Go Extraordinary Things

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ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

YOUR GENEROSITY AND CARING HAVE EXCEEDED OUR CAMPAIGN GOAL OF $855,000!

Thank you to all who participated!

Check out the next edition of the Berkshire Jewish Voice for a full reporting and Honor Roll of donors.

OUR CUP RUNNETH OVER!

Thanks to YOUR generosity and caring we have exceeded our campaign goal of $855,000!

Jacob Spike Kraus

PITTSFIELD – On Saturday, January 25 at 7 p.m., all are invited to a special community-wide Havdalah and concert featuring singer/songwriter Jacob Spike Kraus, who will be accompanied by musicians from the Berkshire-Jewish community. This free event is being hosted by Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield.

Co-sponsors are the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, Berkshire Hills Hadassah, the Berkshire Minyan, Congregation Ahavath Sholom, Congregation Beth Israel, Temple Anshe Annumin, Knesset Israel, and Hevreh of Southern Berkshire. Partial funding is also provided by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

Join us for a rocking good time as we bid farewell to Shabbat with good company, good music, warm hot chocolate, and other treats.

About the Performer
Jacob Spike Kraus is a 28-year-old singer/songwriter, educator, and innovator based in Ann Arbor, Michigan, who serves as the artist-in-residence at the University of Michigan. He is known for his energetic performances and thought-provoking lyrics that address issues of faith, identity, and social justice.

On January 25, Tiroche Auction House, Israel’s largest auction house, will hold its annual Israeli and International Art Auction. On the block will be this canvas, “Synagogue,” by Nahum Gutman, one of Israel’s foremost (and best-loved) painters of the 20th century. From the auction catalogue: “Gutman’s distinct identification with the city of Tel Aviv is closely linked to the way he followed and documented it in drawing and writing, step by step, from the yellow sand dunes until it crystallized into an actual and vibrant city. In his paintings, Gutman attempted to perpetuate the Mediterranean atmosphere and grasp the concept of light. The relatively simple compositions are saturated with sharp yet harmonious color contrasts.” For more on the paintings to be auctioned by Tiroche this January, please see page 12.

Going Once… Going Twice…

Paintings by Israel’s modern masters to be auctioned this January by Tiroche Auction House

A Shtetl in the Sun
Exhibit at The Yiddish Book Center captures the lost Jewish world of South Beach

By Albert Stern / BJV Editor

It wasn’t until the early aughts, around the time I turned thirty, before the most common response to my telling someone that I was born and raised in Miami Beach was likely to be something other than: “Oh, my grandmother lived there. I didn’t realize anyone actually grew up there.”

By then, the city was well on the way of reinventing itself as the glitzy party town and mega-millionaires' enclave that constitutes its current incarnation. But the Miami Beach of my heart will always be the Miami Beach inhabited by elderly Jewish retirees.
In My View

In Coldest Winter, Warm Thoughts of a Summer Visit to Israel

Seeing up close how our Partnership2Gether participation helps the Afula-Gilboa region

By Dara Kaufman

The snow may be piled up against the window in my office, but today my mind is filled with memories of the hot sun, green fields, and crispy falafel with creamy hummus.

During a family vacation to Israel this past August, I took some time out to meet with Jewish Agency For Israel representatives and lay leaders from the Afula-Gilboa region to see firsthand some of the projects our Federation is funding through our support of the Southern New England Consortium (SNEC) of Partnership2Gether (P2G).

Last year, on another visit to Israel for the General Assembly of Jewish Federations of North America, I had the privilege of visiting two of our Israeli beneficiaries – the Valley Rape Crisis Center in Afula and the Sandwich Club of the Afula Community Center – which I wrote about on these pages. This year, I planned a visit to two more beneficiaries.

**Beit Singer Children’s Home**

Accompanied by my daughter Maya, I started my day with a visit to Beit Singer Children’s Home together with Adi Dado, from the P2G team in Israel. We received a warm welcome from their associate director, Ariel Rakovsky, who had visited the Berkshires in 2017 with Yochai Booganim, a graduate of Beit Singer. Yochai had shared his life-changing experiences growing up in the Children’s Home (and the successes he had had in his life as a result) with Berkshire community members at our Connecting With Community program and kosher lunch.

It was the end of August and extremely hot, and the residents of Beit Singer, located in Kfar Yehezkel just outside of the city of Afula in the Gilboa region, provides a home for at-risk youth who have suffered abandonment, neglect, and abuse from an early age. The children are organized into small, intimate groups where they receive intensive attention from a range of professionals including educational staff, social workers, and psychologists, along with movement, art, and animal therapists.

Due to the large intake of young students over the years, the SNEC partnership support has helped Beit Singer add extra hours of psychotherapy and additional social workers in order to better address the emotional and educational needs of those traumatized by being removed from home. More recently, partnership funding was used to develop an animal therapy program where therapists pair the children with an animal that can be a source of comfort, and can help them learn to love and trust again.

It was the end of August and extremely hot, and the residents of Beit Singer were off on an end-of-summer adventure at a time when ongoing renovations were being wrapped up at the home. Ariel took me on a tour of the campus, pointing out recent renovations that included the creation of a new computer lab and an updating of bathrooms and living quarters to better meet the needs of the children. Many of the children have suffered some form of sexual abuse and the change over to private bathrooms and smaller rooms, for just two children, helps them feel safer and more comfortable in their environment.

**Home in the Valley**

After our visit at Beit Singer, we caught up with Naveh, the P2G director for our region, and Dalit Lazer, the chair of the partnership’s Israeli steering committee, for lunch at bustling Falafel Golani, the GO TO place for falafel in Afula. If you find yourself in Afula some day, go there!!

As with any meeting between two Jews, we started with Jewish geography. Turns out Dalit is a very good friend of my husband’s cousin, who lives next door to her. And you thought the Berkshires was a small community!

We were joined by Shani Bar, the director of Home in the Valley, another beneficiary of our partnership funding; Shani has been at the forefront of engaging an LGBTQ leadership group to design and implement new initiatives to support the LGBTQ community in the Afula-Gilboa region. Prior to Home in the Valley’s formation, there was a significant lack of services and support for this demographic.

Home in the Valley works to raise social awareness, develop services, and create a safe place where LGBTQ individuals can meet and take part in joint thinking and action.

Shani shared the success of some of their recent events including the region’s first Pride Festival! Hundreds of people participated in the event, which included cultural performances, children’s activities, and various informational stands. Shani spoke with great animation about how it felt to see so many people expressing their support for the LGBTQ community and the values of tolerance and equality.

She emphasized how tremendously impactful this event was for the local LGBTQ community, especially for the teens and young adults in their community and the children of LGBTQ parents. She also expressed how grateful they are for our support.

**Our P2G Partnership – Inspirational, Impactful, and Personal**

I ended my afternoon back at the Jewish Agency’s office, where I got to say hello to Achiya Ben Ari Buganim and Karen Brustein. Achiya is the partnership’s living bridge coordinator and has organized so many of the innovative programs we have hosted the past few years, including our Israel70 Haifa Dinner. Karen organized the Project Zug artists’ learning exchange, in which many Berkshire community members participated last year. The highlight of our meeting was meeting Achiya’s new baby, Yael! As always, I returned from my site visits enriched, energized, and filled with a renewed love for this beautiful region in Israel and the inspirational people I met who are making an impact on the lives of so many.

It is always inspiring to me to see our community’s work in Israel in action, but the main message I want to share with you is this – VISIT! Support Israel with your feet! Tour our partnership area. Stay for a few days in the guest house on Rihbuta Yerre’el, which is available to our community free of charge. Experience the extraordinary impact of our work there. Let Naveh, Adi, Achiya, and Karen welcome you with open arms!
In my junior year of college, I studied abroad in Israel at the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies, and lived on Ribbits Ketirah. The Arava Desert is one of the furthest south and most sparsely populated regions of Israel. For most of my time there, the weather was hot and dry, and the vegetation was bare and empty. We planned our free time around trips to the pool and midday naps for a repose from the heat.

As a native New Englander, seeing tempera-
tures in the 80s during the winter months was mind-boggling. What’s more, the Arava received almost no rain during my time there – except for one memorable day, when storm clouds rolled in, the air grew dark, and the ever-

untouched, this is always a lovely time of year to trade the snow for blooming branches. Beyond connecting us to the Land of Israel, paying attention to Tu BiShvat deepens our understanding of our sacred texts. While not mentioned in the Torah, Tu BiShvat is akin to Sukkot, Passover, and Shavuot, the three pilgrimage festivals that originated as agricultural celebrations in ancient days. Further, we call our Torah Etz chayim hi – a tree of life – so the connection among trees, Tu BiShvat, and Torah is strong on many levels.

