as Julian Bond, Representative Barney Frank, Isaac Bashevis Singer, Bernard Kalb, Ambassadors Daniel Kurtzer and Martin Indyk, Steven Emerson, Mara Liasson, Howard Dean, Bret Stephens and David Gergen.

Refreshments will be served after the lecture.

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

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



TEMPLE ANSHE AMUNIM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL PROGRAM

Join us for a new kind of Religious School

BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 14TH
SATURDAYS, 10:30AM

Our cutting-edge, **one-day a week** program is
open to students of all grades, K-12.

Religious School at TAA is
experiential, communal, flexible, and fun!

To learn more or register, visit us at ansheamunim.org,
email us at templeoffice@ansheamunim.org
or call us at 413.442.5910.



26 BROAD STREET, PITTSFIELD, MA

Shirei Shabbat at Knesset Israel with Dr. Leon Chameides

PITTSFIELD – On September 20, Knesset Israel presents its monthly family-friendly Kabbalat Shabbat service featuring gifted musicians and musical arrangements leading the interactive prayers.

Shabbat dinner cooked by enthusiastic volunteers will follow. After dessert, Dr. Leon Chameides will speak.

In addition to many medical publications, Dr. Chameides has published two books, *Strangers in Many Lands*, which traces his family history and his own experiences during and after the Shoah in Poland and England, and *On the Edge of the Abyss*, a translation of his father’s essays written between 1932 and 1936 as rabbi in Katowice, Poland. He will give a reading and analysis of one of these essays, “A Seder in Bnei Brak,” after dinner.

Dr. Chameides will discuss the Sanhedrin, events surrounding the fall of Jerusalem to the Romans, and some of the rabbis of the Mishna, as well as the events of 1933, the year his father wrote the essay, which provided the seed for the unique interpretation of the well-known Haggadah story.

Dr. Leon Chameides is Emeritus Director of Pediatric Cardiology at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center and Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Connecticut’s School of Medicine. He is a graduate of Yeshiva College and the Teacher’s Institute of Yeshiva University, as well as the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He received his medical education at the University of Rochester and Boston Children’s Hospital. Since coming to Hartford in 1967, he has been active in its Jewish community and has delivered numerous lectures on Jewish history, the Shoah, and a variety of Biblical topics.

The service begins at 5:30 p.m. Dinner reservations (\$20 adults, \$15 teens, free for children) may be called in, mailed, or brought directly to the synagogue office by Tuesday, September 17, to ensure sufficient seating and plentiful serving platters for all attending. Call (413) 445-4872, ext. 10, for more information.



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LOCAL NEWS

Jews, Israel, and the United Nations – Behind the Scenes and New Perspectives

LENOX – On Saturday, August 24 at noon, Chabad of the Berkshires will host Dr. Efraim Chalamish, an international economic law professor, advisor, and commentator whose topic will be “Jews, Israel, and the United Nations – Behind the Scenes and New Perspectives.”

This talk will be held following Shabbat services at the Lenox Community Center (65 Walker Street), Chabad’s summer home. Services begin at 9:30 a.m.

Dr. Chalamish has had an international legal practice in New York, Paris, and Israel, and has performed research and analysis of public and private international economic law. His work included both international arbitration disputes and cross-border transactions for multinational clients and sovereign

governments.

He has also served as a Global Fellow at New York University, exploring global governance of corporations and multilateral institutions, the intersection of business and national security, energy and sovereign wealth funds’ economics and policy, international investment arbitration, and global governance and financial regulation. He has advised the Israeli government and Israel’s Prime Minister’s Office on related matters, such as the oil and natural gas industry in Israel. His articles have been published in leading journals and magazines in the United States and Europe, such as the European Journal of International Law.

He is the founder and president of the Global Center for Economic Development and



Dr. Efraim Chalamish

Security, and has contributed to the Huffington Post, Project Syndicate, *The Gulf Times*, *Jerusalem Post*, *The Marker*, *Haaretz*, and *Jewish Week*.

For more information: Jewishberkshires.com and/or call (413) 499-9899.

Good Health...120!!!

Berkshire Hills Hadassah Annual Donor Dinner

PITTSFIELD – On Tuesday, August 27, Berkshire Hills Hadassah will hold their Annual Donor Dinner. This year the event will be dealing with the power of laughter, volunteering, and donating.

The featured speaker this year will be Hilary B. Price, a cartoonist and educator. Since 1995, Hilary has been writing her award-winning newspaper comic strip, “Rhymes with Orange.” Watch her create a comic strip and be prepared to laugh.

Laughter releases endorphins in our brain, reducing the level of stress in the body and strengthening the immune system. It has been proven that laughter can reduce negativity, emotional stress, and physical discomfort.

It’s also true that volunteering and donating are

beneficial to one’s health. Both bring joy, provide a sense of purpose, counteract the effects of stress and anxiety, and contribute to a longer life.

This year’s honorees are three very special women: Beth Abramson, Beth Radsken, and Phoebe Sugarman. Between them they have 120 years of volunteering and donating to Hadassah!

Berkshire Hills Hadassah invites everyone to an evening of good food, laughter, and sharing in the joy of being donors!

This event will take place at the Country Club of Pittsfield, 639 South Street, Pittsfield, at 6 p.m.

Please contact chapter president, Ros Kopfstein, at rosalindkopfstein@gmail.com for more information.

JTS in the Berkshires Lecture Series Continues to Lenox

LENOX – This summer’s JTS in the Berkshires series continues at the Bernstein Theater at Shakespeare & Company, on Friday, August 9, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., with admission reduced to \$15 per session.

Register at www.jtsa.edu/Berkshires or buy tickets at the door. Presented in cooperation with the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, Knesset Israel, and the Jewish Theological Seminary, as well as by a grant from the Herald Institute for Jewish Studies of JTS.

“Matchmaking and Midrash: A Hebrew Comedy from The Time Of Shakespeare”

Dr. Stefanie Siegmund, Women’s League Chair in Jewish Gender and Women’s Studies will introduce you to *The Comedy of Betrothal*, the oldest Hebrew play in existence, and its creator Leone de’Sommi, an Italian Jew from Mantua. Written in the 16th century in the style of an Italian Renaissance comedy, the play will surprise with its provocative themes and creative weaving of biblical and Talmudic texts with a plot reminiscent of Shakespeare’s marriage comedies.

Helping Dr. Siegmund will be two talented Knesset Israel members, Amy Brentano and Steve Rosenthal, who will deliver dramatic readings of key scenes that will encourage interactive discussion.

Tanglewood with Hevreh

LENOX – On Friday, August 2 at 7 p.m., Hevreh’s second Tanglewood Shabbat of the summer – open to all – will lift Shabbat in song at the Berkshires’ premier music venue. Look for the blue and white balloons in the middle of the lawn to set up your picnic dinner, and bring a dessert to share. Gates open at 5:30 p.m., and Hevreh will gather for Kabbalat Shabbat at the back of the lawn at approximately 7 p.m. The show for this evening is the Boston Symphony Orchestra with Ken-David Masur conducting Martinů and Dvořák featuring violinist Joshua Bell.

Call the Tanglewood box office to purchase lawn tickets at (888) 266-1200. Services will not be held at Hevreh this evening.

Tanglewood is at 297 West Street in Lenox.



The Game of Life – And Death

GREAT BARRINGTON – On Tuesday, August 6 at 9:30 a.m., Hevreh is sponsoring two opportunities to play “Hello,” a game designed to open doors of exploration and help identify what is most important to you.

“Hello” is a conversation game about living and dying and what matters most.

Organizers say that you will laugh, cry, and discover new things about yourself and the people you care about. Plus, they’ll be serving a light breakfast of danishes.

Please RSVP in advance, although walk-ins are welcome. Call Hevreh at (413) 528-6378 to let Hevreh know you’ll be there.

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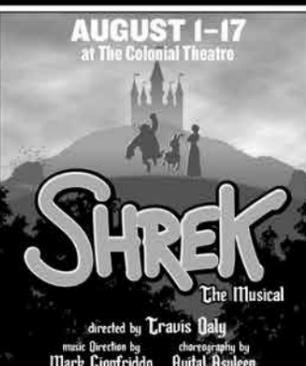
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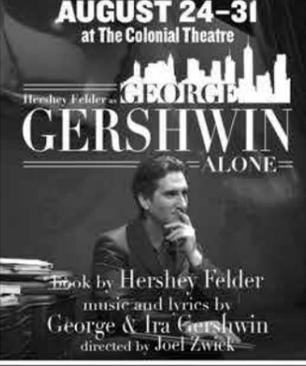
WHAT WE MAY BE

a World Premiere Comedy
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directed by Gregg Edelman



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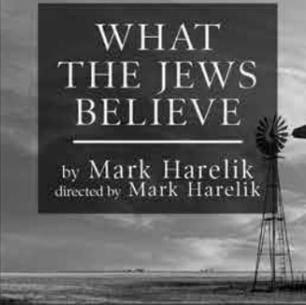
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music and lyrics by George & Ira Gershwin
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LOCAL NEWS

Berkshire Jewish Musicians Collective Makes A Surprise Tribute to Philanthropist Harold Grinspoon

The Berkshire Jewish Musicians Collective made a surprise appearance at the 2019 Life and Legacy Gathering at the Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place Hotel on May 19. While the event, sponsored by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, was aimed at building skills, sharing best practices, and providing networking opportunities for the participants in order to continue to create sustainable legacy giving programs in their local communities, national director Arlene Schiff extended an invite to the Collective.

Says Schiff, "Harold will be 90 this July and so, in honor of this important occasion, I invited the members of the Berkshire Jewish Musicians Collective to celebrate this milestone in Harold's life and the fact that we have all journeyed here from near and far to connect with others engaged in the important work of legacy giving. Tonight's group features the original lineup of the Collective, all friends of mine, and all who have been touched, in some way, by Harold's philanthropy."

"I was honored to be asked to play at Harold's celebration. He has not only supported me in my many years at Camp



Harold Grinspoon dancing with his wife, Diane Troderman

Seneca Lake, but this summer he is helping me to go to Israel. I'm thrilled to be able to bring a little smile to him on his birthday," added percussionist Colby Lederman.

The ten-song setlist ranged from classics such as "Hine Ma Tov" and "Oseh Shalom" to the klezmer favorite, "Odessa Bulgarisch." But when the Collective launched into the concluding trio of "Yom Huledet Sameach," "I Want You Back," and "Hava Nagila," the audience broke into a rousing hora in celebration of Harold Grinspoon's birthday.

About the Berkshire Jewish Musicians Collective

The Collective's musicians are members of both Knesset Israel in Pittsfield and Hevreh of Southern Berkshire in Great Barrington. With vocals provided by Sherri James Buxton and guitarist Jonathan Denmark, the group also consists of pianist and guitarist Matt Mozian and Paul Green on clarinet. The rhythm section is rounded out by percussionist Colby Lederman and bassist Colin Ovitsky. According to Ovitsky, The Berkshire Jewish Musicians



Harold Grinspoon (center) with The Berkshire Jewish Musicians Collective, (from left) Paul Green, Sherri James Buxton, Colin Ovitsky, Matt Mozian, Colby Lederman, and Jonathan Denmark

Collective was formed in December 2017, originally to perform as part of a January 2018 event in Pittsfield called "Songs & Sounds of Solidarity." This interfaith community concert, was attended by over 400 people and focused on social justice and building solidarity among people of different faith backgrounds, the immigrant community, people of color and under-resourced populations.

