

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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July 2 to August 19, 2018

jewishberkshires.org

Sam Glaser and “The Power of the Jewish Soul”

Celebrate Israel at 70 with one of the top Jewish musicians in the USA

LENOX – Dive deep into “The Power of the Jewish Soul” with Sam Glaser and his band at the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires’ annual summer concert, always an uplifting evening of music and community. Sam Glaser’s inspiring and contemporary take on Jewish music will have you up on your feet for this joyful, feel good concert in celebration of Israel’s 70th birthday!

The concert will take place at 7 p.m. on Sunday, August 5 at the Duffin Theater at Lenox Memorial High School.

This year, all concert proceeds will benefit the Jewish Agency’s Victims of Terror Fund, which continues to play a vital role in meeting the needs of families and individuals injured by senseless acts of violence in Israel.

This event is sponsored by the Federation, with support from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.



Sam Glaser

About Sam Glaser

“Some consider Sam Glaser to be the hardest working man in Jewish music today. With over 20 albums under his belt and his annual concert tour which plays for over 100,000 fans, we think that Sam has earned the title.”
— Jewish Music Group Online

Sam Glaser’s soulful music has become part of the fabric of Jewish life in communities worldwide. He performs in an average of 50 cities a year and

SAM GLASER, continued on page 8

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Maimonides Society Meeting

Rabbi Leonard A. Sharzer, MD on decision making at the end of life

LENOX – On Sunday, August 12 at 9:30 a.m., the Maimonides Society of the Berkshires, organized under the auspices of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, will hold its 5th annual meeting, this year at the Marriot Courtyard at 70 Pittsfield Road.

The featured speaker is Rabbi Leonard A. Sharzer, MD, whose topic will be “Decision Making at the End of Life: Paradoxes and Paradigms.”

All healthcare professionals working in or visiting the Berkshires are invited to this networking event – no funds will be solicited, and a bagels and lox breakfast will be served. Couvert is \$15. This live activity will receive a maximum of one hour of AMA PRA Category 1 Credit through the Joint Providership of Berkshire Health Systems and the Maimonides Society.

Rabbi Sharzer, who practiced medicine as a plastic surgeon, is the associate director for bioethics of the Finkelstein Institute of Religious and Social Studies at the Jewish Theological Institute in New York City. He retired from medical practice in 1999 to enter The Rabbinical School at JTS, where he was ordained in May 2003. While in the Berkshires, Rabbi Sharzer is active with the Berkshire Minyan in Great Barrington.



Rabbi Leonard A. Sharzer, MD

About his upcoming talk, Rabbi Sharzer says: “Over the last half century, technological advances have given us control over both the beginning and end of life that our forebears could not even have imagined. In a world of ICUs

MAIMONIDES, continued on page 4

No Turning Back

Turn Park Art Space founders are creating a cultural community in West Stockbridge



PHOTO: JIN P. COX

Establishing a new arts destination in the culture-rich Berkshires might seem like a lofty – perhaps even daringly quixotic – ambition, but Turn Park’s Katya Brezgunova and Igor Gomberg have bravely taken it on. This summer, Turn Park’s second season features an array of art, music, film, and performance, all carefully curated to share the founders’ enthusiasm for the creative expression they love. For more on Turn Park and Brezgunova and Gomberg’s Jewish journey from the Soviet Union to the Bay State, please turn to page 28.

Mission Impossible?

Presidential historian Jeremi Suri on Western democracy past and future at Knosh & Knowledge, July 20

GREAT BARRINGTON – On Friday, July 20 at 10:45 a.m., Knosh & Knowledge welcomes presidential historian Jeremi Suri, whose topic will be “The History and Future of Western Democracy in an Age of Populism.”

This free 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, available for \$11 (RSVP required).

Jeremi Suri holds the Mack Brown Distinguished Chair for Leadership in Global Affairs at The University of Texas at Austin. He is a professor in the university’s Department of History and the LBJ School of Public Affairs. Professor Suri is the author and editor of nine books on contemporary politics and foreign policy, most recently *The Impossible Presidency: The Rise and Fall of America’s Highest Office*. He writes for major newspapers and magazines including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Boston Globe*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Fortune*, and *Wired*.

About his upcoming Knosh & Knowledge talk, Professor Suri writes: “American democracy emerged in the late 18th century as a mix of political forms. The Founding Fathers rejected monarchy, but they were also skeptical about



Professor Jeremi Suri

direct decision-making by all citizens. Through the Constitution and early federal institutions, Americans invented a system that emphasized representation, unity, and leadership by individuals of merit. This system has always been unstable, uncertain, and emerging. Our history is about the continuous re-making of our democracy and our institutions.” His talk will close with thoughts on how our

JEREMI SURI, continued on page 6

In My View

Creating a World of Difference by Starting Here at Home

By Dara Kaufman



When I was 13 years old, I was the target of a horrible anti-Semitic event. On my walk to school, I was accosted by an older girl who told me that she was German, that I was a Jew, and that I needed to get down and lick her boots. Other kids walking to school gathered around us and said nothing. I stared her down, not saying a word, but I was shaken to my core. Unfortunately, I was too scared to speak up and tell anyone about it until much later in my life. That event has stayed with me to this day.

According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, in the months following the 2016 election more hate incidents took place in America's schools than anywhere else. And hate crimes

continue to rise in 2017.

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL), in a report released this past February, identified that the number of anti-Semitic incidents was nearly 60 percent higher in 2017 than 2016, the largest single-year increase on record and the second highest number reported since ADL started tracking incident data in the 1970s.

The sharp rise, reported in ADL's Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents, was in part due to a significant increase in incidents in schools and on college campuses, which nearly doubled for the second year in a row.

Last year, amidst rising anti-Semitism and an escalating national debate on racial equality, religious freedom, women's rights, LGBTQ rights, and immigration reform, Federation focused extensively on community outreach. We collaborated with local non-profits and hosted speakers from the NAACP-Berkshire Chapter, Multi Cultural Bridge, the Berkshire Immigrant Center, and Rainbow Seniors in order to be an ally and advocate for those in our extended Berkshire community who, like us, were feeling deeply unsettled and vulnerable.

And just when we thought it could not get any worse, we were shocked by the images and virulent chants of white nationalists marching in Charlottesville, VA. The bigotry and intolerance that we saw sweeping our nation was both unconscionable and deplorable.

Having called on the ADL with increasing frequency to address anti-Semitic acts in our local community and to help provide security training for our Jewish institutions, the Federation directed the proceeds of our 2017 summer concert to support the critical work it was doing in our community and in communities across the country.