Like its fellow minor holiday, Chanukah, Tu BiShvat falls at one of the darkest times of the year. For Jews throughout the world, Tu BiShvat has taken on significance as a harbinger of spring, even if that season is still quite far off. It is a time of the year. For Jews throughout the world, Tu BiShvat has taken on significance as a harbinger of spring, even if that season is still quite far off. It is a time of the year.

Unlike the Arava, central Israel has two seasons: rainy in the winter, hot and dry in the summer. It never fails that right around Tu BiShvat, our holiday of the New Year of the Trees, that the almond trees begin to bloom. There are pink and white flowers as far as the eye can see, eventually blanketting the ground so fully, one almost mistakes it for snow.

Snow is a little more common than almond blossoms in the Berkshires at this time of year. Every year, we enjoy a little irony as we celebrate a new year for vege-
tation and growth when our trees are at their most bare. So how can we connect to this holiday, if it seemingly falls at the wrong time and place for us here?

First, we can highlight the connections to the Land of Israel that are inherent in this holiday. By sharing stories, photos, and traveling to Israel during this season, we gain firsthand knowledge of why this holiday happens when it does. While there are benefits of our winters, particularly on our pristine ski slopes and backroads, this is always a lovely time of year to trade the snow for blooming branches.

Beyond connecting us to the Land of Israel, paying attention to Tu BiShvat deepens our understanding of our sacred texts. While not mentioned in the Torah, Tu BiShvat is akin to Sukkot, Passover, and Shavuot, the three pilgrimage festivals that originated as agricultural celebrations in ancient days. Further, we call our Torah Etz chayim hi – a tree of life – so the connection among trees, Tu BiShvat, and Torah is strong on many levels.

Like its fellow minor holiday, Chanukah, Tu BiShvat falls at one of the darkest times of the year. For Jews throughout the world, Tu BiShvat has taken on signif-
icance as a harbinger of spring, even if that season is still quite far off. It is a holiday that provides a reason to come out of the protective cocoon of our homes and join together in celebration and community. It is a holiday of hope, apprecia-
tion, and looking toward a brighter future.

Many communities move beyond Tu BiShvat’s agricultural association, particularity in parts of the world where spring is nowhere nearby. However, the connection to the environment, nature, and to caring for our earth is one that we can explore on this holiday. We can bring a modern urgency to the ritual and spiritual underpinnings of this day. Even if you can’t enjoy the shade of the Tanglewood trees or pick fresh produce from your garden on Tu BiShvat in the Berkshires, I encourage you to connect with our environment through advocacy on awareness at this season.

Our way that we express the values of Tu BiShvat is by serving as a volun-
unteer for Berkshire Bounty. One out of ten people in Berkshire County and all of Western Massachusetts suffer food insecurity, which means they are hungry or at risk of being hungry. Berkshire Bounty collects excess fresh produce, baked goods, and meats from supermarkets, farms, and owners of fruit-bearing trees. Each week, I and many other volunteers throughout the county deliver that food to pantries and other distribution organizations in South County and Pittsfield.

By collecting food that is beyond the sell-by date at our local grocery stores, we are also practicing the value of Bal Tashchit – do not waste. The environmental impact of Berkshire Bounty is another way that this incredible organization is having an effect on our local community and on our world.

I wish you a joyful, meaningful, and inspiring Tu BiShvat – whatever the weather, wherever you celebrate it!

Dara Kaufman is the executive director of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires.
“Moments to Remember,” Stories About Living and Loving with Dick Macht

On three consecutive Thursdays – January 23, January 30, and February 6 – at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires invites you to join educator, writer, and raconteur Dick Macht for “Moments to Remember,” a series based on his book of autobiographical short stories. This free program at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield is part of the Federation's Connecting With Community series.

Dick Macht says that the stories he’ll be sharing “are filled with love, laughter, kindness, compassion, understanding, joy, sorrow, and happiness. They represent what it means to be fully alive. Happiness. They represent standing, joy, sorrow, and filled with love, laughter, stories he’ll be sharing “are...”

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

The Process of Aging, with Maggie Bittman

On Monday, January 13 and Monday, February 3 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 how aging involves experiencing loneliness; 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.

The Sunday Strummers Ukulele Ensemble!

On Monday, January 6 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires welcomes The Sunday Strummers Ukulele Ensemble, a group of avid ukulele players who have been performing, singing, and performing together for several years. They will come together to fill the air with tunes from the 1930s to present day.

Jacob Spike Kraus

The son of a rabbi as well as the product of Jewish day school and Jewish summer camp, Jacob brings more than musicality to his work. His intimate knowledge of the Hebrew language, Jewish texts and culture add depth to his songs and authenticity to his role as a musical educator. Throughout the year Jacob tours the country singing with multi-generational communities and using Jewish music as a tool to educate and engage the next generation of Jews. You can hear Jacob’s music anywhere music is streamed or sold. Find out more about Jacob and his music at www.jacobspikekraus.com.
Your Federation Presents

“Let’s Keep it Moving”

Attention all you movers and shakers! On Thursday, January 9 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires welcomes Christopher J. McLaughlin, executive director of Elder Services of Berkshire County, Inc.

He will discuss the numerous programs and services that Elder Services provides. The audience will have opportunities for Q&A and come away with a gained understanding and perspectives of this important Berkshire County resource.

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

**IF YOU GO**

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

**Venue:** Knesset Israel

**Date & Time:** Thursday, January 9 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 16).

Elder Services of Berkshire County: An Update

On Monday, February 10 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires welcomes Christopher J. McLaughlin, executive director of Elder Services of Berkshire County, Inc.

He will discuss the numerous programs and services that Elder Services provides. The audience will have opportunities for Q&A and come away with a gained understanding and perspectives of this important Berkshire County resource.

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

Christopher McLaughlin, a native of Berkshire County, has led Elder Services since September 2018. From 2004 through 2018, Mr. McLaughlin served as the chief operating officer of the Mercy Continuing Care Network of the Sisters of Providence Health System (SPHS), part of Trinity Health of New England. There he oversaw the operations of three skilled nursing facilities, two residential care facilities, Western Massachusetts’ second-largest home health agency, an adult day health program, a 119-unit independent living facility, a PACE Program, a private duty provider, and a hospice program. Mr. McLaughlin has more than 30 years of experience in health care management.

**IF YOU GO**

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

**Venue:** Knesset Israel

**Date & Time:** Monday, February 10 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 16).

Film: Denial – Based on Deborah Lipstadt’s Day in Court with a Holocaust Denier

On Thursday, February 13 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires screens the film Denial, which is based on Deborah Lipstadt’s History on Trial: My Day in Court with a Holocaust Denier. It dramatizes the Irving vs. Penguin Books Ltd. court case in which Lipstadt, a Holocaust scholar, was sued by denier David Irving for libel.

Directed by Mick Jackson and scripted by famed playwright David Hare, the film stars Rachel Weisz and Tom Wilkinson. We will begin the film at 10:45 a.m., break at 11:45 for lunch, and view the end of the film at 12:30 p.m. after lunch.

**IF YOU GO**

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

**Venue:** Knesset Israel

**Date & Time:** Thursday, January 16 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 16).

Freedom on My Mind – A Documentary About Mississippi Voter Registration in the 1960s

On Thursday, January 16 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires will screen Freedom on My Mind, a 1994 feature documentary film that tells the story of the Mississippi voter registration struggle of 1961 to 1964, which was characterized by violence against the people involved, including multiple instances of murder. This free program at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield is part of the Federation’s Connecting With Community series.

Freedom on My Mind was produced and directed by Connie Field and Marilyn Mufford, and features interviews with Bob Moses, Victoria Gray Adams, Endesha Ida Mae Holland, and Freedom Summer volunteers Marshall Ganz, Heather Booth, and Parker War. It premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, won that year’s Grand Jury Prize for Documentary, and was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature. In 1961, Mississippi was rigidly segregated. There were virtually no black voters even though African-Americans composed a large percentage of the population, the majority in some localities. Bob Moses entered the state and the Mississippi Voter Registration Project began. The first black farmer who attempted to register was fatally shot by a Mississippi State Representative, E.H. Hurst. Due to intimidation of witnesses, one of whom, Louis Allen, was slain, Hurst was never prosecuted. Among the events depicted in the film is the Freedom Summer of 1964, in which three civil rights workers were slain.