Their initial four-song set was enthusiastically received and generated performance requests from a diverse array of community groups. Since then, multiple iterations of the group, with members from three different Berkshire County congregations, have performed at a variety of events, including a fundraiser for local young women of color to spend their spring break on a service learning trip to South Africa, and a community-wide interfaith vigil following the Tree of Life synagogue attack.

Ovitsky describes the musical inspirations for the group as manifold, as are the many roots and branches of Jewish music. Part of the Collective's goal is to demonstrate the breadth and depth of what can

be considered "Jewish music," and to share all of this music with the wider community. He notes the powerful universality of the themes of peace, solidarity, brother/sisterhood, freedom, and protest against oppression, all of which are so prevalent in Jewish music, from ancient liturgical texts to klezmer to contemporary selections.

While the original inspiration for the formation of the Collective was a socio-political one, the multi-generational group also just enjoys playing together. "For me, the best part about being in the group is the chance to explore Jewish music with people who are so musically and emotionally committed to it. I think the spirit of the group is really thrilling for me," remarked Green. Vocalist Buxton echoes this sentiment. "Singing with this group is wonderful. They are all great musicians and terrific people, but the spark between us when we make music together is magical."

As the youngest member of the Collective, Lederman noted, "It's great for me as a learning musician to work with people who have been playing their entire lives."

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A Tanglewood Havdallah with TAA

LENOX – Join Temple Anshe Amunim for a Havdallah service at Tanglewood on Saturday, August 3 at 7 p.m. followed by the Boston Symphony Orchestra's Asher Fisch conducting Schumann, Dorman, Beethoven and Mendelssohn, with violinist Pinchas Zukerman and cellist Amanda Forsyth.

All are warmly invited to attend this beautiful and engaging evening with the Temple Anshe Amunim community! Bring your picnic and look for people with blue-and-white balloons gathered on the lawn near the Visitor's Center. The service is held overlooking Stockbridge Bowl before the evening's performance. Feel free to bring a dessert to share!

Tickets can be purchased by contacting the BSO at www.bso.org or by calling (413) 637-1666.

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



Knesset Israel 16 Colt Road Pittsfield

ONGOING MINYANS

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

CANDLE-LIGHTING

Friday, August 2.....7:57 p.m.
Friday, August 9.....7:48 p.m.
Friday, August 16.....7: 38 p.m.
Friday, August 23.....7:28 p.m.
Friday, August 30.....7:12 p.m.
Friday, September 6.....7:04 p.m.
Friday, September 13.....6:52 p.m.

Jewish Women's Foundation Brunch

On June 21, more than 100 women gathered to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Jewish Women's Foundation and honor its founder, Jane Glaser



Jane Glaser

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\$1,000
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Your gift to the Jewish Federation touches lives across the Berkshires and across the globe—helping vulnerable people, responding to crises, inspiring Jewish life and learning and assuring our collective Jewish Future

\$54
Three kosher meals for a homebound senior in the Berkshires

\$150
An educational lecture in our Connecting with Community program series

\$40
1 hour of case management from the Federation social worker

\$350
1 year of tuition subsidy for a student in a Berkshire county religious school

Your acts of caring join with thousands of others.

\$36
Textbooks and school supplies for a student in Eastern Europe

\$40
12 Jewish content books for a local child in PJ Library

Your generosity extends comfort, care, and connection to those who need it most.

\$36
Blankets and heating fuel for a Holocaust survivor in the Ukraine

Thank You, Major Donors!

Our Major Donors Breakfast at Country Club of Pittsfield on July 14 was an inspiring morning that brought together 200 of our key supporters to celebrate the impact Federation has on the lives of others, as well as its advocacy in local high schools. Honorary co-chairs were David and Lorna Strassler.

Super Sunday co-chairs Larry Frankel and Elisa Schindler-Frankel spoke about why they give to Federation. "I believe that *tzedakah*, in whatever form it takes, creates a sacred space between the giver and the receiver," said Larry. "It is in that space between that the real work of repairing our world happens. Today as we consider our support of the Federation, we will create a sacred space between our community and ourselves."

Federation Executive Director Dara Kaufman, Jason McCandless (superintendent of the Pittsfield Public Schools and president of the Berkshire County

Superintendents Roundtable) and Robert Trestan, executive director of the Anti-Defamation League's New England office, talked 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.

Domenica Gomez, a recent graduate of Lenox Memorial High School, shared how her experiences as a participant in the program taught leadership skills that will make her an effective advocate for fairness and tolerance among her peers.

Thank you again, major donors and David and Lorna Strassler, for all you do! Your generosity lifts our entire community and transforms the lives of individuals across the Berkshires and around the world.



Family Fun at High Lawn Farm

By Susan Frisch Lehrer, Coordinator of Volunteers and PJ Library

PJ Library families had the best morning at High Lawn Farm in Lee on June 21. It rained a little, but that didn't stop us. We saw baby calves – some born yesterday! There were moms ready to deliver – cows sleeping on waterbeds! We learned about caring for animals – *tz'ar ba'alei chayim* – and read a PJ Library book, *The Littlest Pair*. And, while Shavuot was earlier in the month we talked about the holiday and why we eat dairy products – all while enjoying delicious chocolate milk produced at the farm! Thank you High Lawn Farm, Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, Jewish Women's Foundation of Berkshire County, and the The Spitz-Tuchman Fund for our PJ Library programs.



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Federation Annual Meeting Celebrates Youth Outreach with Our Partners in the US and Abroad

On the evening of June 18, more than 175 community members attended the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires' 79th annual meeting at The Mount in Lenox.

Opening the meeting with a *d'var Torah* was Rabbi Neil P.G. Hirsch. Judy Usow, who will conclude her term as Federation president in 2020, shared a recap of Federation's accomplishments over the past year, and recognized those who have stepped up to assume leadership positions on the Federation's executive board and board of directors. Joining the Federation's board of directors for their first 3-year terms were Elisa Schindler-Frankel, Sandy Rubin, Michael Wasserman, and Stuart Masters.

At the meeting, the Federation installed Kathy Fraker to its executive board as vice president. Continuing their service are Gail Orenstein as vice-president, Jennifer Sacon as secretary, Michael Ury as treasurer, and Amy Lindner-Lesser as immediate past president. Elected to serve an additional two-year term in his current position was Joshua Bloom as vice-president.

Community Engagement

Executive Director Dara Kaufman took the podium to describe another year of community service and achievement for our Federation. "With your loyal support, our 2018 campaign raised over \$885,000, 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."

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:

Liat Friedman

Secretary of the National Honor Society and a representative on the Northeast regional board of North American Federation, Liat will be attending Simmons University this fall to pursue the study of psychology. She hopes to join Hillel to further her Jewish journey and help others in college understand the culture and community of Judaism.

Jacob Munch

President of the Hevreh of Temple Youth, also known as HOTY, and treasurer of the National Honor Society, Jacob shares his love of Judaism and Jewish community with young students as a "Madrich" or young teacher in the religious school program at Hevreh. He credits his participation in NYFTY New England with helping him become more open minded and learning how to have deeper and more thoughtful conversations around Judaism. Jacob will attend either UMASS Amherst or Temple University this fall, and he would like to pursue a degree in sports management.

"Youth Impact 2019: Russia, Israel, and USA"

This year, we welcomed representatives of two of our major partners in engaging youth in the Jewish world.

Misha Libkin, director of ORT Russia, shared his personal story of how his education in ORT schools changed the direction of his life, and how the dollars contributed by our donors are making a difference in the lives of young Jews in Russia today.

Freda Baram, delegation director (Northeast Region) for The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), shared stories about her family's *aliyah* from Turkey in the 1980s, and how she built a career as an emissary in Canada and the United States for several Jewish non-profits.



Freda Baram (JAFI) and Misha Libkin (ORT Russia)



Liat Friedman with Judith Cook



LOCAL NEWS

Summer Learning Opportunities at Hevreh

GREAT BARRINGTON – This summer, Hevreh of Southern Berkshire taps its members' expertise for two interesting talks.

Perspectives on US Jewry and the Holocaust

On Thursday, August 1 at 4 p.m., join Stu Schweitzer for a talk that examines the actions of the Jewish community in the United States during the Holocaust. Writes Schweitzer: "American Jews and the past leadership of the U.S. Jewish community have come under fire in recent decades for failing to do all they could on behalf of European Jewry during the Holocaust. What could and should they have done? This topic is fraught with peril, as the luminaries on the US Jewish Commission on the Holocaust discovered to their dismay in the early 1980s.

The Commission, headed by former Supreme Court Justice Arthur Goldberg, broke up for a time in an internal clash over criticism of former Jewish leaders."

Schweitzer will provide some background on the controversy and then pose questions for attendees to discuss. Stu is a docent at the Holocaust Museum and Education Center of SW Florida, and has been a speaker at Hevreh on Holocaust issues in recent summers.

An Early Look at the 2020 Race for President

On Thursday, August 8 at 4 p.m., Richard Kirsch will explain the key dynamics that may play out in the primary race for president in 2020 and the dynamics in 2019 that are driving the race. He'll step back to look at what history



Stu Schweitzer

can tell us about the race moving forward.

Kirsch is a decades-long Hevreh member who has helped us analyze the 2016 presidential election and the 2018 midterms. He brings a lifetime of work in progressive political organizing at the state and national level.

Theatrical Exploration of Two Episodes of Anti-Semitism in French History

PITTSFIELD – On Sunday, September 15, at 2 p.m. Temple Anshe Amunim, in conjunction with Knesset Israel, will present *Restoration: Anti-Semitism in France*, a double bill by Jesse Waldinger, a playwright who specializes in historical dramas.

The first play, *The Esterhazy Draft*, depicts a pivotal moment in the infamous Dreyfus Affair, when Colonel Georges Picquart brings to the attention of his superiors that the Jewish soldier Alfred Dreyfus was wrongfully convicted of treason. Instructed not to make waves, Picquart experiences a crisis of conscience. Even before the entry of the famous novelist Emile Zola into the fray, this less-known military officer stands in a position to blow a whistle, if he so chooses – but at huge personal cost.

The Finaly Affair, originally seen at Temple Anshe Amunim as part of a Kristallnacht program in 2014, tells the true story of two young brothers who were successfully hidden from the Nazis by a Catholic woman. After the war, having baptized the boys, the woman refused to return them to their surviving Jewish relatives. Under canon law, once baptized, the children irrevocably

belong to the Church. The ensuing struggle pitted the French judicial system against the Catholic establishment, with Pope Pius XII himself exerting influence. The play depicts the confrontation between the woman, the boys' uncle and aunt, and a conflicted Cardinal.

The professional actors performing in the staged readings are Andrew Joffe, Carla Lewis, Annette Miller, and James Occhino. At the discussion following the reading, there will be two very special guests: Suzanne Vromen, Professor Emerita of Sociology at Bard College and founder of their Women's Studies program, who was herself protected by Belgian nuns during the Nazi regime; and Joyce Block Lazarus, the author of *In the Shadow of Vichy: The Finaly Affair*, which was a resource for Waldinger when researching the story.

Jesse Waldinger, a retired attorney, is the author of numerous plays. His interactive Biblical drama *The Trial of Aaron* enjoyed two readings at Temple Anshe Amunim, most recently in 2016. A collection of four of his short historical pieces was mounted under the rubric *Created Equal* at TAA in 2017. He is co-director of the

Hudson-based play development group Plays in Progress.

Restoration: Anti-Semitism in France will be directed by Dr. Barbara Waldinger, a director and professor of Theatre who presently an OLLI instructor and co-founder of OLLI's Performing Arts Initiative. For the past two decades she has served as artistic director of HRC Showcase Theatre, an Equity-approved company that performs staged readings of new plays in Hudson, New York. She is also a theatre critic for the online publication *Berkshire on Stage*.