As a people, we know we cannot remain silent in the face of hatred and bigotry

of any kind. As individuals, we say "never again" but we must also act, because our actions are what define us.

It is with this in mind that Federation, in partnership with the ADL, reached out to the Berkshire County Superintendents Roundtable to see how we might leverage those concert proceeds (together with an additional grant from our annual campaign) to bring the ADL's WORLD OF DIFFERENCE® anti-bias training program to our local schools.

ADL's Peer Training Program provides a group of 30 students who reflect the diversity of their individual middle school or high school's demographics with extensive anti-bias training to lead developmentally-appropriate activities and discussions with their peers on explicit and implicit bias pertaining to race, religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, culture, and other aspects of human diversity.

Participants also develop safe and practical prevention and response strategies to address prejudicial behaviors, including the ways in which young people can become allies for peers who are targeted.

This yearlong program, which also includes workshops for parents and teachers, is certified by the National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs and Practices.

This past May, Phil Fogelman, the director of the ADL's A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE Institute, presented this program to the school superintendents. Their response was overwhelmingly positive. I am thrilled to share that the districts are currently working to mobilize staff to move this program forward in North Adams, Williamstown, Pittsfield, Dalton, Lenox, and Great Barrington.

Jake McCandless, superintendent of the Pittsfield public schools – the largest school district in the Berkshires – shared this: "Key to our mission is working to ensure that all students have the attitudes, the vocabulary, and the character to know hate when they see it, hear it, or feel it...and then the conviction and courage to fight against it. The Pittsfield Public Schools see the A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE Peer Training Program as being crucial to our mission of really educating students about how to be responsible and respectful global citizens. Hate and bias are sadly alive and well in every community. This program gives us the tools to educate and rise above hate and intolerance in Pittsfield and beyond."

I am so proud that our Federation is leading the way in helping young people gain the courage and conviction to speak out whenever they encounter bias. Together, we will create a more just and tolerant community for all of us.

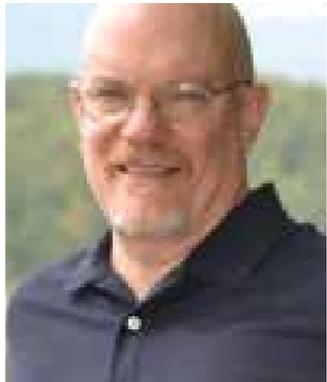
As for that 13-year-old girl who still lives inside of me, I am incredibly grateful for what this opportunity means to all students who face attacks on their personal identity, that they know they have allies to support them. They are not alone.

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

Editor's Note

Let's Do It Again

By Albert Stern / BJV Editor



Let me explain how things go when you are part of an endeavor – in this case, the *Berkshire Jewish Voice* – that depends upon the munificent donations of people who appreciate your hard work.

So say you have a great year, and exceed your fundraising expectations by a surprising margin.

Your reaction when you find out the news: "That's fantastic omigod how are we ever going to be able to do it again next year?"

First of all, thank you again, readers, for providing such a high level of support as voluntary subscribers and honorary publishers in 2017/2018.

Last summer, after we published our annual insert appealing for additional funding – similar to the one you may have already noticed in the newspaper you are currently holding (it may have fallen out, so if you don't see one please check your floor or mailbox) – you responded with unprecedented generosity. This enabled us to defray (rising) print costs and to continue to deliver a community newspaper we hope you are proud of directly to your homes at no cost to you, beyond a gift to Federation's annual campaign.

So let me explain how things go at the meeting at which you strategize about how to repeat that success.

"So for this year's insert," you say, "what if we..."

"What we did last year worked – don't change a word!"

"If we point..."

"What we did last year worked – don't change a word!"

"We could also..."

"What we did last year worked – don't change a word! What's next on the agenda?"

Consequently, attentive readers of this year's volunteer subscriber insert may notice a certain sameness in the verbiage to last year's volunteer subscriber insert (albeit with some important differences – for example, this is the 26th year that the *Berkshire Jewish Voice* has been a source of timely and meaningful information about Jewish life in the Berkshires, not the 25th). And while we hope it will be as effective as last year's volunteer subscriber insert in inspiring you to support this newspaper, I'd like to point to three additional highlights from the past year.

• **Enhanced visual impact** – We've been more creative in how we work with museums and institutions (like the Yiddish Book Center, which connected us with illustrator Mark Podwal and his High Holiday paintings), publishers (remember last fall's stunning images from the art book *Passage to Israel?*), creative artists (Afula-Gilboa artist Tanya Fredman's work from her Lenox exhibit was great), and public domain image archives (remember the Israeli *kova tembel* guy stamp when we kicked off Israel at 70?). This has allowed us to feature high quality visuals while staying within our budget for art. And here's what I want to highlight – we have absolutely no budget for art. It



community members' first

to publishing original work has allowed us to drastically reduce the number of wire service stories we use and has, in turn, allowed for the next highlight...

• **A more locally-focused newspaper** – By staying focused on local news and culture – and not duplicating too many stories that can be otherwise found online – we've largely been able to keep the paper at a lean 24 pages, excepting the busy summer and holiday issues that are well supported by advertising. Working for the Federation, we realize that there are many important uses for your campaign dollars, and we endeavor to keep the *Berkshire Jewish Voice* economical by keeping it focused on this community's stories.

Which totally works, because this is a dynamic community filled with fascinating, accomplished people and rich in material. Nevertheless, we need your support. And so I will further economize by using this verbatim excerpt from the appeal column published 12 months ago:

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.

Please continue to support our efforts with a voluntary subscription to the *Berkshire Jewish Voice*.

Hope it works again.

is literally \$0.00. If someone wants us to pay for art, you know what we say? "Nope, can't do it." Every time. This is where creativity has been important.