Freedom on My Mind combines personal interviews, rare archival film and television footage, authentic Mississippi Delta blues, and movement gospel songs. It emphasizes the strategic brilliance of Mississippi’s young African American organizers. Barred from political participation, they created their own integrated party the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party. They recruited a thousand mostly white students from around the country to come to Mississippi, bringing the eyes and conscience of the nation with them. The students and the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party organizers put together a delegation of sharecroppers, maids, and day-laborers that challenged the all-white delegates in the 1964 Democratic National Convention. The film describes how their effort to replace the state’s delegation was not accepted by the Democratic Party leadership, embittering the activists. Ultimately their efforts succeeded. In 1965, Congress passed the Voting Rights Act, and by 1969, Mississippi had more elected black officials than any other state in the country.

We will begin the film at 10:45 a.m., break at 11:45 for lunch, and view the end of the film at 12:30 p.m. after lunch.

**IF YOU GO**

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

**Venue:** Knesset Israel

**Date & Time:** Thursday, January 27 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 16).

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

Mussar and Shabbat Lab

Two new ways of forging Jewish connection at Hevreh

GREAT BARRINGTON – This winter, Hevreh of Southern Berkshire introduces two new ways of exploring the richness of Jewish thought and practice.

Lay-led Mussar Group

On Mondays, January 6 & 20 and February 3 & 17, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., a lay-led Mussar Group meets in the Hevreh library. “Broadly speaking Mussar is the study, discussion, and practice of various character traits from a Jewish perspective,” write the group’s organizers. “While there are over 100 such traits, typical ones include Humility, Gratitude, Compassion, Patience, and Silence.” This group is open to all and is free. For further information, please contact Marion Adler at marinadler613@gmail.com or Debbie Harris at witchdeb@gmail.com. A Zoom (teleconferencing) option is available for those who cannot attend in person. Join families and people of all ages for a morning of interfaith community building through worship, song, service, and food. The day begins with an “Interfaith Service for Justice,” followed by the opportunity to choose from a variety of hands-on service projects that will serve the broader Berkshire County community. All are welcome to this free event. Hevreh of Southern Berkshire is located at 270 State Road in Great Barrington. For more information, call (413) 528-6378.

The Jewish Transportation Network

Discount Taxi Vouchers for Jewish residents aged 65 years and older

Purchase $50 worth of taxi coupons for $5 ($6 if requested via mail)

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

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

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

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

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.

Shabbat Lab

Every Saturday through February at 10 a.m., Hevreh hosts a Shabbat Lab. Organizers write: “Hevreh has long described itself as a spiritual laboratory of sorts. We serve as this laboratory on a regular basis during Shabbat. The Saturday Shabbat Lab is the latest iteration of our commitment to experience. Each Shabbat, we will use our "Place in Time" as a platform to tune for meaning and insight, to study and pray together, and often to eat together. Take a look at the schedule at hevreh.org/shabbat and what you’ll see are the things we do whenever we come together for Shabbat, with a particular emphasis on something a little different and a little special. All are welcome.” Hevreh of Southern Berkshire is located at 270 State Road in Great Barrington. For more information, call (413) 528-6378.

Yachad Interfaith Intergenerational Day of Service to Honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

GREAT BARRINGTON – In partnership with Berkshire County churches and synagogues, Hevreh of Southern Berkshire hosts an interfaith intergenerational day of service in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Sunday, January 19 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

PITTSFIELD – Temple Anshe Amunim invites the community to celebrate Tu B’Shevat, the New Year of Trees, on Friday, February 7, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Tu B’Shevat, is the fifteenth day of the Hebrew month of Shevat, and welcomes the emergence of spring. Jews mark the holiday with a traditional Seder, similar to a Passover Seder, and with the planting of trees to honor or remember loved ones.

The evening will begin with Shabbat Shira, the Sabbath of Song, a family-friendly service filled with music. TAA will continue the celebration, by inviting the symbolic fruits of Earth linked to Tu B’Shevat, and to honor the enduring connections between Judaism and our environment. A dairy dinner is: $8 per person for person, with a maximum of $36 per family. Reservations are required by January 31. To register, contact the Temple Office at (413) 442-9010, or Templeoffice@AnsheAmunim.org. TAA is at 26 Broad Street in Pittsfield. Temple Anshe Amunim is a Reform Jewish congregation “that promotes engaging and widespread participation in services, education, and social action programs. The temple is always grateful for funding provided by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.”

Celebrating Tu B’Shevat... colourful!

Lee & Sydelle Blatt
Betty Braun*
Cynthia Brown
Barbara Cohen
Mark Cohen*
Mimi Cohen
C. Jeffrey & Judith Cook
Gerry & Lynn Denman
Jonathan & Dana Denman
Sheila K. Donah
Molva Eidelberg
Monroe England, in memory of
Moreno B. & Isabel England
Dr. Armand V. Feigenbaum*
Dr. Donald S. Feigenbaum*
Steven Feiner
Diana & Stanley Feld
Suan M. Fischman, Esq.
Lynn & William Foggle
Elaine Friedman
Eran Gaizt
Jeffrey Geiger & Jaquelin Wolfson*
Jordan & Laura Green
Harold Grinspoon
Dana Kaufman
Phil* and Rhoda Kaminstein
Howard & Nancy* Kaufman
Lawrence Klein
Sarah Klein
Arthur Kriger*
Fred & Brenda Landes
Beth Laster-Nathan
Andrew S. Levine*
Toby H. Levine
Ema Lindner-Gilbert*
Amy Lindner-Leiser
Helen Maiden*
Ellen Masters
Stuart Masters
Estelle Miller
Robert Newman*
Wendy Robbins
Ken & Fran Robinson
Stella Schecter*
Arlen D. Schiff
Gary Schiff
Stephen & Deborah Scheiter
Martin Silver
Sylvia Silverberg, in memory of
Jerome Silverberg
Richard A. Simon & Marcie
Greenfield Simons
Mark & Elisa Snowise
Harold Spar
Lisa Fletcher-Udel
Edward Udel
Michael & Jean Ury
Mark & Judy Usof
Henry* & Blane* Vorembg
Alexandra Warshaw
Florence Wineberg*
Rabbi Deborah Zecher &
Rabbi Dennis Ross*

*Of blessed memory

The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires
“A Grief Sublime”
A discussion with author Beth Robbins and Rabbi Neil Hirsch

GREAT BARRINGTON – On Thursday, January 16 at 7 p.m., Hevreh of Southern Berkshire hosts a discussion and talk-back with author Beth Robbins and Rabbi Neil Hirsch.

After the sudden death of her husband of nearly 30 years, Steve “Sproutman” Meyerowitz, author Beth Robbins turned to writing for comfort. And to Keats, Whitman, Melville, and Dickinson. What began as a mourning rite for a grieving widow eventually transformed into a lyrical memoir of childhood, marriage, grief, and ultimately resurrection.

“The fragmentation, or, perhaps better said, the shattering of my world, led me to look for conversation, reconnection, dialogue,” writes Robbins. “My poets, as I began to call them, offered me solace. They spoke to meaning and purpose.” Robbins wrote a memoir of her experience, A Grief Sublime, which was published in December of 2019 by Keats & Company Publishers. An audiobook version, read by actress Karen Allen, is also available.

Grief may be unwelcome, but it also brings insights and gifts. Beth Robbins, Hevreh member, and Rabbi Neil Hirsch will sit down to explore Beth’s journey and process, and what meaning she’s taken spiritually.

Light refreshments will be served.

This program is free and open to the public. Hevreh of Southern Berkshire is located at 270 State Road in Great Barrington. For more information, call (413) 528-6378.

For more information about Beth Robbins, check out: https://bethrobbins.co/about. For more on Keats & Company Publishers, visit www.keatsandcompanypublishers.com.

Documentary on Ben-Gurion

GREAT BARRINGTON – On Sunday, February 23 at 4 p.m., Hevreh of Southern Berkshire will screen a documentary film about Israel’s first prime minister titled Ben-Gurion: Epilogue (2016).