The production, jointly sponsored by Temple Anshe Amunim and Knesset Israel, will be staged at Temple Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield. Refreshments will be served.

For reservations or for more information, contact the Temple Anshe Amunim office at (413) 442-5910, email templeoffice@ansheamunim.org or visit www.ansheamunim.org. You may also contact Knesset Israel's Myrna Hammerling at (413) 445-4872, ext. 16 or mhammerling@knessetisrael.org.

Donation is \$20. Admission for students is free.

Lunch and Learn this Summer with Temple Anshe Amunim

PITTSFIELD – This summer, Temple Anshe Amunim hosts "Lunch and Learn" sessions. Guests are invited to bring their own lunch; beverages and dessert will be provided. Admission is free for Temple members and \$5 for not-yet-members.

The Old is New and the New is Holy: Preparing for the High Holy Days

On Wednesdays, August 7, 14, and 21 at 11:30 a.m., prepare for the High Holy Days with Rabbi Liz Hirsch. This year, TAA will begin using *Mishkan Hanevesh*, the Reform movement's new High Holy Day prayer book. The new book will serve as the guide for the spiritual journey into 5780.

The Rosenberg Case: An Illustrated Lecture

On Tuesday, August 6 at 11:30 a.m., Temple Anshe Amunim will host an illustrated lecture by Jesse Waldinger about Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, who on June 19, 1953, having been convicted of conspiracy to commit espionage, were strapped into the electric chair and electrocuted. Their execution was and still is controversial: to some the Rosenbergs were traitors and to others martyrs. Were they guilty of spying for the Soviet Union? Did they deserve the death penalty?

Book Discussion – Antisemitism Here and Now, by Deborah Lipstadt

On Monday, July 29 at 12:30 p.m. Temple Anshe Amunim will host a discussion of *Antisemitism Here and Now*, by Deborah Lipstadt,



Dr. Barbara Viniar

led by Dr. Barbara Viniar. Dr. Lipstadt will be this year's speaker at the annual Hilda Vallin Feigenbaum Lecture on August 25 (see story on page 10). The discussion will enable participants to explore the issues Lipstadt will discuss and formulate questions they may want to ask.

Dr. Barbara Viniar, former President of Berkshire Community College, recently attended the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism's "Consultation on Conscience" conference and came away with a renewed understanding of the centrality of anti-Semitism to the contemporary surge of racial violence here and worldwide. She is eager to join with others in using Lipstadt's scholarship to better understand what is needed for action.

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

With each gift, we address so many causes that are important to our community: from feeding the hungry to funding Jewish education and elder care to supporting breakthrough initiatives like PJ Library and Taglit-Birthright Israel.

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OBITUARIES

George H. Sorter, 91, one of the most-favored business school professors

NEW YORK, NY – George H. Sorter, 91, died Thursday, May 23 at his home in New York City.

Born in Vienna on December 2, 1927, George and his mother fled Austria in 1938. He attended school in Chicago, earned a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, and joined the faculty. In 1974, he became the Vincent C. Ross, Professor of Accounting and Chairman of the Accounting Department at NYU's Graduate School of Business and later, University Professor. He joined the NYU Law School faculty in 1990, retired as Professor Emeritus in 2003, but continued to teach there until 2013.

Winner of the American Accounting Association's Outstanding Educator Award and NYU Law School's Great Teacher Award, he was also cited in *Fortune* magazine as one of the eight most-favored business school professors.

George had been a bridge champion, giving that up in favor of family and academia, authoring a textbook and dozens of articles on his *Events Approach to Accounting*. George was also known for his uncanny wit.

He is survived by his wife, Doriene (Lachman) Sorter; son, Ivan Lindgren (Patti); daughter, Adrienne Fisher (Zac), and grandchildren, Samantha, Daniel, Michael, Julia, Eli and Kathryn. He was predeceased by his son, David Sorter (Amy). Donations may be sent to Marlboro Music Festival at <https://www.marlbormusic.org/support/donate/> or Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, 196 South Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201.

Jerry M. Hamovit, 91, attorney and served on several boards

SARASOTA, FL – Jerry M. Hamovit passed away on Thursday, May 9 in Sarasota, FL.

Born in Tulsa, OK on October 6, 1927 to Frank and Rose Hamovit, he spent his early years in Florida and New York, and then moved to Houston, TX with his parents and younger sister, Sheila, in 1939.

Mr. Hamovit graduated from Rice University in 1947. He received his law degree in 1950 from Harvard Law School. From 1950-53 he was in the U.S. Army, serving in the Judge Advocate General Corps. Upon returning to Houston, he was in private practice as a lawyer before moving to Washington, D.C. in January, 1959.

He was employed by the Tax Division of the Department of Justice and subsequently on the personal staff of the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Tax Policy. Between those two periods of government employment, he was employed by a law firm in Cleveland, OH. In 1967, he joined the law firm of Melrod, Redman and Gartlan, and retired as a senior partner in 1990. He was on the Planning and Zoning Board of Longboat

Key, FL, the Board of the Pierian Spring Academy for Senior Learning, and a math tutor at Booker Middle School in Sarasota. After his retirement he lived for portions of the year in Sarasota, Chevy Chase (MD), and Lenox.

Mr. Hamovit is survived by his wife of 62 years, Joelle Hamovit; two children, Lloyd Hamovit and wife, Maud, and Ellen Sweny and husband, Mike Sweny. A second son, David, died in 1993. He also had five grandchildren.

Memorial services were held at Temple Beth Israel on Longboat Key, FL on May 14. Contributions in his memory can be made to the charity of your choice.

Marcia Hochberg, 77, wife, mother, grandmother

LENOX – Marcia Hochberg, 77, passed away on Tuesday, June 11.

Born November 23, 1941, Marcia was a psychiatric social worker. She was a loving, kind, considerate person who always thought of others before herself.

Marcia was the beloved wife for 49 years to Dr. Fred Hochberg; devoted mother of Elizabeth Hochberg and Ian Hochberg; mother-in-law of Michael Schloff; dear sister of Barbara Greenblatt and her husband, Phil; loving grandmother of Noah and Gabriella.

Service and interment took place on Thursday, June 13. Tzedakah should be directed to the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, 450 Brookline Avenue, Boston, MA 02215 or <https://www.dana-farber.org/how-you-can-help/ways-to-give/>.

Dr. Mitchell J. Burgin, 94, local orthodontist

PEABODY, MA – Dr. Mitchell J. Burgin, 94, of Brooksby Village Drive, Peabody, formerly of Williamstown, died on Friday, June 21 at Kaplan House, Danvers, MA.

Born in Boston on October 16, 1924, the son of Dr. Joel and Mrs. Anna (Rudnick) Ginsburg, he attended and graduated from schools in Boston in 1941. He graduated from New York University in 1945 and received his dental degree from the University of Maryland Dental School in 1949. After practicing dentistry for two years, he attended the University of Pennsylvania for post-graduate training in orthodontics.

Dr. Burgin served as a dental officer in the U.S. Army Dental Corps from 1953-1955, primarily based at the former Fort Devens Army Post, and in the Army Reserves until 1958. In 1957, he established his own orthodontic practice in North Adams, where he practiced on Main Street until 1993. A satellite office was located in Bennington, VT, on Union Street, which he opened in 1958 and where he practiced until his retirement in 1996.

Dr. Burgin was a member of the American Association and Northeastern Society of Orthodontists, and the Massachusetts and Vermont Associations of Orthodontists.

He was a life member of the

American Dental Association, the Massachusetts and Berkshire District Dental Societies, the Vermont State Dental Society, and a member of the honorary Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Society.

He was a longtime active member of the former North Adams Kiwanis Club and served on its Board of Directors for ten years during the 1970s. He became a life member of Kiwanis International in 1980. His friends knew him as a quiet man.

He was a member of the Congregation Beth Israel in North Adams. He leaves two nieces, Joele Frank of New York City and Wendy Frank Higgins of Newburyport, MA; a grandniece and two grandnephews. He was predeceased by his sister, Ruth D. Frank, in November, 2006.

Private graveside services were held on Sunday, June 23 at Beth Israel Cemetery, Clarksburg. Friends may donate to Congregation Beth Israel, 53 Lois Street, North Adams, MA 01247 or to the charity of choice through the Flynn and Dagnoli-Montagna Home for Funerals, 74 Marshall Street, North Adams, MA 01247.

Melvin Greenberg, 86, passionate advocate and activist for social justice

ALFORD – Melvin Greenberg, 86, died Thursday, June 27 at Fairview Commons.

Born in New York City on December 26, 1932, the first son of Irving and Ethel Greenberg, he grew up in the city where he attended public schools and was a graduate of Lafayette High School. Mel attended City College where he studied electrical engineering.

Mel was founder and CEO of Aluminum Louvre Corporation in Plainview, Long Island, along with his partner Frank Marchart. After transplanting from Great Neck to the Berkshires in 1993, he enjoyed a second career as a real estate agent and appraiser, developing, in partnership with his wife Ellen, a thriving brokerage, Alford Farms Realty, with its signature llama farm and logo.

Mel was a passionate advocate and activist for social justice his entire life. From his early years at Wo-Chi-Ca, a progressive summer camp, to joining the courageous volunteers registering African-American voters in Mississippi during Freedom Summer. From his support and fund-raising for SNCC, to his work with the Vietnam Peace movement, Mel demonstrated with words and actions the Jewish principle of *Tikkun Olam* (making the world a better place).

After arriving in the Berkshires, Mel and Ellen joined the young and growing reform Jewish community of Hevreh, eventually becoming a driving force in the congregation's social action committee, an indispensable volunteer for the URJ Eisner Summer Camp, and a member of Hevreh's Legacy Circle.

Although he loved the physical beauty and cultural amenities of his adopted home, Mel became aware of

and very concerned about the number of families suffering from food insecurity in the community. Not one to let a problem go unaddressed, Mel launched a series of 'food rescue' programs. The first of these, Berkshires Bounty, was started with help from his dear friend Phyllis Weiss. For 25 years, Mel, along with many helpers and his well-worn pickup, drove to the markets, bakeries and cafes of Great Barrington each week collecting food donations and distributing them to a variety of organizations including the People's Pantry, WIC, and Railroad Street Youth Programs.

For the past 15 years, he also worked closely with Breaking Bread Kitchen to provide weekly dinners to those in need. Finally, realizing the difficulties that many senior citizens in the West Berkshires face due to physical isolation, Mel also organized, in conjunction with the Great Barrington Senior Center, a phone call, check-in, and transport service for seniors living on their own.

Mel loved animals and enjoyed working with his hands. He got much joy working with his Morgan horses in Vermont, and doing daily chores with his beloved Bouviers, Jackie and Cowboy. He also loved singing and listening to folk music, particularly socially conscious troubadours including The Weavers and Joan Baez (and played the banjo for many years). Running and skiing were his go-to sports and he was an enthusiastic chef.

Mel is survived by his wife Ellen; four children David, Josh, Toby and Jill; three siblings Noah, Anna and Rachel. He also leaves several nieces, nephews and grandchildren. He was predeceased by his brother Saul.

A memorial service was held on Tuesday, July 2 at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire in Great Barrington. Memorial gifts can be made to Berkshire Bounty or Hospice Care in the Berkshires c/o Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home, 426 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230.

Phyllis Rosenthal Sands, 94, devoted psychiatric social worker

NORTH ADAMS – Phyllis Rosenthal Sands MSW, 94, died on Tuesday, July 2.