• **Original writing** – We try to give you stories you'll enjoy reading. In addition to articles from regular contributors like Carol Goodman Kaufman and Avi Dresner, we've excerpted compelling chapters from books by local authors Fedora Horowitz, Kenneth Markel, and Sonia Beker. Plus, we give you original feature stories you can read nowhere else, such as interviews with Abigail Pogrebin,

Rachel Kadish, Kenneth Pollack, and Jeremi Suri, as well as special sections that introduced you to local Jewish genealogists, Jewish entrepreneurs, and encounters with Israel. This commitment

Rabbi Reflections

Remembering a leader whose mission was to bring the world to a better tomorrow

By Rabbi Levi Volovik



Moshe, the faithful shepherd of the Children of Israel, was nearing the end of his historic, charismatic leadership. Who would replace him capably and courageously while serving the people with wisdom, patience, and devotion? In the Torah portion of Pinchas (read this year on July 7), Moshe beseeches G-d: "Let the G-d who recognizes the spirits of all human beings, place a man over the congregation who will go out before them and come in before them, who will lead them out, and bring them in..." (Pinchas, 27:16)

Moshe's request has many interpretations. He was very familiar with the obstinate character of his beloved people, and the daunting task that leadership presents. He trusts that G-d knows the spirit of

humans can be challenging, that their thoughts are many and disparate, sometimes divisive; they do not think alike nor do they necessarily agree. Consequently, Moshe requests that Hashem appoint a leader who will be able to reach out to everyone, and yet be uncompromising in his beliefs. A leader who, with steadfast and unwavering convictions, will be a guiding light for the nation. One who is fearless, whose influence is powerful, whose voice is heard, and with spiritual strength "leads his people out" of all hardship and "brings them in" to an elevated level of holiness.

This past June 16, the 3rd of Tammuz, marked the 24th year since the passing of Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, of righteous memory, the 7th Rebbe in the Chabad dynasty and an illustrious leader of world Jewry.

In his five decades of leadership, the Rebbe's influence spurred unprecedented growth in Jewish education and Torah studies. Through his Torah teachings and deep insights, through his majestic presence which radiated love, warmth, and concern for young and old from all walks of life and background, the Rebbe stirred the conscience of world Jewry and changed the panorama of Jewish life in America and throughout the world. From heads of state, scholars, laymen, professionals, school children to infants in arm, the Rebbe met everyone on his/her level, and gained the respect and admiration of every individual who merited to stand in his presence.

The Rebbe approached every situation with keen intellectual foresight, always pragmatic and proactive, yet uncompromising; courageous and daring when necessary. The Rebbe's mission was to bring the world to a better tomorrow, to an era of perfection where unity, kindness, goodness, and compassion reign. The Rebbe recognized the diverse spirit and station of human beings, and lovingly revealed the potential and unique capabilities within every person. He touched the soul, elevated the spirit, and ignited the spark that moved one toward positive action.

In the words of Rabbi Jonathan Sacks... "The Rebbe was not interested in creating followers; he was passionate about creating leaders."

Always leading by example, the Rebbe inspired and empowered his thousands of followers to become leaders in their own right. In the words of Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, former chief rabbi in the United Kingdom: "The Rebbe was not interested in creating followers; he was passionate about creating leaders." As the Rebbe

sent out his emissaries to far-flung corners of the globe, to remote communities that never felt a Chassidic presence, his mission became their mission. By reaching out to every Jew with joy, love, and concern, the Rebbe's *shluchim* (emissaries) turned parched "deserts" into blossoming oases of Jewish life, and spread a universal message of ethical and moral behavior for all mankind. Today, close to 5,000 emissaries cover the fifty states in America and 100 countries in Europe and Asia.

Imbued with the Rebbe's selfless spirit, my wife and I joined his growing army of *shluchim* in 2005, making the Berkshires our home. Thank G-d, through the years since our arrival, Chabad has become an integral part of this scenic community. While we have endeavored to implement successful educational and social services, Torah classes, and projects to help the elderly and the homebound, it is the Rebbe who is the driving force behind every Chabad outpost and the motivation behind every success story in changing the life of one person at a time, through one mitzvah at a time.

The Rebbe's legacy lives on; his teachings continue to guide and inspire; his influence is ever-present. And on the day of his *yahrtzeit*, we were privileged to connect with his relentless, boundless energy that enables every community member to stand up as a "leader," impacting the lives of others and forging ahead toward greater heights.

On a personal note, I'd like to thank every community member who answered the call to participate in a *minyán*, making it possible for me to fulfill my obligation in reciting the *kaddish* for my beloved father, of blessed memory. Your being there for me helped ease the pain and was a source of strength during this difficult year. It is, indeed, such acts of kindness that bring our community together, and I am grateful to each one in return. I pray that we share only joyous occasions, along with the ultimate joy in seeing the Rebbe's dream of a world perfected become a reality, with the coming of *Mashiach*, in our very day.

Rabbi Levi Volovik is co-director (along with his wife, Sara) of Chabad of the Berkshires.

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

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.

Homebound or recovering from an illness or injury?

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

Paid advertisements do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires or its members.

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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

MAIMONIDES, *continued from page 1*

and respirators, brain death and organ transplantation, prolongation of life without hope of recovery, how are we to draw inspiration and guidance in decision making from a 2000 year old tradition? We will look at Rabbinic, medieval, and modern sources to see what they can offer to the vexing problems we face at the end of life."

About the Maimonides Society of the Berkshires, chairperson Dr. Stuart Masters says: "We are a fellowship of Jewish physicians, dentists, chiropractors, nurses and many other healthcare professionals who seek to strengthen the bonds amongst ourselves, the local and overseas Jewish community, and Israel. We are committed to the highest ideals of the healthcare profession. We serve as resources to the general and Jewish community, wherever leadership might be needed, whether in areas of healthcare, education, community leadership, or philanthropy."

About Our Speaker

A native of Boston, Rabbi Sharzer graduated from Boston University School of Medicine and completed residency training in general surgery at the University of Iowa, also earning an MS in surgery for work in organ preservation for transplantation.

Following a fellowship in hand surgery in Louisville, KY, he received a Fulbright Scholarship to do clinical and laboratory research in microsurgery in Melbourne, Australia. He completed a residency in plastic surgery at the Eastern Virginia Graduate School of Medicine in Norfolk, VA, and worked as a registrar at the West of Scotland Regional Plastic Surgery Unit

in Glasgow, Scotland.

In 1978, he moved to New York to join the faculty of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, where he attained the rank of clinical professor. He participated in and led medical missions to Africa and China to operate on children with cleft lips and palates, as well as other deformities. During his years of practice, he served on various peer review committees and has long been interested in bioethical issues.

Rabbi Sharzer is the recipient of the Lampion Homiletics Prize, the Lillian M. Lowenfeld Prize in Theology, and the Einhorn Award for a Hebrew essay, *Jerusalem Journal* 2000. In addition to 17 book chapters and 26 journal articles in the medical literature, he has recently published "Artificial Hydration and Nutrition: Revisiting the Dorff and Reisner Teshuvot" in *Conservative Judaism*, and "Tradition, Obligation, and Healthcare," published in *Shema*. Rabbi Sharzer is currently working on a book on ethical issues in plastic surgery from a Jewish perspective and a book titled *Challenging Conventional Wisdom in Jewish Bioethics*. In addition to his teaching at JTS, he has organized conferences on a variety of issues, including face transplantation; use of preimplantation genetic diagnosis for the purpose of prenatal sex selection; and medical error and medical liability reform.