The film will be introduced by Doug Seserman, CEO of American Associates Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (AABGU). In the depths of the Ben-Gurion Archives at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, a six-hour-long interview soundtrack was discovered featuring one of modern history’s greatest leaders – David Ben-Gurion. It was matched with a filmmaker who had the footage and was looking to recreate the interview. It is 1968, and he is 82 years old, five years before his death. This 70-minute documentary brings to life Ben-Gurion’s introspective soul searching that also provides a surprising vision for today’s crucial decisions and the future of Israel.

Following the screening, Seserman will lead a talk-back session.

No charge, open to the entire Berkshire Community. Light refreshments will be served.

Hevreh of Southern Berkshire is located at 270 State Road in Great Barrington. For more information, call (413) 528-6378.

FEARLESSLY CHASE

YOUR DREAMS

LIFE IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT
Williams College Jewish Association Brought the Message and Meaning of Chanukah (Plus Dreidels) to Local First Graders

By Emma Lezberg / Special to the BJV

Sure, it’s right in the middle of finals period, but what better study break than playing dreidels with first graders?

Every December – December 9 and 10 this year – a group of students from the Williams College Jewish Association visits Brayton and Greylock Elementary Schools in North Adams to teach their first graders about Chanukah. The excitement of the students was palpable as we – Ariel Koltun-Fromm ’23, Moll Polk from the Williams College Center for Learning in Action who helped to organize the trips, and I – walked into the classrooms carrying mysterious boxes. One box contained the Chanukah paraphernalia we were to show them. The Magic Dreidels book to read, two dreidels and wrote the letters on the whiteboard. At both schools, it took the students a few tries to figure out what language these strange symbols were in – Chinese? Japanese? Spanish? – but eventually they came up with Hebrew.

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The students gathered and Meaning of Chanukah (Plus Dreidels) to Local First Graders

Williams College Jewish Association Brought the Message and Meaning of Chanukah (Plus Dreidels) to Local First Graders

By Emma Lezberg / Special to the BJV

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Berkshire JEWISH VOICE

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Educational Opportunities

LEARNING ARTS Humanities SCIENCE PERSPECTIVES
THINKING future KNOWLEDGE Career KEY
CHANGE SUCCESS Lecture EXCITING

Federation and Guido’s Team Up for Our New Jewish Cookbook Club

Calling all cooks! The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires has teamed up with Guido’s Fresh Marketplace to host a new Jewish Cookbook Club. Participants will prepare a recipe from a featured Jewish cookbook, which will be shared together at a festive potluck-style dinner after hours at Guido’s Fresh Marketplace, located at 1020 South Street in Pittsfield. Cookbooks will be on view in advance at the Federation’s office, located at 196 South Street in Pittsfield, or for viewing and purchase at Guido’s.

The first meeting of the Jewish Cookbook Club will take place on Thursday, February 13 at 7 p.m. and will feature Modern Jewish Cooking by Leah Koenig. Additional club dates are May 7, September 10, and November 12.

Space is limited. Advance registration is required by emailing judyusow@gmail.com.

Announcing the opening of The Early Childhood Center at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire

Coming Soon in 2020

Open to families of all backgrounds, the ECC will provide year-round, full-day care for infants & toddlers.

For more information, contact ECC Director, Ellen Marcus at emarcus@hevreh.org

Grow With Us

Families at Hevreh

270 State Road, Great Barrington
413-528-6378
hevreh.org/ecc
PJ Library Families Kicked Off the Chanukah Season with Bimuelos and a Sephardic-inspired Celebration
By Susan Frisch Lehrer, Coordinator of Volunteers and PJ Library

On Saturday, December 7, Federation and PJ Library families enjoyed a Sephardic-inspired Chanukah celebration at Berkshire South in Great Barrington. Sarah Aroeste Blaugrund read a story, The Hanukkah Moon, and sang a Ladino Chanukah song, “Ocho Kandelikas.” We also made Chanukah frames for our pictures.

But the best part was making bimuelos – fried dough with syrup and cinnamon on top – with Sarah’s husband, Jeff Blaugrund, in the kitchen. It was a great way to kick off the Chanukah season – not to mention a fantastic way for our PJ families to learn about Sephardic holiday traditions and the richness and diversity of Jewish life.

Sound like fun? If you have young children in your family and haven’t signed up for PJ Library or emails about family-friendly programs like this, please contact me at slehrer@jewishberkshires.org.

PJ Library is made possible for Berkshire families through a community partnership of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, the Spitz Tuchman Family Fund, the Jewish Women’s Foundation of Berkshire County, and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

PHOTOS BY JOSHUA BLOOM AND JEFF ROTHENBERG
Day of Holocaust Education and Remembrance

On December 8, Jewish teens in the 7th and 8th grades and parents from across the Berkshire Jewish community shared a meaningful day of learning and remembrance at the Museum of Jewish Heritage, A Living Memorial to the Holocaust in New York City. The trip, sponsored by the Jewish Women’s Foundation of Berkshire County and the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, included small group tours with discussion and a testimonial by Holocaust survivor Ruth Gruener. Gruener, who at age 7 was moved to the ghetto in Lvov, Poland, with her family, later evaded the Nazis by hiding in a hole under the floor of a Christian family risking their own lives to save her. Her harrowing story has been preserved in a book for young adults titled *Destined to Live: A True Story of a Child in the Holocaust*, published by Scholastic Books.

PHOTOS BY LEE ROGERS
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PHOTOCLEER/
Paintings by Israel's Modern Masters on the Block
Tiroche Auction House to hold its annual Israeli and International Art Auction in January

HERZLIYA PITUACH, ISRAEL—On January 25, Tiroche Auction House, Israel’s largest auction house, will hold its annual Israeli and International Art Auction. Spanning the decades of pre-state Israel through the 1960s Abstract era, the auction will feature works by Marc Chagall, Reuven Rubin, Shalom Gutman, Yosl Bergner, Yohanan Simon, Ludwig Blum, Samuel Bak, Naftali Bezem, Abel Pann, and Lea Nikel. Bidders may attend the auction in person, bid by phone, or participate live online via the Tiroche Auction House website.

The highlight of this auction is likely to be Marc Chagall’s “Jacob’s Ladder,” which will be on the block for the first time in more than two decades. The painting was famously stolen from Gordon Auction House in 1996, several days before it was set to go to auction. It was discovered more than 20 years later and, after a legal process, was claimed by the insurance company that had insured it.

The painting depicts one of the best-known Biblical stories. Chagall chose not to depict the scene in utopian colors, but rather used dramatic, more somber colors befitting the painting period of 1973/4, near the difficult time of the Israeli Yom Kippur War. “It has been more than twenty years since an oil painting by Chagall has been sold in Israel,” says Amotai Hazan Tiroche, managing director of Tiroche Auction House. “and we are thrilled to exhibit the work of one of the most important Jewish artists.”

Also shown here is Yochanan Simon’s “Figures in the Kibbutz.” According to the auction catalogue: “Simon was a German-born painter who 1936 immigrated to Israel and settled in Kibbutz Gan Shmuel… National kibbutz captains… recruited him for the glory of kibbutz movement through art. He painted works full of pathos for Hashomer Hatzair; paintings depicting the kibbutz’s life as particularly successful, family scenes that combine happiness and intimacy, and works that glorify the value of the work and the beauty of the land. Simon was selected to draw the official declaration of Independence Day.” Later, Simon moved to Tel Aviv, and his work “became modern, abstract, very colorful and full of optimism,” and he went on to create large-scale murals in Israel and South America.

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The pamphlet is written in Yiddish, with some Russian notations. It lists the qualifications of potential immigrants, describes the steps involved in the immigration process, details the kinds of job opportunities awaiting immigrants in America, and narrates the living conditions in Galveston, Houston, and other Texas cities at the time.

“Jacob’s Ladder” by Marc Chagall

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At Greylock Audiology and Balance Centers we combine audiology and physical therapy.

Having both services available in one location allows us to more effectively improve quality of life through better hearing, better balance and overall health and well-being.

Dr. Andrew Puttick, the owner and audiologist at Greylock Audiology, is a state licensed doctor of audiology, not a hearing aid salesman.

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Dr. Trevor Marcotte joined Greylock Audiology in August 2017 and FYZICAL Therapy and Balance was formed. Dr. Marcotte’s specialized training in vestibular (balance) therapy makes him one of the most qualified specialists in all of Western MA to treat vertigo and balance disorders!