Born in North Adams in 1924, she was the daughter of Arthur and Edith Rosenthal, prominent leaders of medical and civic groups in that city. Mrs. Sands was the 1942 valedictorian at Drury High School and then graduated from Wellesley College and trained at Columbia University and Bellevue Hospital in New York City as a social worker.

Introduced by Laura and Teddy Koven when they were both training in New York City, Mrs. Sands married her husband, Dr. William Sands at Blantyre in Lenox in 1947. Mrs. Sands was a devoted psychiatric social worker for 50 years in Albany, branching out into family therapy

and individual counseling. She loved literature, ballet and music, film and theatre, Tanglewood and Saratoga and was an avid world traveler with William and their friends. She loved the Berkshires, tennis, and their wonderful home in Menands, which evoked memories of their years at Fort Ord in Monterey, CA as newlyweds.

As a devoted alumna of Wellesley, Mrs. Sands was thrilled to celebrate her 70th reunion by watching her daughter-in-law, Paula Johnson, be inaugurated as the 14th president of Wellesley College.

Mrs. Sands is survived by her daughters, Beth and Wendy; sons, Bob and Peter and their spouses Paula Johnson and Lisa Sands; brother George Rosenthal and sister Jane Fanburg; grandchildren, Jonathan, Eliot and Kate. She was predeceased by her husband.

Funeral services were held Friday, July 5 at Congregation Beth Israel, North Adams. Burial followed in Beth Israel Cemetery, Clarksburg. Memorial donations may be sent to Wellesley College, Congregation Beth Israel, 53 Lois St., North Adams, MA, 01247, or the charity of your choice.

Melvin "Mel" Robert Blieberg, 89, teacher, principal, superintendent

WILLIAMSTOWN – Melvin "Mel" Robert Blieberg, 89, died peacefully at his home on Tuesday, July 2.

Born in Brooklyn, NY on March 2, 1930, son of Anna Parver and Joseph Blieberg, he received his BS from SUNY Oswego and Master's in Education from Hofstra University.

Mel began his teaching days in the sixth grade at the Old Main Street School in Islip, NY, later serving as the first principal of Sherwood Elementary School and subsequently serving for sixteen years as Superintendent of Islip Public Schools. He also served as President of the Suffolk County School Executives Association and taught for the MA of Education program at NYU. Mel contributed to the betterment of his community not only through the education of its youth, but by his active involvement in community organizations.

At various times he was President of the Islip Rotary Club, President of the Islip Heart Association, Director of the Little League of the Islips, President of the Islip Parent-Teacher Association, President of Easter Seals, Chairman of the United Jewish Appeal and member of B'nai B'rith.

After retiring to the Berkshires in 1990, Mel continued his public service as a consultant to the Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene Counties BOCES (Questar III) and later as interim superintendent of Williamstown School District. He also served a number of community and professional organizations in the Berkshires and New York including:

OBITUARIES, CONTINUED

NYS Council of School Superintendents (President); Richmond Consolidated School Committee (Board Member and 3rd grade school mentoring program); Temple Anshe Amunim (Trustee); Boston Symphony Orchestra Association of Volunteers – Tanglewood (Chair); Berkshire Historical Society (Board Member) and the Literacy Network of South Berkshire (Board Member).

He will be remembered for his love of plaid, music, cows and dogs and his compassion, wisdom and persistent humor.

Mel is survived by his loving wife, Rita Blieberg; seven children, Wynn Blieberg (Doreen), Jon Blieberg (Michelle), Peter Blieberg (Gaby), Rick Qualliotine (Angela Stanley), Peter Qualliotine (Cailin), Gina Qualliotine (Richard Green), Laura Macklin (David Macklin). He is also survived by sister Pearl Lustig; brother Gary Blieberg; nieces, Marla, Julie and Jodi; nine grandchildren, Jesse Blieberg, Derek Blieberg, Lee Bly (Claire Bly), Alec Blieberg (Katie Blieberg), Amanda Blieberg, Iona Green, Finn Green, Michael Blieberg, Emily Blieberg; great-granddaughter, Taylor Jean Bly and many loving friends.

Funeral services were held Friday, July 5 at Temple Anshe Amunim, Pittsfield, with burial at Pittsfield Cemetery. Rabbi Liz P.G. Hirsch officiated. Contributions can be made to Temple Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201.

Marlayne Weinberg, 85, actively involved in the Pittsfield/Lenox community

LENOX- Marlayne Weinberg, 85, passed away Sunday, June 23 at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield with her son and daughter by her side.

Marlayne was born in Queens, NY to George Keosian and Pauline (Weinstein) Keosian on March 15, 1934. She graduated from Hunter College. In 1962, she married Benjamin Weinberg in New York City. Marlayne and Benjamin moved to North Adams in 1976, raised her two children, and eventually ran International Outlet, which sold gourmet cookware, household items and gifts, and brought quality and style to homes across northern Berkshire County and beyond.

When her husband was diagnosed in 1995 with Parkinson's Disease, she was his primary, loving caretaker until his passing in 2018. Together they moved to Lenox in 2012 for his benefit and to be closer to family.

She was actively involved in the Pittsfield/Lenox community, volunteering at Conte Elementary School and participating in activities at the Pittsfield Senior Center and Lenox Community Center.

Marlayne was a voracious reader, library visitor, theatergoer, hiker, and adventure-seeker who was always quick with a laugh and a smile. She enjoyed her friends in the area and their fun outings. She was also a devoted, fun-loving grandmother to her two grandchildren who will miss her greatly.

She is survived by her son Adam Weinberg (Amy Brentano) and grandchildren Molly and Joseph Weinberg of Richmond; daughter Leslie Weinberg of San Francisco, CA; sister Sandy Kahn of Denver, CO; brother Kenneth Keosian of Santa Barbara, CA; and many nieces, nephews and friends.

A celebration of her life was planned for July 14. The family suggests donations to Hospice Berkshire County or Mass Audubon.

Calendar – Ongoing Events

Around the Community

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wednesdays at Hevreh – Lunch N Learn" with Rabbi Neil Hirsch at 11:45 a.m. is open to anyone who wants to deepen their relationship to Jewish study through text and discussion. Says Rabbi Hirsch: "Our tradition teaches that when two (or more) sit together, and discuss words of Torah, God dwells with them. Study is one of the many ways we as a Jewish community experience the sacred and the spiritual." Classes available via video conference or conference call. Email Rabbi Hirsch at nhirsch@hevreh.org to find out how to join remotely.

Thursdays (fourth of each month) – Hadassah Book Club. For times, locations of meetings, and further information about the books: Pattie Lipman plipman@fairpoint.net.

Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. – Janet Lee will continue to teach an intermediate mat Pilates class at Hevreh every Thursday through the summer into fall. Bring a mat and water. Contact Janet Lee at jlee@hevreh.org to learn more, and check hevreh.org/calendar for any weekly changes.

Thursdays August 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 at 1:15 p.m. – Join Rabbi Liz Hirsch at Temple Anshe Amunim for open meditation and light yoga for all ages and abilities. No prior experience or athletic clothing necessary!

Fridays, at 9 a.m. – Meditation with Rabbi Rachel Barenblat in the Congregation Beth Israel sanctuary, 53 Lois Street, North Adams, overlooking the Berkshire mountains. Silence, chanting, and meditation designed to help prepare for Shabbat. All welcomed. Information: (413) 663-5830 and www.cbiweb.org.

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 *ruach* 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 be in touch with Rabbi Hirsch for further information: nhirsch@hevreh.org.

Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. Temple Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield – Rabbi Liz P.G. Hirsch leads Spiritual Physical Fitness sessions. Hike (August 3); Learn (August 17); Mindfulness (August 10).

Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. Temple Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield – "Torah Plus: Exploring Jewish Text and Culture." Join Rabbi Liz P.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.

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BERKSHIRE JEWISH VOICES

Traveling with Jewish Taste

Spice Up Your Summer with “The Head of the Shop” – Ras el Hanout

By Carol Goodman Kaufman



It's summertime and the livin' is easy, but we still have to eat. Do we really want to be in the kitchen cooking heavy meals? Experts tell us that we should be eating clean (i.e., unprocessed) foods, and light and healthy meals are just the ticket for the season. The easier they are to prepare, the more likely we are to try something new.

The “something new” in this article is Ras el Hanout, one of the variety of spice blends brought to Israel by immigrants from around the world, in this case from North Africa. The name is Arabic for “head of the shop,” and refers to the best spices available in the spice

trader's store. In Morocco, the spice blend carries the moniker “lazy cook's spice” as it is used in dishes ranging from broth to tagines to rubs. It is beloved, and for good reason. The aroma alone will make you swoon.

While Ras el Hanout is available in Middle Eastern groceries, you can also make your own. As with other spice blends we've discussed, from baharat to hawaij, cooks have their own favorite recipes, and they don't share them. The mixtures I've seen tend to include a combination of cardamom, cloves, cinnamon, coriander, cumin, paprika, mace, nutmeg, peppercorns, and turmeric, but they can include up to fifty different spices.

Ras el Hanout is so much a part of Berber culture that there is even a legend about how the spice blend came to be. As the story goes, there once was a despotic sultan who made unreasonable orders of his servants, and punished

them cruelly if they failed to deliver. One day he sent one of his servants to the market for spices. Unfortunately, the sultan's wife also sent him on an errand, so by the time he reached the spice shop he was frantic and out of breath.

The spice trader asked him what he wanted, but the servant was breathing so hard that he could only

croak out the words, “Please, *sidi*, just give me a little of everything.”

Wanting to accommodate the customer's wishes, the spice trader put a tiny bit of every spice he had into one large packet. When the servant brought the packet of spices back to the cook, the cook went into a frenzy, worrying about what he could possibly make with the mess of spices, and knowing that both he and the servant would be punished severely if dinner wasn't delicious and on time. He added a pinch of the mixture to the pot and prayed.

When sultan smelled the aroma coming from his dinner, he was suspicious and growled, causing the servant and cook to tremble in fear. But then the sultan took a taste of the dish. Then he took another taste, and yet another.

“This is the best couscous I have ever tasted!” he proclaimed.

In relief, the servant collapsed on the floor.

From that day on, the sultan demanded that his food be flavored with Ras el Hanout.

I think you will enjoy these fish kebabs, redolent of the Moroccan souk.



Ras el Hanout

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.

Israeli Fish Kebabs

Serves 4



Ingredients:

½ pound tilapia fillet, ground coarsely	¼ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
½ pound haddock fillet, ground coarsely	2 fresh cloves garlic, minced
½ cup breadcrumbs	1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley
1 tablespoon pine nuts	½ teaspoon dried cilantro
¼ teaspoon cumin	1 scallion, chopped, white and pale green parts only
¼ teaspoon smoked paprika	¼ small white onion, peeled, finely chopped
¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper	extra-virgin olive oil
¼ teaspoon Ras el Hanout	tehina sauce for serving
¼ teaspoon baking soda	
¼ teaspoon salt	

Directions:

Place the ground fish into a medium bowl.

Add the breadcrumbs, pine nuts, cumin, smoked paprika, chili powder, Ras el Hanout, baking soda, salt, pepper, garlic, parsley, cilantro, scallion, and onion. Mix gently.

With gloves or oiled hands, knead the mass until it combines and holds together, but don't over-knead or the fish will be chewy.

Dampen your hands. Divide mixture into 8 portions; shape each into a kebab form, like a small egg. Heat a thin layer of olive oil in a medium skillet over medium heat. Cook the kebabs until golden on all sides, 4-6 minutes total, turning until colored on all sides and cooked through.

Serve 2 kebabs per plate with tehina sauce.