To RSVP, please contact the Federation at federation@jewishberkshires.org, or call us at (413) 442-4360, ext. 10. For additional information about the Maimonides Society, please contact Development Officer Leslie Kozupsky at lkozupsky@jewishberkshires.org or (413) 442-4360, ext. 19.

Jewish Germany – Its History and Legacy

On Monday, July 16 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires welcomes Dr. David Levinson, a cultural anthropologist and son of a Holocaust survivor who will speak on the topic of "Jewish Germany – Its History and Legacy." This free program at Kneset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield is part of the Federation's Connecting With Community series.

Says Dr. Levinson: "The purpose of the talk is two-fold. First, to provide a quick introduction to the long and complex history of Jewish communities in Germany, with an emphasis on the enduring trends that shaped Jewish life for over 1,800 years. Second, to discuss Jewish Germany's contributions to Jewish life and the human experience in general, including commercial innovations, Yiddish, Reform Judaism, scientific discoveries, and cultural advances."

For the last fifteen or so years, Dr. Levinson has been studying and writing about the not totally dissimilar topics of the Jewish experience in



Dr. David Levinson

Germany and African American heritage in the Berkshires. His two new books are: *Jewish Germany: An Enduring Presence from the Fourth to the Twenty-First Century* and *African American Community in Rural New England: W. E. B. Du Bois and His Boyhood Church*.

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community

Venue: Kneset Israel

Date & Time: Monday, July 16 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 23).

Lecture Series Brings More Pre-Recorded 92Y Talks to Lenox

LENOX – A program series presented by the Jewish Federation of the Berkshire, in collaboration with Kimball Farms, will screen two thought-provoking pre-recorded talks from the renowned 92nd Street Y in New York City.

The series is free and open to the public, and each talk lasts approximately one hour. Kimball Farms is located at 235 Walker Street in Lenox.

Light refreshments will be served.

Please RSVP by the dates indicated below by contacting Kimball Farms at (413) 637-7000.

On Wednesday, July 18 at 2 p.m., take "A Mind-Expanding Tour of the Cosmos" with Neil deGrasse Tyson and Robert Krulwich. From the Big Bang to black holes, discover the great beyond with these brilliant and

witty guides, who uncover its mysteries with humor and insight. Please RSVP by July 13.

On Wednesday, August 15, at 2 p.m., find out about "Sex and Love Around the World," with Christiane Amanpour and Maureen Dowd. What does this seasoned journalist make of the state of our global society and how has she seen love and sex play out around the world? Please RSVP by August 10.

Current Affairs: Contemporary American and International Politics

On Thursday, July 19 and Thursday, August 2 at 10:45 a.m., join Professor Steven J. Rubín for "Current Affairs: Contemporary American and International Politics." This course meets to discuss and explore current issues that influence our lives and society at large. This free program at Kneset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield is part of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires' Connecting With Community series.

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

Steven J. Rubín is 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.



Professor Steven J. Rubín

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community

Venue: Kneset Israel

Date & Time: Thursday, July 19 and Thursday, August 2 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 23).

Israeli Authors, with Fedora Horowitz and Avram Horowitz

On Monday, July 23 and Thursday, July 26 at 10:45 a.m., join Fedora Horowitz and Avram Horowitz for discussions of work by prominent Israeli authors David Grossman, Ayelet Tsabari, and Dorit Rabinyan. These free programs at Kneset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield are part of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires' Connecting With Community series.

On July 23, Dr. Avram Horowitz explores the novel *A Horse Walks into a Bar* by David Grossman. The novel covers an event lasting about two hours in a bar in the city of Netanya, near Tel Aviv. The novel won in 2017 the prestigious British Man Booker International Prize for English Translations.

On July 26, Fedora Horowitz will discuss two books authored by women from Mizrahi (Middle Eastern) Jewish communities. The autobiographical novel *All The Rivers* by Dorit Rabinyan is about a love affair between an Israeli woman and a Palestinian Arab who met in New York not long after 9/11. The book became a national cause when Israel's Education Ministry decided to pull it out from the approved list of



Fedora Horowitz



Avram Horowitz

books for high-school reading. *The Best Place on Earth* by Ayelet Tsabari collects stories that take place in Israel, Canada (where she lives now), and India. Themes include a summer of independence in Eilat, absent fathers molded by lifelong enlistment in the IDF, the divisions between members of Yemenite families with their dark skin, and the lingering of exotic foods.

Fedora Horowitz is the author of the historical novel *Jaffa Beach and Only Yesterday... 1941-1958*, a memoir of her life growing up in Romania during the Holocaust and the subsequent postwar Communist regime. Dr. Avram

Horowitz received a B.Sc. degree at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in Experimental Psychology at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill.

Dr. Horowitz publishes Israeli literature book reviews in Florida's *Jewish Journal* and lectures on Israeli literature across South Florida.

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community

Venue: Kneset Israel

Date & Time: Monday, July 23 and Thursday, July 26 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 23).

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 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 23.** Note that lunch menus are subject to change. Also note that through the summer months, the *Tuesday kosher lunch program at KI will be on hiatus.* Tuesday lunches will resume in the fall.

Explore the Legacy of Primo Levi

On Monday, July 2 and Thursday, July 5 at 10:45 a.m., join us for two programs on the life and legacy of Primo Levi, the Italian author and chemist whose memoirs, *Survival in Auschwitz* (also known as *If This Is a Man*) and *The Reawakening*, are among the greatest works of Holocaust literature.

These free programs at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield are part of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires' Connecting With Community series.

On July 2, we screen *Primo*, a film adaptation of the 2004 play *If This Is a Man*, a one-man production created by and featuring actor Antony Sher. Sher is often harrowing as he brings Levi's words to life, and proves that he is an actor capable of plummeting to the depths of human despair with alarming ease. The film will be screened at 10:45 a.m., break for lunch at noon, and conclude after lunch.