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Israeli Scientists Discover Molecule that Destroys Pancreatic Cancer Cells

By Abigail Klein Leichman / Israel21c via JNS

TEL AVIV, ISRAEL – A little molecule developed at a cancer research center at Tel Aviv University’s Sackler Faculty of Medicine can cause cancer cells to self-destruct, according to an Israeli study published recently in the biomedjical journal Oncotarget.

Professor Malka Cohen-Armon from the Sackler Faculty of Medicine at Tel Aviv University’s Sackler Faculty of Medicine conducted an experiment using xenografts – transplantations of human pancreatic cancer into mice. The mice’s immune systems were compromised so that their bodies wouldn’t reject the transplanted cells.

In collaboration with Dr. Taliya Golan of Sheba Medical Center, the scientists then injected PJ34 into the mice for 14 days in a row.

PJ34 originally was developed to target stroke, but it has been found to have a powerful effect on human cancer cells. The molecule causes something to go wrong during cell duplication, leading to rapid cell death.

“In research published in 2017, we discovered a mechanism that causes the self-destruction of human cancer cells during their duplication [mitosis] without affecting normal cells,” explained Cohen-Armon. “We have now harnessed this information to efficiently eradicate human pancreatic cancer cells in xenografts.”

A month after the molecule was administered, the number of cancer cells in the mice’s tumors were found to be reduced by 80 percent to 90 percent. One mouse’s tumor completely disappeared.

Cohen-Armon noted that the treated mice suffered no adverse effects from the PJ34 molecule regimen, nor did they experience changes in weight or behavior.

Also significant is that the PJ34 molecule exclusively interrupts the duplication of human cancer cells, leaving normal cells alone.

Although PJ34 could work on other types of cancer cells, pancreatic cancer presents a pressing need. It’s the 12th most common cancer worldwide and the fourth leading cause of cancer death. This type of cancer is often resistant to existing treatments. Early diagnosis of pancreatic cancer is difficult, as often there are no symptoms. As a result, around 80 percent of patients are diagnosed at the metastatic stage, and fewer than 3 percent of patients at that stage survive for more than five years after diagnosis.

Therefore, the Israeli research holds great potential for the development of a new, effective therapy to treat this aggressive cancer in humans. It could also prove effective against aggressive forms of breast, lung, brain, and ovarian cancer.

PJ34 is now being tested in pre-clinical trials according to FDA regulations before larger animal trials, and then human clinical trials can begin.

Israeli Researchers Develop New Technology to Inhibit Alzheimer’s Disease

HAFIF & RAMAT GAN, ISRAEL – Israeli researchers have developed new technology for transporting drugs within the brain. These nanostructures release an essential protein, which can inhibit the development of Alzheimer’s disease, and can provide targeted delivery of the protein to the brain with the use of a “gene gun.”

Researchers at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology and their partners at Bar Ilan University have developed new technology to inhibit the development of Alzheimer’s disease. The work was recently published in the journal Small and also appears on the magazine cover of the same publication.

The research was led by Professor Estor Segal and Ph.D. student Michal Rosenberg from the Technion Faculty of Biotechnology and Food Engineering and their partners, Professor Ori Shefi and Ph.D. student Neta Zeitlin from the Bar Ilan University Faculty of Engineering.

Alzheimer’s, the most common form of dementia, is characterized by symptoms that include memory loss, spatial disorientation, language and orientation problems, and significant impairment of motor functions. The disease primarily strikes the elderly population, and after the age of 85 reaches a prevalence of some 30 percent. Due to the increase in life expectancy and the increase in the elderly population, the overall incidence of the disease has grown and is today referred to as the “gray plague.”

Alzheimer’s is a neurodegenerative disease, meaning that it originates in the brain cells. The underlying cause of the disease is the accumulation of a protein called amyloid beta (Aβ) in brain tissues. The protein blocks kill the nerve cells, also called neurons, in different regions of the brain. This leads, in part, to damage of the cholinergic mechanisms – the components essential for brain function.

Administering a specific protein, neural growth factor, inhibits the damage to the cholinergic mechanisms and the exacerbation the disease. But delivering the protein into the target area of the brain is not a simple task because the brain rests beneath the blood-brain barrier (BBB), which protects the central nervous system (the brain) from being infiltrated by bacteria and harmful substances from the blood. This barrier also restricts the passage, from the bloodstream to the brain, of drugs intended to treat brain diseases.

The Technion and Bar Ilan University researchers have presented an innovative solution to this challenge: Nanoscale silicon chips that use direct insertion of the protein into the brain and its release into the target tissue. The dedicated silicon chips, developed in Professor Segal’s lab, have a nanoscale porous structure that allows them to be loaded with large amounts of protein. Through precise control of chip properties – pore dimensions, surface chemical properties and more – the researchers were able to reach an optimal configuration that retains the protein in its active form and then releases it gradually over a period of about a month. Afterwards, the chips safely degrade in the brain and dissolve.

In this way, as mentioned, the protein is not required to cross the blood-brain barrier since it is inserted directly into the brain in one of two ways: by implanting it into the brain (as a chip) or sending it to its target as microparticles with the use of a dedicated gene gun. Upon reaching the target location in the brain, the protein is released from the chip and the chip breaks down into non-toxic components.

“In a series of experiments, we showed in mice that the two ways of delivering the platform into the brain led to the desired result,” said Technion doctoral student Michal Rosenberg. “Furthermore, our technology has also been tested in a cellular model of Alzheimer’s disease and indeed, the protein release has led to rescuing the nerve cells. The research was conducted with the support of the Russell Berrie Nanotechnology Institute at the Technion.

The research holds great potential for the development of a new, effective therapy to treat this disease. The research was recently published in the journal Small and also appears on the magazine cover of the same publication. The research was led by Professor Estor Segal and Ph.D. student Michal Rosenberg from the Technion Faculty of Biotechnology and Food Engineering and their partners, Professor Ori Shefi and Ph.D. student Neta Zeitlin from the Bar Ilan University Faculty of Engineering.
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) 499-9999 or visit www.jewishberkshires.com.

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


Sunday, January 5, 12, and 26 and February 2 and 9 at 11 a.m. – Knesset Israel continues its “Introduction to Judaism” series. Classes will be on Jewish values and discussion of the documentary The Story of the Jews by Simon Schama. For information, call (413) 445-4872, ext. 16, or visit the calendar page of knessetisrael.org for schedule. Individual classes cost $10.

Monthly on Sundays through the winter months at 4 p.m., – “An Afternoon Movie at Hevreh.” Spend your Sunday afternoon with friends watching movies, chatting, and socializing. This is a free movie although donations for snacks are accepted. The series begins with A Walk on the Moon on January 12. Movie aficionado Howard Arkans will provide a brief analysis of this film and talk back following the movie. Next up: Alfred Hitchcock’s Strangers on a Train, on February 9.

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. 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 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 to 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, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. at Chabad of the Berkshires (through June 13) – Join together with fellow Jewish women in the Berkshires for inspiring Torah study, warm camaraderie, hot tea and delicious refreshments! Please RSVP to saravolovik@gmail.com or call (413) 499-9895.

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: Currently, we are studying the Book of Judges, which tells the stories of the Israelites as they attempted to settle the Land of Israel. It’s a story of one people encountering others, the tensions that exist between those parties, and the complicated, ongoing relationship of a Covenantal Nation with its God. While the study is ongoing, we welcome people whenever they may be available to join. Classes available via video conference or conference call. Email Rabbi Hirsch a rhirsch@hevreh.org to find out how to join remotely.

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

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. Shabbat dinner (“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 Shabbat. All texts are offered to the public. Information (413) 663-5830 and www.cbiweb.org.

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-offen read books of the Bible. All are welcome to begin the day with coffee while studying and relaying on Shabbat. Sessions will be between 45 and 60 minutes.

Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. at Temple Anshe Amunin, 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield – “Tora Plus: Exploring Jewish Text and Culture.” Join Rabbi Liz F.G. Hirsch for a conversation based on the texts of the Jewish people and reflect on Jewish values and thinking and what it means “to be Jewish.” All texts are offered in English. Free and open to the public. Information (413) 442-5910 or templeoffice@ansheamunin.org.

You can now read and share Berkshire Jewish Voice feature stories online! Visit jewishberkshires.org and select Community & Events>Berkshire Jewish Voice for links to highlights of current and past issues.