An Israeli Treat for “Afters”

And then there's dessert. A platter with a selection of melons and berries is just the thing to lend a light ending to a summer meal. But if you need something with a bigger sugar punch, I recommend a treat that I enjoyed while living in Israel: ice café. Not your standard iced coffee, this was a singularly creamy and delicious drink enjoyed with friends at a sidewalk table outside the Strauss Milk Bar on King George Street in Jerusalem.

There's no formal recipe for ice café that I can find, but who needs one? It takes all of two ingredients: coffee and vanilla ice cream — but be sure that the frozen treat you get is of the best quality.

Pour hot coffee into a tall glass (to make it authentic, the glass should have a handle) and place it on a plate.

Drop a large scoop of the ice cream into the glass.

Serve and enjoy!



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

BERKSHIRE JEWISH VOICES

Memoir Excerpt: *Choosing Joy – Alzheimer's: A Book of Hope*

Transcending a devastating disease through exploration and discovery, peace and acceptance

By Helene Berger / Special to the BJV

Helene Berger will appear at the Friday, September 20 Knosh & Knowledge to talk about her memoir, *Choosing Joy – Alzheimer's: A Book of Hope*, about the ways her husband Ady's Alzheimer's Disease diagnosis changed their lives. Writes Susan Wissler, executive director of The Mount's writers-in-residence program: "Choosing Joy is a rare work in that it is both inspirational and practical. Beautifully written and organized, it is an account of commitment, courage, and hope...Helene and Ady's story is a testament to the profound impact of love and patience and a beautiful example of a life well lived."

About her journey, Berger writes: "Books on Alzheimer's and dementia often describe the caregiver as having debilitating feelings of helplessness. My experience during the early stages was that even though I felt powerless to make the kind of difference that would stop or slow the disease, I was clearly not helpless. It is hugely empowering to understand that one might be able to alter the outcome."

While Berger cautions that everyone's experience of Alzheimer's will be different, she will share insights gained as a devoted wife and caregiver that she hopes will educate and inspire others in a similar situation. Please see page 5 for details about her Knosh & Knowledge talk. For more about the book, plus a podcast and television interviews with Helene, visit her website: www.heleneberger.com

The following excerpts from *Choosing Joy* are reprinted by permission of the author.

A Friend's Guidance That Helped to Sustain Me

I remember a conversation that helped to shape our lives going forward. This was in the early years of Ady's incipient Alzheimer's, before the official diagnosis, when I had probably expressed my concerns about Ady to none but my closest friends. We were out to dinner with a lovely couple whom we knew quite well. The husband was a widely published author and well known authority in his field. Ady, sitting next to him, turned and said, "So, Sam, what do you do?"

I blanched and tried to come to Ady's rescue, rushing in to remind Ady of Sam's prestigious accomplishments. His wife, Lynn, took my hand and said, "Helene, everybody loves Ady for Ady. Don't try to cover for him."

My eyes filled with tears. Living with the myriad problems that Alzheimer's was already beginning to inflict upon us was hard enough. Trying to keep secret what had clearly become obvious to others only made it harder. Lynn's guidance was my first step toward open, public acceptance of our new reality. It was easier after that for me to acknowledge our problem openly, to shed the burden of pretending that everything was normal.

Publicly acknowledging what Ady and I were experiencing, rather than treating it as embarrassing and shame-

ful, gave me enormous relief. It opened up new worlds of communication for me, enabling me to learn from others' experience. Ady himself made it easier, as he began to admit openly that "My memory's not so good anymore." In the early years, we are often unwilling to acknowledge to our friends the reality of what we are living through. Though this may be understandable, it burdens us with an unnecessary level of sadness and pain. Just as important, we lose out on the wise counsel and compassion that friends can offer. In two six-word sentences, Lynn's honesty and compassion changed my life. I shall always be grateful to her.

"Fight the Disease, Not the Journey"

I read or heard those words when Ady was first diagnosed: I jotted them down because they sounded interesting: "Fight the disease, not the journey." At the time, I did not really understand what they meant, but gradually the concept became clearer.

The first part is obvious: we must fight the disease with every weapon we possess or uncover. We cannot take a back seat and watch the decline unfold. We must fight with full power and intel-

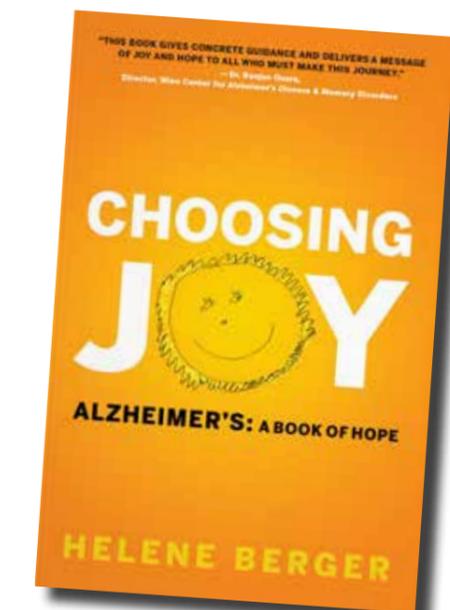
ligence to provide the best physical and mental health possible, whether through new and ever-expanding medications, bringing more doctors into the loop, seeking appropriate help books, providing daily aerobic activity with a trainer or taking daily walks or a swim, or learning from other's experiences in many different ways.

The journey is a far different matter. The journey, I came to understand, is the emotional side of the equation. It means drawing on all our resources to make the final years together as beautiful as they can be. It means remembering the love

In the early years, we are often unwilling to acknowledge to our friends the reality of what we are living through. Though this may be understandable, it burdens us with an unnecessary level of sadness and pain.

of past years and not trashing it now with annoyance, frustration, impatience, bitterness, or self-pity. It means being aware every minute that your loved one did not choose this condition – for themselves or for you. It means reaching deep within yourself to empathize with what your patient is going through. If their memory fails them, we can connect to how we feel when our own memory slips, when we forget the name of someone we know well – the frustration and annoyance with ourselves and the doubt and uncertainty about our own minds. We can magnify those feelings many times over, imagining this loss as a constant state imagining what it must be like to feel diminished countless times a day, to have to depend on others for virtually everything when you're used to running your own life. In doing so, we lay the foundations of empathy.

As some faculties are lost, new heightened qualities can reveal themselves. These, too, can seem like challenges at first, but they can also be opportunities. Yes, Ady's memory was slipping – but I found that his emotional sensitivity was greatly heightened. He reacted with uncanny awareness to the slightest hint of disappointment in me. He crumbled with any raised eyebrow or sharp intake of breath. I had to learn to refrain from any body language that suggested disappointment. This was far from easy, but it became easier with time. After all, this was the man with whom I had spent close to three-quarters of my life. If you are fortunate enough to be in a good marriage, there are harder



jobs than giving your mate the abundance of love and appreciation and care he deserves. If your marriage is not ideal, this can be an opportunity to change the tone of your relationship.

The rewards of positive reinforcement were startling. I am convinced that the reason for his peace of mind and wonderful smile is that he was surrounded, not by disappointment, judgment, and annoyance, but by respect and appreciation and an abiding love from me, from his children, from friends, and even from the best of the caregivers that he needed in the last few years (whom he thanked a hundred times a day). People may experience loss of memory, of movement, of balance, of inhibitions and control. But they know instinctively when they are loved.

As time went on, I began to realize I was getting great satisfaction out of my new role. More and more, I discovered that those old thoughts of "Why is this difficult, ugly disease happening to my husband? To me?" were being replaced by feelings of satisfaction of being able to give him all the warmth he craved.

So today I would word the adage differently: Fight the disease. Embrace the journey. Embracing the journey invites you to use every bit of creativity to find ways to help your mate be the best he now can be; to encourage him to try areas he never ventured into before; to reinforce abilities that have laid dormant – with a musical instrument, with drawing, with singing or dancing; to believe that quality of life is still possible; to harness all that residual good in yourself and your loved one, and bring it to the fore.

This can be a difficult approach to accept. In the months after Ady's diagnosis, I found a rare guide book expressing the notion that life with your loved one could be deeply gratifying, even a time to explore new avenues, and a time of creativity. At the time, that sounded so preposterous that I was furious. These books were often written by doctors who had, I thought, no experience of living with a spouse afflicted with Alzheimer's. Why would they give such false hope? How could they make such Pollyannaish statements without living through it themselves? How could this possibly be a happy time? I apologize for my lack of faith. Over the years, this initially terrifying period turned into a tranquil, nurturing time of exploration and discovery. It became a time of peace and acceptance.

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BERKSHIRE JEWISH VOICES

Retracing a Path of Liberation in the Shadow of Auschwitz

Ride for the Living honors the past, celebrates a contemporary revival of Jewish life in Krakow

By Sandy Ashendorf / Special to the BJV

In 2016, my husband Ron and I were planning a trip to Eastern Europe that included a few days in Krakow. As the trip neared and we were putting last minute touches on our itinerary, we were told to make sure to have Shabbat dinner at the JCC Krakow. "There's no JCC in Krakow," was our collective response. How was it possible that the city that Hitler sought to make *Judenfrei* had enough Jews to support a Community Center? Who was there to attend Shabbat dinner? Where was this mythical place an hour's drive from Auschwitz?

When we walked into the JCC Krakow, we were overwhelmed. There were about 200 people in attendance that night – a fairly average showing for an early spring weekend. Kibbitzing in a sometimes incomprehensible mix of English, Hebrew, Yiddish and Polish, the crowd ranged in age from college freshmen visiting from the United States to Mr. Mundick, a nonagenarian Holocaust survivor who had returned to Krakow after he was liberated from the camps and, as best he could, picked up the life he had begun before the war.

Scattered about the room, serving food, cleaning plates, and generally making sure the evening ran smoothly were the thirty or so Polish Christians who comprise the volunteers and staff at the JCC. Gen-Xers and Millennials, they grew up long after World War II and Communism had forever changed the world. They sensed something missing from the Poland that had existed for 1000 years until the mid-20th century – Jews and Jewish culture. Together with Jonathan Ornstein, the founder and executive director of the JCC Krakow, this dedicated group continues hard at work to ensure that Krakow's future is one that definitively includes Jews.

It was at that Shabbat dinner that we learned about Ride for the Living, a 60-mile bicycle ride from

Auschwitz-Birkenau to the JCC Krakow. The ride retraces the path that upon liberation was walked by many survivors, including Marcel Zielinski, who has participated in the ride since the second time it was held. We committed to come back to Krakow for the 2017 ride and recently returned again, completing it for the third consecutive time.

Ride for The Living was inspired by Robert Desmond, who rode his bicycle 1,350 miles from London to Auschwitz visiting WWII sites of liberation along his journey. After joining the JCC and becoming an active member, he realized his ride should not have ended in a place of loss, but rather at a place of hope, namely JCC Krakow. Since his first ride, Robert has been joined annually by members of the Jewish community and friends from around the world.

In addition to Marcel and his family, those friends have included: three-time Tour de France winner Greg Lemond; US Ambassador to Poland Paul Jones; US Consul General of Krakow Walter Brauhnler; Holocaust survivors Zofia Radzikowska and Bernard Offen; members of the Israel Cycling Academy; Holocaust scholar Michael Berenbaum; and Chief Rabbi of Poland Michael Schudric. The ride has grown from 15 participants in the first year to over 250 in 2019 and, with a documentary in the works, it shows no sign of slowing down.

At first blush, it might seem disrespectful to the memory of the Six Million (including the 1.5 million murdered at the site where the ride begins) to be wearing spandex biking clothes and embarking on a wind-through-your-hair jaunt across the Polish countryside. To the contrary, Ride for the Living is a tangible way of

paying respects and honoring the memory of all of the victims of the Holocaust. It provides a unique way to bear witness.