On July 5, Hugh Black will reflect on Levi's work as part of his continuing series of programs on the important writings of authors who are Jewish. In addition to talking about *Survival in Auschwitz*,



Primo Levi

Black will look at *The Drowned and the Saved*, in which Levi reflected on the topic of survivor's guilt. He'll also discuss *The Periodic Table*, a collection of autobiographical episodes of Levi's experiences as a Jewish-Italian doctoral-level chemist under the Fascist regime and afterwards.

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community
Venue: Knesset Israel
Date & Time: Monday, July 2 and Thursday, July 5 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 23).

"Music and Friendship," with David Grover and Linda Worster

On Monday, July 9 at 10:45 a.m., join local musicians David Grover and Linda Worster for "Music and Friendship," a morning of songs and fun. This free program at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield is part of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires' Connecting With Community series.

Each David Grover and Linda Worster concert is different from the others they've given. These two friends have hundreds of songs in their repertoire – both originals and covers. Whether taking on the adventure of playing requests unrehearsed or delivering the many songs that they have performed dozens of times together... always, a fun time is had by all.

David Grover spent many years as Arlo Guthrie's lead guitarist and bandleader, and, along with his Big Bear Band, has performed at the White House, opened the Goodwill Games, appeared on the Today Show, performed with the Detroit Symphony for their youth series, and played for the delegates of the United Nations. He is especially known for his



Linda Worster and David Grover

delightful children's concerts.

Linda Worster has toured as a solo musician throughout New England, New York, and New Jersey, performing in many coffeehouses, colleges, churches, healing centers, cafés, and clubs. She has

opened for many well-known artists, including Livingston Taylor, Harry Chapin, Paul Stookey, Joan Baez, Richie Havens, and Taj Mahal. She is noted for her original compositions and for her varied selection of songs everyone knows.

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community
Venue: Knesset Israel
Date & Time: Monday, July 9 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 23).

Using Theatre to Extend Community and Deepen Empathy

On Monday, July 30 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires welcomes Daniel Elihu Kramer of the Chester Theatre Company, who will speak on the topic of "Using Theatre to Extend Community and Deepen Empathy." This free program at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield is part of the Federation's Connecting With Community series.

Daniel Elihu Kramer is producing artistic director of Chester Theatre Company, as well as chair of the Theatre Department at Smith College. "At Chester Theatre Company," he says, "we produce contemporary plays that inspire audience engagement and thoughtful, productive conversations, and that create and extend community. Every play opens us up both to difference and to shared humanity: coming to know the stranger, coming to love the stranger, seeking a world where strangers are embraced." He quotes Deuteronomy 10: "You shall love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt."

Kramer's 2017 produc-



Daniel Elihu Kramer

tion of *Every Brilliant Thing* at Chester won a Berkshire Theatre Award for best new play. In addition to his work as a theatre director, he also writes stage adaptations, including *Pride@Prejudice*, which is frequently performed throughout the country, including this summer at the Theatre at Monmouth in Maine. He holds an MFA in directing from Yale School of Drama.

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community
Venue: Knesset Israel
Date & Time: Monday, July 30 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 23).



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Your Federation Presents

JEREMI SURI, *continued from page 1*

democracy can grow and prosper with a new generation of leaders in coming years.

Professor Suri spoke with the BJV about his upcoming talk and some of the ideas he developed in *The Impossible Presidency*.

President as Protector

In *The Impossible Presidency*, Suri charts the development of the Chief Executive role from its rise – which he traces as an ascending arc from the job's inception through George Washington through Franklin Delano Roosevelt's stewardship – to its fall into what he terms "overstretch and mediocrity" after World War II. While the decline, he says, is "reflective of society's changes," it is also the result of the way five transformative presidents viewed and shaped the position.

Suri writes that the Founding Fathers envisioned the constitutional role of the president to "keep the country running in line with the national laws and the national interest. That was the core of what Americans defined, then and now, as 'executive power' – the capability to navigate unexpected challenges at all times...For the framers, however, the role was less time-intensive and more conceptual than literal."

And there's the rub. Each of the major presidents Suri focuses on did much – owing to political ideology, historic circumstances, and personal

temperament – to reverse that definition of the office, to the point where in the present day, the job is simply too all-encompassing for even the most skilled leader to succeed in.

Suri writes that each of these men shaped the presidency to serve as a "protector" of certain values. Broadly characterized:

George Washington was the protector of national priorities (not a ruler of policy, programs, and people).

Andrew Jackson was protector of "The People," and introduced a populist, activist bent to the presidency.

Abraham Lincoln (through arms and words) was protector of the Union, which he posited as necessary if the Constitution was to have any meaning, and the American project was to fulfill the opportunities afforded it.

Theodore Roosevelt saw the presidency not only as a protector of social welfare, but as a *provider* of it, as well, through progressive policies that would direct the complex machinery of state.

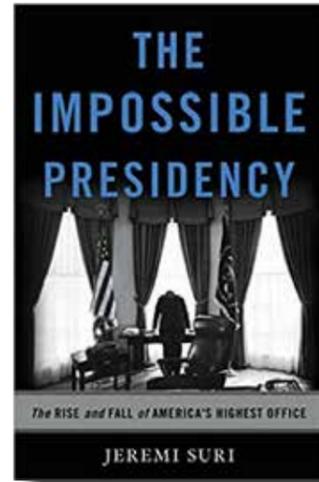
And finally, **Franklin Roosevelt** redefined the Chief Executive as protector of individual basic welfare, with the role of government expanded by the belief that citizens needed government that could rapidly react to manage economic and social complexity.

Suri writes that FDR was the last president to be able to

control the scope of the office, even as he exceeded it. Given that his rise to the presidency was propelled by his ability to cooperate with others, FDR was a true believer in what would become an Obama era mantra (attributed to former Massachusetts Rep. Barney Frank) that "government is simply the name we give to the things we choose to do together."

By the John F. Kennedy administration, "the volume of crises was just too much," as were outsized public expectations of what government could deliver (a new frontier!). "Instead of pursuing fundamental interests," writes Suri about Kennedy and his successor Lyndon Johnson, "they reacted to pressures and perceived weaknesses. Instead of setting an international agenda, they each followed priorities set abroad and in the streets." Summing up, Suri writes: "The post-Roosevelt presidents found it difficult to match their power with their purposes."

Suri feels that the presidency, as currently constructed, is inhospitable to deep thinking and big discussions. Recent presidents "have been good reactors," he says, "rather than problem solvers." In *The Impossible Presidency*, he acknowledges that the legislative accomplishments of Clinton and Obama were "infrequent and small," with the executive orders that mark the "phone and pen" approach "limited in scope because they lacked the legislative permanence



and financial commitment of congressional legislation. Their successors reversed many of them with ease. Checks and balances became stagnation and do-nothingism when the party that lost the White House barricaded itself to deny presidential advances anywhere across the policy landscape."