“Hey. That wasn’t so bad.”

Yeah. We get that a lot.
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.

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

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

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

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

### What’s for Lunch?

- [Dairy Free], [Gluten Free Main Entrée]

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

#### JANUARY

**Thursday, 2** ..... 10:45 a.m., "Chair Yoga" with Linda Novick. Lunch: "Breakfast all Day" cheesy frittata, biscuit with "sausage" gravy, salad, coffee cake, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.

**Monday, 6** ..... 10:45 a.m., The Sunday Stummers Ukulele Ensemble. Lunch: Meat loaf**#, potato leek soup, peas & carrots, oven roasted Brussels sprouts, rye bread, peaches, and tea.

**Thursday, 9** ..... 10:45 a.m., "Let’s Keep it Moving" with Laura Kay. Lunch: "Seafood" pasta, salad, asparagus cuts n tips, multi-grain bread, pudding, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.

**Monday, 13** ..... 10:45 a.m., "Intergenerational: The Process of Aging" with therapist Maggie Bittman. Lunch: Layered sweet & sour beef**#, rice pilaf, beans, salad, pita bread, pineapple, and tea.

**Tuesday, 14** ..... Turkey stew, brown rice, salad, bread TBA, apple dumplings, and tea.

**Thursday, 16** ..... 10:45 a.m., Screening of film Freedom on my Mind. Film begins at 10:45, breaks at noon for lunch, and continues to end at 12:30. Lunch: Grilled cheese, tomato rice soup, beets, whole wheat bread, ice cream & cookies, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.

**Monday, 20** ..... Closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

**Tuesday, 21** ..... Sloppy Joes**#, corn, green beans, salad, Challah, peaches, and tea.

**Thursday, 23** ..... 10:45 a.m., "Moments to Remember" with author and Yiddish scholar Dick Macht. First of 3 part series. Lunch: Fresh fish**, vegetable soup, kugel, broccoli, salad, oat bread, applesauce, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.


**Tuesday, 28** ..... Turkey pot pie, brown rice, salad, multi-grain bread, mandarin oranges, and tea.

**Thursday, 30** ..... 10:45 a.m., "Moments to Remember" with author and Yiddish scholar Dick Macht. Second of 3 part series. Lunch: French onion soup, spinach cakes with spicy sauce, mixed vegetables, salad, muffins, fruit cocktail, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.

#### FEBRUARY

**Monday, 3** ..... 10:45 a.m., "Intergenerational: The Process of Aging" with therapist Maggie Bittman. Lunch: Meat loaf**#, noodle soup, mashed potatoes, peas & carrots, rye bread, apricots, and tea.

**Tuesday, 7** ..... 10:45 a.m., Program to be Announced.

**Thursday, 13** ..... 10:45 a.m., "Moments to Remember" with author and Yiddish scholar Dick Macht. Second of 3 part series. Lunch: Turkey soup#, tuna sandwiches, stewed tomatoes, Italian bread, peas, and tea.

**Wednesday, 18** ..... 10:45 a.m., "Moments to Remember" with author and Yiddish scholar Dick Macht. Final of 3 part series. Lunch: Tex-Mex casseroles, salad, corn bread, ice cream & cookies, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.

**Monday, 17** ..... 10:45 a.m., "Elder Services of Berkshire County: An Update" with Executive Director, Christopher J. McLaughlin. Lunch: French onion soup, spinach cakes with spicy sauce, mixed vegetables, salad, muffins, fruit cocktail, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.

**Tuesday, 18** ..... Lunch: Fish sticks, cream of mushroom soup, sweet potato fries, green beans, muffins, peaches, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.

**Thursday, 20** ..... 10:45 a.m., Program to be Announced.

Lunch: Fresh fish**, cream of asparagus soup, broccoli, rice pilaf, salad, cookies, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.
OBITUARIES

Myra Beverly (Klein) Forman, 85, loving and devoted mother, wife, and sister

SCHENECTADY, NY – Myra Beverly (Klein) Forman passed away peacefully on Thursday, November 14 after a long battle with dementia.

Born June 9, 1934 in Pittsfield General Hospital to Jacob and Lilian Klein, Myra grew up in Pittsfield with her older sister Elaine and her younger brother Charles (Chuck). She graduated from Pittsfield High School in June 1952. She was a loving and devoted mother, wife, and sister.

Soon after graduation, Myra went to work for the General Electric Company in Pittsfield as a drafts-person. She lived with her cousin Myrna before marrying Leonard Forman in 1957. She moved to Springfield, MA and then Hartford, CT and finally Schenectady, NY in 1960, where she lived for the rest of her life.

Myra was devoted to her family. She was loving, full of energy, and always made herself available to help others. Whenever anyone was looking for something, she had a knack of finding it. She always posted notes on the walls consisting of phone numbers, addresses, pending appointments, and notes on a variety of concerns. She ran from a virtual taxi and errand service for family and friends, and provided essential help with Lenny’s businesses after he retired from General Electric.

She moved to Pittsfield in the early 70s, and within a few years into her eighties, she attended exercise classes, was a census-taker, and loved spending time with her grandchildren. When her own children were young, she often took them to visit her family in Pittsfield. She was a supportive mom and wife in the early 70s, when her oldest child Daryl had an extended hospitalization. She did not leave his side. Her love, sense of humor, and energy will be missed by all.

Myra was the wife of 55 years of Leonard (Lenny), predeceased by her husband Julius, and daughter-in-law, Laura Forman.

The family wishes to thank the caring staff at both Brookdale East Niskayuna and Alpine Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Little Falls, New York. A private service was held on Wednesday, November 20 at Chase Smith Family Funeral Homes, Stillwater, NY, followed by burial at Gerald B. Solomon National Cemetery, Saratoga.

Donations can be made to Cure Alzheimer’s Fund (curealz.org).

Stephen Lenett, sculptor, artist and scenic designer

LEE – Stephen Lenett passed away Monday, November 4. He was survived by his loving wife Lois, of 55 years of marriage, who passed on Saturday, November 30.

Stephen was a sculptor, artist and scenic designer who was a professor of art for over 30 years at Suffolk Community College. His sculpture is part of the permanent collection of Carnegie Mellon University, which he attended. He received his MA from Adelphi University.

Stephen designed and personally built the family home on Goose Pond, where he pursued his art and loved kayaking and serious exercising. He and Lois traveled extensively in art capitals in Europe, England, Europe and the Middle East.

He is survived by his son Jarrett; nieces Jody Rao and husband Julius and Caryn Nabozny and husband David; sister-in-law Joan; and great nieces and nephews. She was the daughter of deceased parents Bella and Sidney Shutkin, and brother Allen Shutkin.

Funeral services were held Thursday, December 5 at Temple Anshe Amunim in Pittsfield.

Stephen is the son of deceased mother Dorothy, father Jack, and brother Ernest.

Mazel Tov to…

Janie Pellish, Alan Rubin, Barbara Waldinger, and Jessie Waldinger on being recognized as one of 25 engaged community members at the Berkshire Community College. The exhibit of their photos and biographies was held at the State House in Boston and was titled “Creative Aging: 65 and Better in the Berkshires.”

Clarinetist Paul Green and his combo Two Worlds, whose latest album, “A Bissel Rhythm,” was selected as one of the year’s best jazz albums by the Chicago Tribune, which wrote: “Jazz and Jewish music share a long and beautiful history, which clarinetist-composer Green traced on an earlier album, Music Coming Together. This time, rather than record songs reflecting both idioms, Green has written original compositions that give him and his colleagues freer reign in which to experiment. The music sometimes joyous, sometimes mournful attests to these artists’ converse in two alluring musical languages.”

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) 443-4366, berkshirehillshadassah@gmail.com

B’nai Brith Lodge, No. 326
Chabad of the Berkshires
450 South St., Pittsfield, MA (413) 499-8989, jewishberkshires.com

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

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

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

Israel Philatelist Society
c/o Dr. Ed Hellitzer, (413) 447-7622

Mazel Tov to...

Berkshires for the rest of her life.

A keen swimmer at her beloved Goose Pond, ardent reader, world traveler, passionate cook, and generous hostess, her greatest joy was connecting with people and making them feel at home.

Lois was survived by her loving son Jarrett; nieces Jody Rao and husband Julius and Caryn Nabozny and husband David; sister-in-law Joan; and great nieces and nephews.