From a symbolic perspective, the riders leave one of the preeminent Nazi killing fields as free Jews able to celebrate life and, in bike jerseys emblazoned with Stars of David, head toward a place where a Jewish future has been imagined and is taking shape. From an immersive perspective, riders spend time learning details about Auschwitz, and attend lectures, screenings, and other activities as part of Krakow's two-week-long Jewish Culture Festival during which the ride (and a Shabbat dinner for 750 people) takes place. And from a tactical

All of [us] are there to celebrate the revival of Jewish life in Poland in the face of the unimaginable atrocities of the Shoah 70 years ago

perspective, the ride is a fundraiser that allows the JCC Krakow to serve its constituents – Holocaust survivors in Krakow, Poles who are discovering their Jewish roots, and children who are being taught at the JCC's *Frajda* preschool, the first of its kind in Krakow since before the War.

In the three years that we've participated, we've cycled with people from Poland, the US, Canada, Israel, the UK, Australia, Colombia and other parts of the world, all of whom are there to celebrate the revival of Jewish life in Poland in the face of the unimaginable atrocities of the Shoah 70 years ago. The messages of overcoming unspeakable horrors to rebuild and do *tikkun olam* are always at the foundation of our journey.

As we cycle the miles and pass what was once and is again bucolic countryside – forever marred by the horror,



Sandy and Ron Ashendorf on the Ride For the Living

violence, tragedy, and sometimes indifference to what occurred – there is always a sense of determination and will to move forward. It's hard not to look around and wonder which houses had been seized by the Nazis, displacing the families that had been the rightful owners? Which ones had been inhabited by Righteous Gentiles who risked their own lives by hiding Jews from almost certain death? Which ones had been inhabited by people who turned in their neighbors to the Nazis and the SS? Which portions of the forest had been the transient homes to Jews using their resolve every moment of every day just to stay alive? The first year we rode, rain poured down for about half the ride, recreating just one element of the conditions our ancestors endured – but, unlike them, we knew there would be a hot shower, a hearty meal, a comfortable bed and smiles and hugs at the end. And we knew there was, in fact, an end.

This year, as we said *kaddish* at the remnants

of Crematorium No. 2, we remembered not only the souls whose lives were taken there, but we also recited the names of the victims of the very recent anti-Semitic attacks in Pittsburgh and Poway. We live at a time when the number of hate crimes being committed is increasing, when white supremacists denounce Jews as they march through an American city where slavery was the norm, and when US detention centers are creating a human rights crisis aimed at refugees because of their countries of origin. What better time to honor the victims of the Shoah and make a difference for the future?

Sandy Ashendorf is a member of the Berkshire Minyan in Great Barrington. She and her husband Ron (and their dog, Harry) divide their time between New York City's Upper West Side and South County. For more information or to donate to the Ride for the Living, visit <https://rideforthe-living.org/>, or contact Sandy directly at sandy@uwsstrategies.com.

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BERKSHIRE JEWISH VOICES

Our Zealot

Thoughts on the problematic *Parshat Pinchas*

By Albert Stern / BJV Editor

This year, Parshat Pinchas was read on July 27. This essay is adapted from a d'var Torah delivered in 2018 at Knesset Israel.

Pinchas is one of the most problematical figures in our Torah. He is the grandson of Aaron, appointed by God to be the third *kohen gadol* (high priest) of the Israelites, as well as the progenitor of the hereditary line of future high priests. The first curious thing one notices about this pivotal character is that he is not introduced in the Torah portion that bears his name, but rather in the one that precedes it, *Parshat Balak*. And he makes an unforgettably disturbing entrance.

The episode that closes *Parshat Balak* is the apostasy of Ba'al Peor — although on the verge of entering the Promised Land, Israelite men take up with Midianite women, worshipping their gods and engaging in all manner of licentiousness. Incensed, God sends down a plague and orders Moses to impale all the chiefs of the people. Moses, however, instructs the judges to kill only those who participated; but before anyone can act, an Israelite man brings his Midianite paramour in front of the Tent of Meeting and sins in public view, causing general weeping and despair.

At that, Pinchas, son of Eleazar the high priest, grabs a spear and with zeal runs it through the abdomens of the sinning couple, killing them. The plague abates.

This is rough stuff. How to justify it? Rashi's take is as follows (from the *Stone*

Chumash): "And they were weeping. They were at a loss. Moses forgot that the law regarding one who publicly violates the Torah's prohibition against cohabiting with a gentile is 'a zealous one may slay him.' Providence caused Moses to forget so that Pinchas could act and be worthy of the blessing God gave him" — that is to say, the fatherhood of the priestly line.

The sage Ibn Ezra, on the other hand, recognizes that perhaps Moses and the elders are weeping in hopes of God's compassion.

I think the latter explanation is the more plausible — Moses, for example, had a firsthand experience of killing a man in a zealous rage (remember that Egyptian back in Exodus 2:12?) and may have recognized the problems inherent in that approach. Further, his experience as a leader was marked by repeated petitioning of God on behalf of transgressing and ungrateful Israelites, and perhaps Moses wanted to plead on their behalf again.

So who, then, is Pinchas? His name translates approximately as "bronze colored one," or "dark one." He is the grandson of Aaron and the son of Eleazar, who took as a wife a daughter of Yitro, who, although also the father-in-law of Moses, was an idolater and priest of Midian. Pinchas is identified as the product of that union in *Sefer Shemot* (6:23).

According to *midrashic* explication, this mongrelized lineage causes the Children of Israel to chastise Pinchas for killing the couple at the Tent

of Meeting, the logic being that Pinchas, as grandson of an idolater who supposedly mistreated animals, was unworthy of performing the sacred deed. A Freudian might analyze his murderous act — piercing an Israelite man like his father and Midianite woman like his mother through their lower bodies as they sin — as the

that both the Children of Israel on the scene and readers of the Torah down through the ages are within their rights to abhor the sheer brutality of Pinchas's action. The abject murderousness of Pinchas's deed provides one reason that the Torah cites his connection to Aaron repeatedly, at least according to Rashi.

he reappears in the Book of Joshua...we will get to that.

While Pinchas himself is a dubious character, *Parshat Pinchas* is one of the most remarkable and consequential portions in the Torah. After the flux and chaos that marked the earlier sections of *Sefer BaMidbar* (Book of Numbers), *Parshat Pinchas* establishes a social order that the Hebrews will take with them as they enter the Land of Israel.

Consider what it establishes:

We find out, through God's reward of Pinchas, that:

The priesthood will be hereditary

A new census of the tribes realigns the social order

In chapter 26, verse 65, we find out that God considers punishment of the generation who left Egypt to be complete — all but Caleb and Joshua are dead

Moses appoints Joshua as his successor, indicating that leadership will not (for the time being) be hereditary

The anecdote about the daughters of Zelophehad establishes a groundwork for property rights in the Land of Israel

And finally, there is the schedule of festivals that orders time itself — we don't meaningfully pass through this world adrift on endless seasonal cycles, but rather we move purposefully from one milestone to the next in order to worship our God.

And with all this consequential ordering of space and time, what is the haftarah to *Parshat Pinchas* about? An episode from the life of the zealous prophet Elijah.

Certainly, the rabbis who determined the schedule of *haftarot* in the early Christian era could have found passages in the books of the Prophets to correspond with the restoration of order taking place in *Parshat Pinchas*. But instead, they made a connection to Elijah, which signals that they wanted us, going forward, to consider the nature of zealotry, just as by breaking off the Pinchas episode into two parshyot — one with Pinchas's deed, the next with his reward — also invites us to reflect on fanatic devotion.

I think that the midrashic connection between Elijah and Pinchas is the first of three messages about the Zealot the Bible has for us — *the Zealot is always with us, and is always,*

PINCHAS, continued on next page



symbolic annihilation of his own parents, and thus a manifestation his own desire for self-abnegation.

It is fair to say, however,

Nevertheless, in *Parshat Pinchas* God Himself rewards Pinchas's zeal — Pinchas and his descendants will be the high priests of Israel for all time.

What is also quite interesting is the association in *midrash* of Pinchas with the prophet Elijah, the zealot's zealot. According to the view of Talmudic sages in *Baba Metzia 114*, Pinchas and Elijah are identical. When Pinchas is last mentioned in the Book of Judges and in Chronicles, there is no record of his death, which has allowed some to conflate him with Elijah, who does not die but is instead borne away in a chariot of fire.

Pinchas himself is a cipher. He says literally nothing to announce his actions or justify his motivations. I've always found it valuable to examine the first and last words of each biblical figure, as entrances and exits are inevitably revealing about their inner lives. Pinchas, however, is silent. We finally do, in a way, hear the voice of Pinchas when

MAZEL TOV

Mazel Tov to...

Harold Grinspoon on celebrating his 90th birthday (see related article on page 12).

*

Ellie Caine on her August 31 bat mitzvah at Knesset Israel.

*

Peter and Judy Menikoff on both being elected to the executive leadership of the board of directors ORT America.

*

Suze Goldman who was elected as member of the board of directors of ORT America.

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Mara Goodman-Davies on her promotion to early childhood coordinator at The Brien Center for its Head Start Program.

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Eliot Stern on his September 7 bar mitzvah at Knesset Israel.

*

Keren and Ron Rettner on the arrival of grandson **Benjamin Noah**.

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Lanny Zuckerman on being honored by Temple Anshe Amunim as its 2019 Member of the Year.

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Bobbi and Mike Cohn on their new grandson, **Milo Alexander Cohn**.

*

Dr. Len Radin on being selected as grand marshal for the upcoming 64th annual Fall Foliage parade in North Adams.

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Molly Drennan on receiving a "Moonlight Mile" grant for professional training in equestrian dressage competition and instruction. This grant is administered by the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation in memory of Deborah Reich, a high-level equestrian competitor from Sheffield.

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PINCHAS, *continued from page 24*

more or less, a manifestation of the same type of person.

The second message comes with Pinchas's reappearance in *Parshat Mattot*, which follows *Parshat Pinchas* and continues the story of Israel versus the Midianites. God commands Moses to "avenge the Israelite people on the Midianites; then you [Moses] shall be gathered to your kin." Moses, contravening God's command to him, delegates the job of leading the army to tribal commanders, and to Pinchas, who sallies forth with the army "equipped with the sacred utensils and the trumpets for sounding the blasts." According to *midrash* (Numbers Rabba), Pinchas was assigned this role so that he could finish the sacred task that began when he smote the Midianite woman in the affair of Baal-Peor.

The Torah does establish a key role for the priesthood in battle, specifically in the Book of Deuteronomy (20:2-4). Jewish armies were led out to war by a special *kohen* called the *mashuach milchamah* (the one anointed for war), who was designated for this task; but his job is not to fight, but rather to encourage the soldiers to battle bravely, telling them that God was surely on their side.

This is not how Pinchas appears in the battle described in *Parshat Mattot*, which — if not quite a fiasco — is a bloody mess in which God's wishes are not completely fulfilled, infuriating Moses. And Pinchas is on the front lines. He's shaking the holy vessels, he's blowing trumpets, he is out to finish the job he started in slaying the evildoers — he is whipped up and out for blood.

This is not the image befitting a *kohen gadol*, or a *mashuach milchamah*, for that matter. For one, *kohanim* are prohibited from being in contact with human corpses — Pinchas rides out with the warriors into battle to, as Numbers Rabba puts it, to finish the sacred task he began at Baal-Peor. But also keep in mind also that a *kohen's* role, generally speaking, was a blood-soaked avocation — in the time of the Temple, *kohanim* performed

sacrifices daily.