Which leads us to the "Future of Western Democracy in an Age of Populism" part of Professor Suri's Knosh & Knowledge talk. When presented with the proposition that the most glaring manifestation of perils of an "impossible presidency" is not embodied in the man who now holds the office, but rather in the choice of major party candidates running for that office in 2016, Suri says "neither addressed the structural problem of the office, which is that it has taken on too much. Most voters sensed that there was a problem with the office,

not just the candidates." In his book, he writes that voters "chose a brash personality who rejected the entire history of the office to blow it all up."

Suri suggests that a way forward might be to divide the responsibilities of the presidency in a way that would re-energize the role of the Legislative Branch – redefining the role of Speaker of the House might be one way that could be accomplished within an existing constitutional framework.

But what would that president be "protector" of? Says Suri: "A protector of democracy, of a system of government responsive to the voices of the people," rather than the ingrained interest groups that presently have too much influence on government priorities and decision making.

Possible? Come hear Professor Jeremi Suri at the July 20 Knosh & Knowledge and find out more.

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires

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

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

Cost: Knosh & Knowledge programs are now free. **Fresh buffet lunch is \$11.** Advance lunch reservations required for this event.

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Your Federation Presents

The Process of Aging, with Maggie Bittman

On Monday, August 13 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires presents "The Process of Aging" with therapist Maggie Bittman. This free program at Kneset Israel, 16 Colt Road, in Pittsfield, is part of the Federation's Connecting With Community series.

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

facing mortality; experiencing aloneness; and engaging free will.

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



Therapist Maggie Bittman

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community

Venue: Kneset Israel

Date & Time: Monday, August 13 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 23).

The Jews of Turkey – Yesterday, Today and Maybe Tomorrow

Yale scholar Seyla Benhabib on Turkish history at the August 3 Knosh & Knowledge

GREAT BARRINGTON – On Friday, August 3, Knosh & Knowledge welcomes Seyla Benhabib, the Eugene Meyer Professor of Political Science and Philosophy at Yale University, whose topic will be "The Jews of Turkey – Yesterday, Today and Maybe Tomorrow." She'll talk about her own family background, as well as report on developments currently roiling this important nation straddling Europe and the Levant.

This free 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, available for \$11 (RSVP required).

Explains Dr. Benhabib: "The origin of the Turkish-Jewish community goes mainly to the influx of the Jews of Spain escaping the Inquisition to the Ottoman Empire after 1492. This Jewish community to which I belong continued to speak Ladino – a form of medieval Spanish, laced with words of Hebrew and French and Italian – down to our own days.

"There were also a large number of Jews from Ashkenazi background from Poland, from Russia, and from Germany. Divisions between the two communities were not all that significant, and there was intermarriage among the groups – at least as far

as I could detect during my childhood in Istanbul. This community which numbered around 100,000-130,000 in the 1950s declined as a result of immigration to Israel, political turmoil of the 1970s, and, in recent years, the rise of Islamist parties and movements. At present, the Jewish community in Turkey is not more than 20,000 in number, and although not directly attacked by the Erdogan government, its future is uncertain and many young people continue to leave for the Israel, the USA, and Europe."

Seyla Benhabib is a Turkish-Sephardic-American philosopher and the author of several books, most notably about the philosophers Hannah Arendt and Jürgen Habermas. Born in Istanbul, Benhabib traces her family history back to the 1492 expulsion of Jews from Spain on the "second Reconquista." She is well known for combining critical theory with feminist theory and has been based in the United States since 1970, earning a bachelor's degree from Brandeis University and a Ph.D. from Yale.

In 2012, she was awarded the Dr. Leopold-Lucas Prize by the Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen in recognition of outstanding achievement in the field of theology, intellectual history, historical research, and philosophy, as well as the



Seyla Benhabib

commitment to international understanding and tolerance. She received an honorary doctorate of Humane Letters from Georgetown University in May 2014.

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires

Date & Time: Friday, August 3 at 10:45 a.m.

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

Cost: Knosh & Knowledge programs are now free. Fresh buffet lunch is \$11. Advance lunch reservations required for this event.

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

Beyond the "Hora:" How Israeli Contemporary Dance Became World Famous

On Thursday, August 16 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires hosts noted dance writer Brian Schaefer, whose topic will be "Beyond the 'Hora:' How Israeli Contemporary Dance Became World Famous." This free program at Kneset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield is part of the Federation's Connecting With Community series.

From folk dancing on kibbutzim to the development of a robust contemporary dance scene, movement and choreography have played a dynamic role in shaping and reflecting Israel's national identity. Beginning in the 1960s, modern dance masters from America brought their artistic vision to the young country, creating a foundation for innovative dance that, decades later, has made it one of Israel's most popular cultural exports.

This talk will look at the roots of dance in Israeli society, the influence of American modern dance on its growth, the companies and choreographers that have brought it international acclaim – like the Batsheva Dance Company (at Jacob's Pillow and in New York City this July) – and how dance in Israel represents the country today.

Brian Schaefer is a New York-based journalist covering arts and culture for a variety of publications, including the *New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *Haaretz*, and *Tablet Magazine*, among others, where he has written extensively about dance in Israel. Brian lived in Tel Aviv from



Brian Schaefer

2010-2013, first as part of the Dorot Fellowship in Israel, then working for *Haaretz* and attending Bar Ilan University, where he received a master's degree in literature and writing. He has been a scholar-in-residence at the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival since 2015 and was a board member of the Dance Critics Association from 2011-2014. In 2007, he received a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in Arts Journalism for Dance Criticism at the American Dance Festival.

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community

Venue: Kneset Israel

Date & Time: Thursday, August 16 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 23).



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Your Federation Presents

SAM GLASER, *continued from page 1*

his energetic style and passionate delivery never fails to ignite the spirit of audiences of all ages. Named one of the top ten Jewish artists in the US by *Moment* magazine, Glaser is equally comfortable behind a keyboard in intimate solo concerts, leading his top-notch band or headlining with full orchestra.

While he typically performs in synagogues and Jewish Community Centers, he has appeared at such venues as L.A.'s Greek Theater, Universal Amphitheater, Staples Center, and Dodger Stadium as well as on Broadway and at the White House. He has traveled the world over in concert, from Sydney to London to Hong Kong to Tel Aviv.