The family wishes to thank the caring staff at Brookdale East Niskayuna and Alpine Nursing and Rehabilitation for the rest of her life.

You can now read and share Berkshire Jewish Voice feature stories online! Visit jewishberkshires.org and select Community Events>Berkshire Jewish Voice for links to highlights of current and past issues.

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

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

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

JEWISHERKSHIRES.ORG

Gulianv Acres, FLI. Michael Forman (Linda, Charleston WV). Sheila Bellinger (Slager, NV), and Joseph Forman and Carolyn Gioia (Bridgewater, NJ). She is also survived by her grandchildren Amanda and Andrea Bellinger, Donald Forman, Joshua Mallet, and Andrew and Matthew Forman. She also leaves behind her sister, Elaine Epstein and brother Chuck Klein, and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband, of 59 years, Leonard (Lenny), and daughter-in-law, Laura Forman.

The family wishes to thank the caring staff at both Brookdale East Niskayuna and Alpine Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Little Falls, New York. A private service was held on Wednesday, November 20 at Chase Smith Family Funeral Homes, Stillwater, NY, followed by burial at Gerald B. Solomon National Cemetery, Saratoga.

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He is survived by his son Jarrett; nieces Jody Rao and husband Julius and Caryn Nabozny and husband David; sister-in-law Joan; and great nieces and nephews. She was the daughter of deceased parents Bella and Sidney Shutkin, and brother Allen Shutkin.

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Stephen is the son of deceased mother Dorothy, father Jack, and brother Ernest.
Traveling with Jewish Taste
A Massachusetts Jew in Connecticut
By Carol Goodman Kaufman

As much as I enjoy travel (we counted that in 2019, I slept in 18 different places), I also love to explore places nearby. And we do have a wealth of wonderful destinations within driving distance. Joel and I recently had the most delightful visit with friends in New Haven. A mere stone’s throw away, Connecticut has it all, from the ridiculous to the sublime.

We started off our first morning at the Pez Visitor Center in Orange, where we were surrounded by all things related to the little fruit-flavored candy. We learned that Austrian candy makers (Hasbro invented Pez in 1927 as an alternative to smoking) of a Pez dispenser every day is on display in Orange, as are related items. A highlight for me was the Camilla Elphick designer pump featuring a Pez dispenser high heel.

Pez sells about 70 million dispensers and 5 billion candies every year in more than 80 countries worldwide. While the dispensers are still manufactured overseas, every one of the tiny bricks (kiosk less) is manufactured at the Connecticut plant — 12 million tablets every single day.

Pez dispensers have remained so beloved that thousands of people around the world collect them and attend conventions of like-minded aficionados where they can buy and sell the dispensers. And the prices can go sky-high. One fan spent $13,000 for dispensers in the likeness of Britain’s Princess William and her then-fiancé Kate Middleton.

Regular admission to the museum is $5, for children 3 to 12 and Seniors 84, while $82 from every ticket is credited toward purchase in the gift shop. So, of course, we bought some — My Little Pony, The Flash, Wonder Woman.

C3PO, and Darth Vader — for the grandkids.

On a more serious note was our visit to Connecticut’s Great Hunger Museum, housed at Quinnipiac College in Hamden. The mission of this unique museum is to investigate the Famine and its impact through art, artifacts, and literature. The museum has an extensive and unique collection of art ranging from contemporaneous to 19th-century illustrations to present-day paintings and sculptures by Irish and Irish-American artists.

First, some background for those not familiar with the Great Hunger. In 1845, a fungus-like disease called “late blight” arrived accidentally from North America. The potato plant, which was the Irish staple, was destroyed, and millions died from starvation and other causes. Another million Irish emigrated to other countries, many to America. By the end of the century, the population of Ireland had dropped to half of what it had been before the blight.

We learned that this tragedy wasn’t just about the potato blight and the ensuing famine that caused mass dislocation. No, it was about absent landowners’ manipulation and mistreatment of tenant farmers, about how the British government took food away from the Irish to feed themselves, and about how the British “tumbled” (razed) homes and forced emigration.

The ramifications of British negligence and abuse are still felt today.

Admission to the museum is $85, and is free for children, students, and Quinnipiac University faculty and staff.

On the last day of our visit, we drove home by way of Hartford to visit the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art. Founded in 1844, the Wadsworth is the oldest continuously-operating public art museum in the country, and its collection includes Greek and Roman antiquities, European art, costumes and textiles, furniture and decorative arts, and American art from the 17th century through today.

While the museum’s holdings are vast, I chose to spend my time on the third floor, with its fabulous collection of American art and, more specifically, its Hudson River School landscape paintings.

Also on the third floor is a special exhibit, “Afrocosmologies: African Reflections,” in which Black artists from the late-nineteenth century to today explore spirituality, culture, identity, and the environment by examining the religious and aesthetic traditions of West Africa and the Americas. This show is on view in Hartford until January 20, so you’d better hustle if you’d like to see it.

Admission to the museum is free from 4 to 5 Wednesday through Sunday. At all other times, it is $85 for Adults, $82 for seniors, $85 for students 18 and over, and free for youth under 18.

After all this museum hopping, you will no doubt be hungry. So, if you happen to find yourself in New Haven, try the pizza. They’re famous for it.

Back in 1861, while America was being torn apart by the Civil War, the states of the Irish Peninsula and the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies were uniting to become one nation state: Italy. Just a few years later, in 1880, the city of Naples produced the first modern pizza. And when in 1889 Queen Margherita came to town, pizza maker Raffaele Esposito created in her honor the Pizza Margherita, garnished with tomatoes, mozzarella, and basil, the colors of the new Italian flag.

Today, pizza is one of America’s favorite foods, and the Neapolitan style of that beloved pie is alive and well in New Haven, home to a large Italian population that claims theirs as the best pizza in the country. (Apologies to Chicago deep-dish fans.)

There are a few important facts you need to know about this storiad dish. First, it is not pizza, but “apizza,” and it is pronounced “ah-beets.” Second, unlike quick-rise New York pizza, New Haven’s dough is left to proof very, very slowly in the refrigerator. Third, the crust is not only thin; it is charred (please, never say “burnt”), in a super-hot oven. Finally, although a New Haven pizza does come with a few shavings of pecorino Romano on top, the sauce is the focus. Mozzarella is considered a topping that you have to request.

New Haven-Style Pizza
I’ve adapted this recipe to use my bread machine for the mixing because I love the texture the machine gives.

Ingredients:

- 6 cups bread flour, preferably Italian “00” type, extra for dusting
- 1 teaspoon active dry yeast
- 1 1/2 cups warm water
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon crushed red pepper
- 12 ounces canned peeled San Marzano tomatoes, drained
- 1 tablespoon oregano
- 1 teaspoon crushed red pepper
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon crushed garlic

Instructions:

1. Place water into bread machine bowl. Add salt, flour, and yeast in exact order (salt will interfere with yeast action)
2. Press “Dough” option and let the ingredients come together. If the dough appears sticky, add flour 1 tablespoon. If the mixture is too dry, add water 1 tablespoon at a time.
3. Cover each bowl tightly with plastic wrap, and let rise at room temperature for 2 hours or until double in volume.
4. Place bowl in refrigerator for 48 hours.
5. When ready to make the pizza, transfer the dough to a floured work surface.
6. Spray four small bowls with nonstick cooking spray.
7. Divide dough into four equal-size balls.
8. With floured hands, form each section into a ball.
9. Place one dough ball into each bowl. Lightly spray the top of each ball with nonstick cooking spray.
10. Cover each bowl tightly with plastic wrap, and let rise at room temperature for 2 hours or until double in volume.
11. Toward the end of the two hours, pulse the tomatoes in the food processor until chunky, NOT smooth, and add the spices.
12. Set the oven to 500 degrees. Place pizza stone or cookie sheet in oven.
13. With a floured rolling pin on a floured pizza peel or board, roll out a ball of dough into a 10-inch circle. Shake gently to make sure the dough isn’t sticking to the peel.
14. Divide the sauce and toppings into four portions.
15. Spread the sauce over the dough, leaving a ½ inch edge without sauce.
16. Distribute the pecorino Romano, the mozzarella, and the torn basil leaves on top and drizzle with 1 tablespoon of olive oil.
17. Slide pizza onto the hot stone.
18. Bake 5 to 7 minutes, until cheese is bubbly and crust is charred in places.
19. Repeat with remaining dough balls and toppings.
ANDY SWEET,
continued from page 1

the city of my childhood. This is how I described it in an article published in The Forward in 2014: “Growing up in a Middle Eastern family in Miami Beach in the 1960s was like being raised in a Technicolor Anaktora – South Beach in my formative years was an insular subtropical shetland, and the idea of living outside a monolithically Jewish community would have been as alien to me then as the possibility looking out the window and seeing snow.”