When we first encounter Pinchas, he uses a spear to pierce an Israelite apostate and a Midianite Baal worshiper engaged in sexual congress through their abdomens, an image that would have resonated in a meaningful way with the Torah's initial audience — Iron Age people living amidst cultures whose cultic practices include human sacrifice. And while what I'm alluding to might seem to some of you as a fervid interpretation of Pinchas's actions at Baal-Peor, let me share another citation from *Numbers Rabba*: "Reading the words of Numbers 25:13 that Pinchas 'made atonement for the children of Israel,' a midrash taught that although he did not strictly offer a sacrifice to justify the expression 'atonement, his shedding the blood of the wicked was as though he had offered a sacrifice.'" This is unpleasant stuff, and you can see why rabbis might have decided to separate Pinchas's act and Pinchas's reward into two separate *parshiyot*. But, along with Moses sending Pinchas to war at the head of an army, it also suggests what I believe is the Torah's second message about the Zealot, which is this — *Sometimes the Zealot is useful*.

In other words, he may be a zealot, but he's *our* zealot. And what's the problem with that, precisely? Well, the Torah has an answer for that, too, and in my view that is the third important lesson about the zealot it has to impart. We last encounter Pinchas in the Book of Joshua, Chapter 22, which takes place after the Hebrews have taken possession of the Land of Israel. Hearing that the tribes of Reuben and Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh, who reside east of the Jordan River, have erected a great and conspicuous altar, the Israelites living to the west of the Jordan assemble for war against their brethren over this presumed apostasy. But before they act, however, they send a reconnaissance party to investigate, one that is composed of ten tribal chiefs and led by Pinchas, son of Eleazar. When

the party arrives in Gilead, for the first time, we hear the voice of Pinchas — and here the Tanach, in all of its brilliant subtlety, provides its third and last essential insight into the nature of the Zealot:

They came to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh, in the land of Gilead, and they said to them, "Thus says the whole congregation of the Lord, 'What is this treachery that you have committed against the God of Israel in turning away today from following the Lord, by building yourselves an altar today in rebellion against the Lord? Have we not had enough of the sin at Peor from which even yet we have not cleansed ourselves, and for which a plague came upon the congregation of the Lord, that you must turn away today from following the Lord!'

It continues:
Do not rebel against the Lord, or rebel against us by

building yourselves an altar other than the altar of the Lord our God. Did not Achan son of Zerah break faith in the matter of the devoted things, and wrath fell upon all the congregation of Israel? And he did not perish alone for his iniquity!

In other words — "Nice altar you got here. It would be a shame if something were to happen to it." We hear the voice of the Zealot here very clearly. "The WHOLE of community of the LORD!" "Treachery you HAVE committed this day." And then a reference to what can only be described as the particular obsession of Pinchas. "Have we not had enough of the sin at Peor from which EVEN YET we have not cleansed ourselves." Are these iniquities never over? In the mind of Pinchas, human iniquity is not, and never will be, over or forgiven. The incident at Baal-Peor is the high water mark of his existence, and the

subsequent battle to wipe out the Midianites a glory which he hopes to relive.

And here is the subtle genius of our Tanach. It doesn't relate that Pinchas said these words, but that "they" — the whole reconnaissance party — speaks them. Pinchas has infected their minds with his own hatred and zealotry, to the point that Israelites are ready to go to war with their fellow Israelites before they even ask about the altar. (The east bank Israelites, by the way, are blameless.)

And that is the third lesson the story Pinchas conveys: *The Zealot may be useful when doing our bidding, but the danger is that the rest of us might, with zeal, soon start doing theirs.*

When I was a kid, I was entranced by the BBC documentary *Civilization* — I still have Kenneth Clark's

PINCHAS, *continued on next page*

CULTURE AND ARTS

Berkshire Jewish Film Festival Continues

LENOX — The Berkshire Jewish Film Festival (BJFF), one of the longest-running film festivals in the United States, continues its 33rd season on Mondays through August 12 in the Duffin Theater, Lenox Memorial High School, 197 East Street.

All presentations are open to the public. Tickets to the 4 p.m. screenings are \$7, and 8 p.m. screenings are \$10. All seating is general admission.

The Berkshire Jewish Film Festival is generously supported by the Greylock Federal Credit Union, Berkshire Bank, the Wolfson Family Foundation, and the Spitz-Tuchman Charitable Trust. Information at www.berkshirejewishfilmfestival.org or (413) 445-4872, ext. 10.

August 5
At 4 p.m.: *Shoelaces* is a tender family dramedy that portrays the knotty relationship between an aging, irascible mechanic and the exuberant special-needs son he abandoned long before.

At 8 p.m.: In *The Unorthodox*, a disenfranchised Sephardic father, whose daughter is expelled from a prestigious religious school just for her ethnicity, launches the ultra-Orthodox Shas Party, a nascent challenge to the



Scene from *The Other Story*

ruling Ashkenazi establishment in this lively, crowd-pleasing drama.

August 12

At 4 p.m.: *93Queen* relates the life of Rachel "Ruchie" Freier, a no-nonsense Hasidic lawyer and mother of six who is determined to shake up the 'boys club' in her community. She creates Ezras Nashim, the first all-female ambulance corps in NYC.

At 8 p.m.: In *The Other Story*, two rebellious young women, one fleeing the chaos of secular hedonism for the comforts of faith, the other seeking to escape her oppressive religious upbringing for sexual and spiritual freedom, cross paths unexpectedly in Jerusalem in this empowering drama.



Welcome to the Jewish Berkshires

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

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

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

JEWISHBERKSHIRES.ORG

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,
jewishberkshires.com

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, cbiweb.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

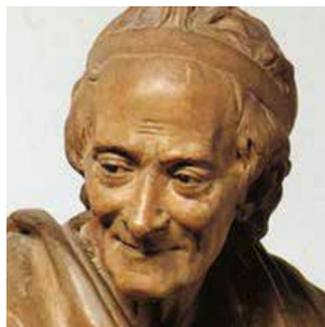
Jewish War Veterans
Commander Robert Waldheim
(413) 822-4546, sellit4@aol.com

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

PINCHAS, continued from page 25

companion book in my library, and periodically dip into it, always with great pleasure. One of the chapters is titled, "The Smile of Reason," and features a photo of a bust of Voltaire sculpted by Houdon that perfectly embodies that conception of civilization — the great writer's visage conveys engagement, bemusement, serenity, and resolve.



Today, whenever I engage in public discourse – online and in person – I too often encounter the other kind of face, the one that doesn't have its own chapter in Kenneth Clark's *Civilization*. One with narrowed eyes flashing suspicion and anger. Lips curling into sneers. Faces reddened with rage. Gaping mouths unleashing bitter invective. No civility. No smiles.

Most of these angry people are not zealots. But, like our ancestors in the wilderness, we have been living through a chaotic time, getting on two decades marked by war, terrorism, economic uncertainty, and fear of external and internal enemies, both real and imagined. In this moment in history, when longstanding political and social norms have seemingly been upended, we are all easy prey for the true zealots, who are with us always. These zealots seem aligned with our interests as they goad us to join battle against each other. They urge us to impugn others' motives without first trying to understand them. And in taking the bait, in raging against one another, we serve the purpose of today's zealots — those who wish to tear down institutions and eviscerate social bonds that have long sustained both our Jewish community and the broader culture of which we are a part.

I think we all need to tread carefully in this kind of environment, not lose sight that there are no zealots who are

PINCHAS, continued on next page



Connecting with Community

Nourish Your Body, Mind, and Soul!

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

Programs take place on most Mondays and Thursdays at 10:45 a.m. Lunch is served Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays at noon. Beginning on June 3 and continuing through the summer months, the Tuesday kosher lunch will be on hiatus. Tuesday lunches will resume in the fall.

Advanced reservations are required to attend lunch.

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

Adults 60 and over: \$2 suggested donation

Adults under 60: \$7 per person

Program only is free!

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

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



Jewish Federation
OF THE BERKSHIRES

What's for Lunch?

Dairy Free, ** Gluten Free Main Entrée

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

JULY

Monday, 29 10:45 a.m., Dr. Fedora Horowitz discusses the novel, *All The Rivers* by Dorit Rabinyan. **Lunch: Turkey salad platters**#, gazpacho, coleslaw, pumpernickel bread, apricots and tea.**

AUGUST

Thursday, 1 10:45 a.m., "Robert Frost: New Light on Old Poems," with Phil Holland, Ph.D. **Lunch: Tomato basil quiche, mango juice, beets, salad, multi-grain bread, ice cream and cookies, coffee, tea and milk for coffee.**

Monday, 5 10:45 a.m., "Intergenerational: The Process of Aging," with therapist Maggie Bittman. **Lunch: Macaroni and cheese, chef's choice of juice, salad, Italian beans, oat bread, sorbet, coffee, tea and milk for coffee.**

Thursday, 8 10:45 a.m., "A Jewish Mystic's Approach to Loving God," with Rabbi Seth Wax. **Lunch: Oriental tuna salad, passion fruit juice, coleslaw, Italian bread, peaches, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.**

Monday, 12 10:45 a.m., "H.G. Adler: A Life in Many Worlds," with Peter Filkins. **Lunch: Salisbury steak**#, French fries, green beans, rye bread, mandarin oranges, and tea.**

Thursday, 15 10:45 a.m., "Guidance from the Plant Kingdom in Preparing for the High Holidays," with Jon Greenberg, Ph. D. **Lunch: Fresh fish**, salad, asparagus cuts n tips, rice pilaf, whole wheat bread, ice cream and cookies, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.**

Monday, 19 10:45 a.m., "Presidents, Life and Sports," with Evan Weiner. **Lunch: Cinnamon honey chicken**#, spinach salad, green beans, rice pilaf, Challah, pineapple, and tea.**

Thursday, 22 10:45 a.m., "Current Affairs," with Steven Rubin. **Lunch: Ratatouille with cheese**, rice, salad, farmer's loaf, pears, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.**

Monday, 26 10:45 a.m., Screening of film

Schindler's List. Film begins at 10:45, breaks for lunch at noon, and continues at 12:30 to end. **Lunch: Barbecued chicken**#, corn cobettes, salad, potato salad, corn bread, watermelon, and tea.**

Thursday, 29 10:45 a.m., Annual play readings directed by Milton Lestz. **Lunch: Hot dogs and beans**#, coleslaw, mixed vegetables, grapes, and tea.**

SEPTEMBER

Monday, 2 Closed for Labor Day

Tuesday, 3 Tuna salad and cottage cheese platters**, macaroni salad, bread TBA, gluten free brownies, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.

Thursday, 5 10:45 a.m., "Schindler's List: Books and Film Talk," with Hugh Black. **Lunch: Fish sticks#, zucchini rice soup, sweet potato fries, salad, multi-grain bread, pudding, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.**

Monday, 9 10:45 a.m., "Intergenerational: The Process of Aging," with therapist Maggie Bittman. **Lunch: Meat loaf**#, tomato juice, mashed potatoes, peas & carrots, rye bread, applesauce, and tea.**

Tuesday, 10 Stir fried chicken**#, mixed vegetables, whole wheat bread, pineapple, and tea.

Thursday, 12 10:45 a.m., "Bullying in the Older Adult Population," with Torrie Dearborn. **Lunch: Tex-Mex casserole, refried pinto beans, yellow rice, salsa and sour cream, salad, pumpernickel bread, apricots, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.**

Monday, 16 10:45 a.m., Program to be Announced. **Lunch: Spaghetti and sauce#, salad, Italian beans, garlic bread, pears, and tea.**

Tuesday, 17 Turkey piccata**#, mango juice, salad, rice pilaf, asparagus cuts n tips, rye bread, tropical fruit salad, and tea.