Sam's best-selling Jewish CDs include *The Songs We Sing*, *Hallel*, *Nigun/Voice of the Soul*, *Presence*, *The Bridge*, *A Day in the Life*, and the award-winning children's musical *Kol Bamidbar*. He was one of the first artists signed by Sony/JMG Records, a label dedicated to promoting Jewish music. Sam's children's CD *Soap Soup* won such awards

as the John Lennon Songwriting Competition, Parents Choice and the National Association of Parenting Publications. In addition to the 20 albums of his own compositions he has published four collections of lyrics and poetry, four musicals, three sheet music songbooks of his Jewish music and an SATB choral book.

In his cutting-edge recording studio, Glaser Musicworks, he produces albums for a wide variety of recording artists and music for such networks as the WB, ESPN and PBS.

And he has a Berkshire connection – he's the nephew of Jane Glaser, co-founder of the Jewish Women's Foundation of Berkshire County.

Fund for Victims of Terror

This year, the people of Israel continue to suffer horrifying random acts of terrorism. Unfortunately, the suffering of the victims of such terror does not end when the details of the attack are no longer in the news. Physical, emotional, economic, and psychological rehabilitation is a long and tedious process. The Fund for

Victims of Terror plays a vital role in meeting the needs of families and individuals injured by war and other acts of violence against Israel.

Founded in 2002, the Fund has provided financial assistance to thousands of victims of terror and related disasters, including hundreds of families in 2014, with many more applications coming in as a result of recent attacks. Assistance through the Fund is fully coordinated with the government of Israel to avoid duplication of service.

Tickets for this concert may be ordered in advance, and are priced at \$25, with \$20 tickets available for young adults under the age of 30. Children under 10 will be admitted free of charge. Please inquire about the variety of underwriting opportunities also being offered.

For more information, please call the Federation at (413) 442-4360, ext. 10.

All tickets will be held at the door. The Duffin Theater is located at Lenox Memorial High School, 197 East Street in Lenox.

“North Korea: The Road to Infamy,” with David Rutstein

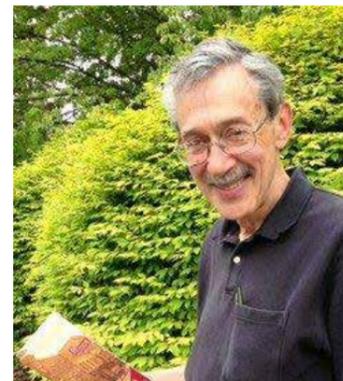
On Thursday, August 9 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires welcomes historian and author David Rutstein for a presentation on a nation currently much in the news: “North Korea: The Road to Infamy.” This free program at Kneset Israel, 16 Colt Road, in Pittsfield, is part of the Federation's Connecting With Community series.

At the outbreak of World War II, Winston Churchill coined a phrase that defined the Soviet Union as “a riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma.” This idiom is just as appropriate today in describing North Korea.

Historian and author David Rutstein will propose this query: how did this small and once insignificant nation of North Korea, with a population close to 26 million people, become a threat, not only to America and South Korea, but also to world peace? Rutstein's narrative will place the Korean peninsula in its proper historical perspective to explain this question.

Highlights of his presentation will stress how the dropping of two atomic bombs on Japan would determine the fate of Korea; how a blunder or misunderstanding of a major foreign policy paper in early 1950 led to the Korean War; and how the rise of the Kim dynasty has determined the intent and destiny of this nation.

David Rutstein is a graduate of the University of Vermont and holds a master's



David Rutstein

degree in American history from the State University of New York at Albany. He was a teacher of high school history in New York and in the Berkshires, and also taught a course on Berkshire county history in Berkshire Community College's extension program. He is a past president of the Great Barrington Historical Society, a member of the Great Barrington Historical Commission, and serves as chairperson of the Great Barrington Council on Aging.

He is the author of the recently published book, *A History of Searles High School, 1898-1967, Great Barrington, Massachusetts*.

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community

Venue: Congregation Kneset Israel

Date & Time: Thursday, August 9 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 23).

Decoding the Bible for Modern Readers: The Mystery of the Arar

On Monday, August 20 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires hosts agronomist Dr. Jon Greenberg, who will explore how the language of ancient Near East agriculture informed the words and ideas of the Bible in a talk titled “Decoding the Bible for Modern Readers: The Mystery of the Arar.” This free program at Kneset Israel, 16 Colt Road, in Pittsfield, is part of the Federation's Connecting With Community series.

Dr. Greenberg will discuss how Biblical language relies heavily on metaphors from nature and ancient agriculture. This helped to make the words of the prophets understandable to their contemporaries, but leaves the modern, urban reader confused or disinterested. “With a little help from botany and ecology,” he says, “we can reconstruct the message that Jeremiah sought to convey, and appreciate its time-

less meaning. We'll consider all of the interpretations and vote on the answer.”

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

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community

Venue: Kneset Israel

Date & Time: Monday, August 20 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 23).

“Amy Herzog — A New Talent Of American Theatre,” with Diane Steinbrink

On Monday, August 6 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires welcomes back actress Diane Steinbrink for a presentation on “Amy Herzog — A New Talent Of American Theatre.” This free program at Kneset Israel, 16 Colt Road, in Pittsfield, is part of the Federation's Connecting With Community series.

In this lecture, Diane Steinbrink will discuss the family background and work of Amy Herzog, a significant new and prolific playwright. Diane's program will feature monologues of some of the significant characters from her plays: *After the Revolution*, *The Great God Pan*, *Belleville*, and *4000 Miles*, which was nominated for a 2013 Pulitzer Prize for drama. Diane will also discuss the moving new play, *Mary Jane*.

Diane G. Steinbrink is a graduate of Adelphi University with a BA in Speech and Drama. She served as the coordinator of Philadelphia Plays for Living for 17 years. She was



Diane Steinbrink

the producer/facilitator of the Anne Frank Theater Project for Jewish Family and Children's Service of Philadelphia.

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community

Venue: Congregation Kneset Israel

Date & Time: Monday, August 6 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 23).

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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

Your Federation Presents

Soil and Shul Tells the Fascinating Story of a Jewish Farm Colony in the Southern Berkshires

PITTSFIELD – On Monday, July 12 at 10:45 a.m., local historian Lorraine German will present a talk about her soon-to-be-released book *Soil and Shul in the Berkshires: The Untold Story of Sandisfield's Jewish Farm Colony*. She has spent the last two years researching newspapers, historical records, and first-hand accounts to tell the tale of this Jewish farming community and will share some stories of the forgotten events and characters she's uncovered.