My recollection of Miami Beach in the 1970s, as it is now on view at the Yiddish Museum in 2014: “Growing Forward...” This is how I described it in an article published in an article published in The Berkshire Jewish Voice.

Because South Beach was also a Miami Beach native, did do much better, and I probably had his work somewhere in mind when I wrote those sentences. Sweet’s images of South Beach in the late 1970s, now on view at the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, are unique, impeccable records of that time, that place, and those people. Starting in 1977, Sweet and his partner, Gary Monroe, initiated a 10-year grant-funded project to photograph the denizens of South Beach.

Surprisingly and temperamentally, the two photographers could not have been more different. Monroe took a “serious” documentary approach and used only black and white film – and Ian’s approach and used only color images. Sweet’s photographs, you see, were published in an art book titled The Miami Beach Porch Sitters, Photographed by Andy Sweet. For decades, they were almost impossible to find. In 1991, Sweet and Gary Monroe’s work was published in an art book titled Miami Beach, with a foreword by Isaac Bashevis Singer, who lived just up Collins Avenue in Surfside. It was published at the time, but went out of print. And that was it – Andy Sweet’s photographs, you see, could not be reproduced. His negatives had been entrusted to a storage company that specialized in handling fine art, but at some point, that company misplaced every last one of them.

And so, Andy Sweet, the family owned The Congress Hotel on Ocean Drive in South Beach. It was the last such property we owned. I was a teenager by then, and had grown up in the milieu that Sweet and Monroe documented. My mother organized my birthday party of one, and we entertained – as proprietors, we were expected to provide our guests with ENTERTAINMENT. I still think the second funniest thing I’ve ever seen was the birthday party of one of our residents, who doddered up to him with “Take...good...care of yourself / Yooouououu belong to me,” while the other elderly guests, the majority wearing cardboard party hats secured with elastic bands around their chins, sang and clapped along.

I passed endless hours on front porches with people like those in the picture above, who spent the sunny days brooding on deck chairs while staring out at the Atlantic Ocean. My father used to enjoy telling the story of how he, after noticing that one of his resident porch sitters had not moved in quite some time, called Fire Rescue and sat by the window and seeing snow.”

I guess I focus on the elderly Jews, aggravating with the cosmos because that’s what entertained me most about them. Andy Sweet, who by all accounts was a warm, ebullient free spirit, apprehended the pathos but felt far more deeply the joie de vivre that animated these old Jews. It was a zeal for living that inspired their baroque sartorial choices, made them come together each afternoon in Lummus Park to sing old songs about Romania under the palm trees, led them to packed dances at the bandshell to show off their ballroom steps, and – when prompted – to strike a pose. With parsimony.

As I’ve moved through the world, I have often tried to describe the Miami Beach of my youth – but if I could have, I would have just shared those images captured by Andy Sweet. For decades, they were almost impossible to find. In 1991, Sweet and Gary Monroe’s work was published in an art book titled Miami Beach, with a foreword by Isaac Bashevis Singer, who lived just up Collins Avenue in Surfside. It was published at the time, but went out of print. And that was it – Andy Sweet’s photographs, you see, could not be reproduced. His negatives had been entrusted to a storage company that specialized in handling fine art, but at some point, that company misplaced every last one of them.

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BERKSHIRE JEWISH VOICES
ANDY SWEET, continued from page 19

That Sweet’s negatives vanished was only a loss to the art of photography, but also to history. He and Monroe captured Jewish South Beach as it was, before the neighborhood experienced the tragedy of his murder. Those violent times also claimed the life of Andy Sweet. Somewhere along the line, he had lost his way and started using too many drugs. In 1992, he was stabbed to death in his apartment during a drug deal gone wrong. The tragedy of his murder was compounded by the loss of his negatives by the warehouse company, which was discovered by his horrified family in 1996, ten years after they had been placed in storage—all that remained of his work, it seemed, would be prints, their color fading with time.

I left Miami Beach for college in 1980, returning in 1987 to South Beach, which was still suffering the effects of the early 1980s crimewave but just starting to turn around thanks to farsighted preservationists, many real estate developers, and a bohemian vanguard just looking to live the life. I took an apartment on Ocean Drive in a run-down shrine of architectural eccentricity in Amsterdam Palace, which Gianni Versace would a few years later purchase and transform into a real palace. There I enjoyed a glorious few years, living the life.

Remnants of the Jewish population remained, but their ranks were being thinned by attrition and mortality. Newly-retired retirees were no longer choosing South Beach, opting instead to spend their golden years in retirement villages further up the coast. By the early 1990s, those of us who remembered South Beach back in the day would talk about how the best, truest record of that era was represented by Sweet and Monroe’s out-of-print book, Miami Beach: The Shtetl in the Sun. It was destroyed by flooding in my father’s garage, and when I tried to reproduce it several years later, I found that copies were being sold online for hundreds of dollars.

About five years ago, however, some of Sweet’s images started to pop up on my Facebook feed, shared by groups created for people who had grown up in South Florida. I started corresponding with Andy’s sister Moss, who was in the early stages of bringing the photos forward to a new generation. A cache of test prints that no one knew about was located by chance in the family’s attic. Andy Sweet, Stan Hughes, was using them to restore them with digital graphic technology.

In the years that followed, the Andy Sweet Photograph Legacy started sharing newly-recovered images on its Facebook page. I treated each one as a major occasion, perusing many of my family Miami Beach friends who couldn’t understand why I was sharing these odd images. This was my childhood, I would tell them. This was not only what the world looked like to me, this is what I understood of it.

Then, suddenly, Andy Sweet’s photographs were everywhere. The restored images were discovered by a new audience, and photo essays appeared in publications like The New Yorker and Washington Post. The traveling exhibition now at the Yiddish Book Center, A Shtetl in the Sun, was organized by the Yiddish Book Center and Florida—FIU, and has traveled to shrines of Jewish culture and galleries around the world. A book by the same name, with 120 of Sweet’s photographs, was published in 2019 and is already in its third printing.

The documentary film The Last Resort came out in 2018, and it tells Andy’s story—the Miami Beach Photograph Project collaboration with Gary Monroe; his murder and the infuriating efforts to bring his killers properly to justice; the bitter loss of his negatives; and the restoration and triumphant second act of his work that is now enjoying.

I didn’t rush out to see it. I’d felt so emotionally connected to Sweet’s work that I wanted to guard it, to protect it, to hold on to the experience for as long as possible in order to savor not only the exactness of the representation, but the sensation of it, as one might reserve a special bottle of Scotch for a special occasion, saving it for as long as possible. But one snowy morning last March, the image of his unpublished image of his mother and her ladies that I had stored on my computer was sent as a Facebook message from one of my first childhood friends, who had managed several years earlier, I found that copies were being sold online for hundreds of dollars.

But one snowy morning last March, the image of his unpublished image of his mother and her ladies that I had stored on my computer was sent as a Facebook message from one of my first childhood friends, who had managed several years earlier, I found that copies were being sold online for hundreds of dollars.

If Andy were alive today, I’m certain he would have been in tears. He and Sweet’s have started to organize in her role as president of the Hebrew Academy Women. My mother was constantly shuttling ladies like these around Miami Beach to events, doctor’s appointments, shopping, and so on. I was the kid in the car who, my Gutel I can’t believe it had grown so big since last they saw me.

My mother died within two years of that photo being taken. It was the first unfamiliar image of my mother that I had encountered in nearly 35 years—and she is in her element! Knowing the type of person my mother was, she that’s so deeply a part of your being that you can’t even conceive of your life without it? Perhaps four or five times more. Perhaps not even that. How many more times will you see the full moon rise? Perhaps never. And yet it all seems limitless.

To which I’ll add, some things only living that way is more than enough.

“A Shtetl in the Sun” will be on view through March at The Yiddish Book Center. For more information, visit yiddishbookcenter.org. The Best Resort is available on Amazon. Albert Stern would like to thank Ellen Sweet Moss for allowing him to use the unpublished image of her mother and her ladies that appears in this article.

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