Thursday, 19 10:45 a.m., Program to be Announced. **Lunch: Fresh fish**, celery rice soup, noodle kugel, broccoli, Challah, ice cream and cookies, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.**

Homebound or recovering from an illness or injury?

Let us help you arrange for a kosher lunch to be delivered through our Kosher Meals on Wheels Program. Call (413) 442-4360, ext 10



BERKSHIRE JEWISH VOICES

Young Judaism

Despite Imperfections, Israel Needs Our Support

By Aviva Skoblow / Special to the BJV

While we were preparing for my spring semester at the Alexander Muss High School in Israel, my mom found an article addressing my exact situation – masses of Jewish American teenagers are flying to Israel enrolled in programs like mine, focusing on touring, exploring and reconnecting to their Jewish roots. According to this article, the push to send so many kids to Israel was so that they would bring back the love of Israel to the States.

Over the last couple of decades, caught up in the monsoon of social justice advocacy, Jewish American opinion on Israel has fallen to a place of uncomfortable uncertainty. Don't get me wrong, I am a social justice advocate. Like many, I try to stand up for those without a voice, with the aim of bringing the power back to the people. I am eager to find who needs help, and to use my privilege to serve others. This attitude is necessary to create a just world, but we activists have to be aware of what we're fighting for.

Movements like BDS (Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions), a Palestinian-rooted anti-Israel group, are infiltrating American colleges disguised as social justice groups. People assume that because a group stands for social justice, they are completely in the right. This automatic attitude encourages people not to think critically, but to jump on the bandwagon, endangering causes that they might actually be more aligned with.

We are all expected to have the back of the underdog, fight oppression and seek justice, but with the media so dangerously skewed to make Israel out to be the big bad wolf, people hear about Palestinians who are struggling, and they decide to side with them, and against Israel. With so many American Jews hopping on this bandwagon, Israel advocacy and the State of Israel itself is in danger. Anti-Semitism is on the rise, and we owe it to our ancestors and to ourselves to take a deeper look and get involved.

We must acknowledge that people in Gaza and certain parts of the West Bank are indeed struggling. As a result of terrorism coming from these places, and for the safety of Israel and surrounding areas, Israel has imposed restrictions on people's movements and has imposed economic sanctions, making employment scarce and daily tensions high for many living in the West Bank and Gaza. Gazans especially, under the thumb of Hamas, are not allowed proper rights by their leaders, who withhold funds from basic needs such as electricity and water to fuel their constant stream of terror. These struggling civilians, although taught from birth to hate Israel and its Jewish population, are not to be confused with the leaders whose only goal is to destroy the State and prevent peace. This is the attitude that causes Israel to take a defensive, and at times aggressive, approach.

Although the official Israeli policy on Palestinian relations is not as geared towards peace as many people would like, there are in fact numerous Israeli organizations and individuals focused on aiding Palestinians. When speaking to Jewish Israelis, a common theme I heard was that we must not dwell on guilt, but continue to be socially-conscious and caring, trying to provide aid to Palestinians or vote in leaders who will work for peace. I learned that you can love Israel and disagree with current government's policies.

Before my trip, I was unaware of the importance of having a Jewish homeland. Now I understand.

Yes, Zionists and early Israelis made mistakes in dealing with Palestinians, and I believe there are more forms of action that could be taken to build peaceful relations with them, but we must acknowledge the history of the Palestinian Authority and Hamas of declining our peace offers. Being uncomfortable with not only Israeli mistakes, but the whole conflict, does not mean we have to turn our back on Israel itself. We are better served by supporting Israel **and** voicing our dissatisfaction with government policies that hurt Palestinians.

Jews need Israel. We take for granted our freedoms in America, but we cannot turn the other cheek when it comes to rising anti-Semitism, here and throughout the world. We need a safe haven if, God forbid, we are gravely threatened again as a people.

On the lighter side of things, Israel is an outstanding place. In less than a century, the nation became leaders in entrepreneurship, art and music, space exploration, sustainability, and humanitarian aid. Israel is often the first group to touch ground after a natural disaster. The people are filled with passion and the land is rich in history.

I didn't realize the magic I'd feel being surrounded by Jews. When I overheard conversations in the dorm of kids using Jewish terminology, I almost joined in to say "Wait, you're Jewish too?!" But then I remembered, "Oh, of course they are; that's why I'm here." The comfort I felt when connecting over this shared identity helped me appreciate not just Israel, but my own Judaism. At many points, when I saw hundreds of Hasidim gathering at the Western Wall, or at the Isaac's Synagogue in Krakow, Poland, I realized the web of life that Jews share with each

other through what some call God, ancestry, or practice. We are strongly bonded through a unique, historic human experience, and my semester abroad helped me to embrace that.

At Alexander Muss High School, we toured Israel in chronological historical order. Visiting sights that aligned with our curriculum, we started at Tel Gezer, where Avraham found the Canaanites worshipping fire and sacrificing their children. We walked the land where he saw their sinning, and with God's instruction of "lech lecha," collected followers for a brand new concept: monotheism. Moving forward in the Torah, we trekked down Mt. Gilboa, hearing stories of Dvorah and King Saul.

We visited Poland for a week to immerse ourselves in Holocaust studies, painfully walking through Auschwitz, Treblinka, Majdanek, and forests of mass graves, forced to face our tragic past. Flying back to Israel after that was the ultimate homecoming – a bold reminder that we are still here, that we survived. In our last week, we spoke with victims of Hamas terror, standing at the Gaza overlook in Sderot, all wondering what we could do to bring peace, deciding how we felt.

Before my trip, I was unaware of the importance of having a Jewish homeland. Now I understand. Hiking, swimming, learning, and just being in Israel was joyous and beautiful. I felt sad and lost when we discussed the Palestinian conflict, but I understood why Zionism must be taken so seriously. The Muss program is well set up to teach the broad history of the conflict, and from many angles. I feel that I deeply understand it and I do love Israel! This doesn't mean I will stop asking questions to expand my perspective.

To anyone questioning if they should support Israel, or if they should go there, I strongly urge you to say yes! You cannot fully learn if you do not go. There is so much to see firsthand, and so much that the media leaves out. I encourage you to look into your love of Israel, and I thank the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires for making this educational, complicated, beautiful, and unforgettable trip happen for me.

Aviva Skoblow is a rising senior at Pittsfield High School. She enjoys running, and is interested in sustainable agriculture.



Aviva Skoblow in Eilat

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Hevreh
Jewish Life • Learning • Community

PINCHAS, continued from page 26

zealous for the cause of reasonableness. And what, in the end, makes the zealot so problematical? For that, I turned to another great font of wisdom about human nature — Charles Schultz's *Peanuts*.

The action unfolds as Lucy, once again, entices Charlie Brown to kick the football she balances against the ground with her finger. Charlie Brown walks away, muttering: "She thinks I'm stupid...She plans to pull the ball away as I come running up to kick it, but this year I'm going to fool her. This year, I'm going to make her wait! If I have to sit here in the house until midnight, I'm going to make her wait."

With the moon high in the sky, Charlie Brown sees Lucy continuing to hold the football, snoring with her eyes closed. Charlie Brown goes out to her and says: "Well I'll be! She's sound asleep! This is my big chance..." Running forward to kick the ball, Charlie Brown says with a triumphant smile: "She really slipped up this time."

As Charlie Brown kicks at the football, Lucy – as always – pulls it away at the last second. Charlie Brown goes airborne, then lands on his back with an emphatic "WHAM!"

Holding the football, Lucy stands over her hapless friend and with a smile explains: "We fanatics are light sleepers, Charlie Brown."

CULTURE AND ARTS

“The Posthumous Landscape: Jewish Historical Sites in Poland and Western Ukraine”

Documenting evidence of centuries of Jewish life in Eastern Europe

AMHERST – “*The Posthumous Landscape: Jewish Historical Sites in Poland and Western Ukraine*” is an exhibition of photographs taken by David Kaufman that is on view through September 30 at the Yiddish Book Center. Kaufman is a Toronto-based architectural photographer and documentary filmmaker who made nine trips to Poland and western Ukraine to photograph the remnants of Jewish life following the destruction of local Jewish communities under the Nazis and in the Soviet era. Kaufman’s large scale, highly-detailed images of synagogues and cemeteries, architecture and street-scapes, are a testament to the rich, varied lives led by Jews in cities and towns over centuries and a reminder of the challenges in preserving Jewish material culture in countries that have few Jews today and meager resources. Here Kaufman describes his project.

The landscapes of Poland and west-

“I see myself working in the spirit of Eugene Atget, who, before World War One, photographed the Paris that was already old when he was young.” — David Kaufman

ern Ukraine offer substantial rewards to the Jewish traveler seeking a connection with what existed before the great catastrophe of the Hitler years. Since the late 1970s and especially since the

fall of Communism, Jews of the post-war generations in North America and Israel have been “returning” to Eastern Europe in ever-increasing numbers. For most the quest is to set foot in the ancestral home, to visit family burial sites if they exist, and to uncover family records in provincial archives.

My interest in what remains of Jewish life in Eastern Europe as a photographic subject was sparked by several trips to Poland to make documentary films concerning the Holocaust. On all those occasions I was unexpectedly surprised and deeply moved by both the quality and quantity of Jewish material culture—remnants of Jewish life—that I saw wherever I went.

Although the great Jewish communities of Eastern Europe were destroyed by the Nazis, and the survivors persecuted and cast out in the Soviet era, evidence of centuries of Jewish life remains in abundance almost everywhere.

Since 2007, I have traveled to Poland eight times for still photography, and in 2016, I explored the cities of Lviv and Chernivtsi and their surroundings in western Ukraine. My purpose is to docu-

ment the physical remains of Jewish communal life: synagogues, cemeteries, memorials, architecture and street-scapes, Holocaust sites, some functioning, some repurposed and some in



Interior of Historic Fortress Synagogue, Zhovkva (Ukraine), June, 2016



Crumbling “Beit Tehara” (funeral home), Zelana Street Jewish Cemetery, Chernivtsi (Ukraine), 2016



Yurij Davidovitch in the Decaying, Post-war Synagogue in Khotyn (Ukraine), 2016

ruins. But my motivation for engaging in this work goes beyond the aesthetic rewards of creating and exhibiting striking images.

The remnants of Jewish life before the Holocaust are the treasures of a lost Jewish civilization. However, the quantity of Jewish material culture is vast, the task of cataloguing, preserving and restoring Jewish artifacts is seemingly limitless, and the resources available are largely inadequate. It is my hope that photographic documentation will raise awareness of these artifacts and promote greater efforts of preservation and restoration. There is no question, if previous experience is any indication, that as time goes on these Jewish historical sites will change, many will deteriorate and be lost, and decades from now photographs will be all that remain to remind us of many of these places in a vanished Jewish world.

The Yiddish Book Center is at 1021 West Street, Amherst, MA. The Center is open Sunday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information see the Center’s website: www.yiddishbookcenter.org.



Meylakh Sheykhet, Radical Jewish Activist, Lviv (Ukraine), June, 2016



Historic Yiddish Commercial Signage in Central Lviv, June 2016



Cultural Centre of Vyzhnytsia (Ukraine), Formerly the Town’s Largest Synagogue, June, 2016

PHOTOGRAPHS AND TEXT BY DAVID KAUFMAN / COURTESY OF THE YIDDISH BOOK CENTER