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

Lorraine German has been interested in the history of the southern Berkshire town of Sandisfield since the 1970s. She and her husband, Steve, were members of the committee that published *Sandisfield Then and Now*, a general history that marked the town's 250th anniversary in 2012. Lorraine researched and wrote several chapters in that book. Lorraine and Steve's roots in Sandisfield's Jewish community go deep. Steve's grandparents, Max and Ida Linder, bought the family home in the Sandisfield village of Montville in 1922, and the Germans are proud to be third-generation owners.

The idea that Sandisfield's Jewish colony warranted its own book germinated in 2016 after the BJV published Flora Parisky's article about the town's Jewish history in a roundup of stories about Jewish farming in the Berkshires, past and present. German has spent the last two years working on the book, and she answered some of the BJV's questions about the project.

How did a Jewish community take root in Sandisfield, and how did it evolve?

The Sandisfield Jewish community got its start as a Jewish farm colony, sponsored

by the Jewish Agricultural and Industrial Aid Society. It was part of the Society's overall plan to get the immigrants out of New York. The first colonists came in 1902. The Society had a real estate broker named Michael Susskind who brokered many of the sales.

Although the immigrants were ostracized by many of the locals at first, the colony continued to grow over the coming decades and assimilated into the larger Sandisfield community, which by then was made up of other immigrant groups (Poles, Finns, non-Jewish Russians, etc.).

Your husband Steve's family arrived in the 1920s – what brought them to the Berkshires?

Steve's grandfather, Max Linder, came up in 1918 because his friend, Samuel Goldstein, had a boarding house on Town Hill Road in the Sandisfield village of Montville. Max came up to take a look and the countryside reminded him so much of his homeland in the Austrian Empire that he was hooked. He and his family kept coming back and in 1922 he bought his first home there (the one we still own). He and his wife took in boarders during the summer and he bought and sold real estate like a lot of the other Jews in town. He was also responsible for moving other members of his and his wife's family to Montville.

What was Sandisfield's synagogue like?

I never attended services there, so I can't speak from experience, but I've talked to Steve's aunt and cousin. It was very Orthodox at the beginning and the women sat in the balcony. Later on, under Rabbi Cohen in the 1930s, it was more relaxed and the women came down from the balcony and sat on one side. In the 1960s, it went back to being strict Orthodox again and the women moved back to the balcony and sat behind

a black curtain. (This really made an impression on Steve's cousin Joan, who was about 14 at the time and went to a Reform synagogue in New Jersey.) The synagogue never had another full-time rabbi after Rabbi Cohen left in the mid 1940s. Some of the community's elders would lead prayers and for the High Holy Days a rabbi would come from Great Barrington or Pittsfield.

How have you researched the material in *Soil and Shul*, and what will the book cover?

I used a variety of sources. I researched history books, as well as period magazines, newspapers, and books. I also looked through deeds and genealogical records and interviewed people who lived in Sandisfield from the 1920s on. Descendants of the Jewish community provided me with family stories and photographs. (I've got a bibliography of about 50 pages)

The book covers the history of the community from the arrival of the first Jewish colonists in 1902 until the unused synagogue was turned over to the Sandisfield Arts and Restoration Committee for use as an arts center in 1996. It's broken into three main parts. The first part is a chronological history of the Jewish community; the second part goes into depth on major topics (Religion, Farming, Boarding Houses, and Schools); the third part contains brief histories of 12 families who are representative of the community.

What were some of the surprises about Jewish life in the Berkshires that you uncovered?

I was surprised at the lengths that some of the locals went to at first to keep the Jews out – the farmers went so far as to agree that they wouldn't sell their farms to Jews without first offering them to other farmers, and rich New Yorkers bought up land around their estates to



In the center is Steve German's great-grandmother, Clara Weintraub; the girl at her side is Steve's mother, Sylvia Linder. The photograph was taken at the family's chicken farm in 1927

keep Jews from moving too close. There was also a KKK cross burning in Monterey, next door to Sandisfield and part of the original Sandisfield colony, in 1926 that must have been really unsettling.

Editor's Note: The BJV would like to use this occasion

to acknowledge the passing last February of Sandy Parisky, who was instrumental in getting this project up and running and an enthusiast for all things Sandisfield. He was a supporter of the BJV, and it is with sadness that we extend our condolences to Flora and family.

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community

Venue: Knesset Israel

Date & Time: Monday, July 12 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 23).

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Your Federation Presents

Celebrate Israel's 70th Anniversary with a Mission—a Federation Mission

Israel Anniversary Mission, October 17-24, 2018, includes participation in JFNA's General Assembly in Tel Aviv

Community members are invited to join a national Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) mission to witness firsthand the impact of our work together. Berkshire participants will be traveling with participants from other small Jewish Federation communities from across the US and Canada.

Throughout your journey, you'll taste the earth of Israel and feel its storied paths beneath your feet, sip its wine and hold its fruit in your hand. You'll meet real people, break bread, and discuss politics over steaming cups of coffee. Put your ear to the heart of Israel – its people. Listen to their struggles and successes, their hopes and fears for the future, and share yours with them.

Itinerary

Day 1

Caesarea was once a storied port to rival Alexandria and Carthage. Gaze upon its past through the lens of the future – using Israel's cutting-edge virtual reality technology, you'll be transported to Herod's Palace, the Hippodrome, and the ancient Roman amphitheater. Then spend the evening getting to know locals from Zichron Ya'akov, a town founded in 1882 by pioneers of the First Aliyah, and stay the night there at the acclaimed Elma Arts Hotel.

Day 2

In Haifa, visit Beit HaGefen, an Arab-Israeli cultural center that shares our dedication to

promoting coexistence and tolerance through cultural, artistic, and community programs. Then travel to the nature preserve and gardens of Ramat Hanadiv, a living memorial to Baron Edmond de Rothschild. Dine at Mata'im, a Federation-supported restaurant that employs and mentors at-risk youth. And sample local wines with renowned Israeli winemaker Roni Saslove.

Day 3

All roads lead to Jerusalem. Experience a deeper connection to Israel as we journey into Jerusalem. Travel by jeep up the Burma Road and retrace the steps of the 1940s Palmach fighters, the underground army of the nascent Jewish State. Immerse yourself in the day-to-day life of Israelis and wander through the iconic Mahane Yehuda market. Mingle among locals as they eat, shop, work, and convene. Later, welcome Shabbat in the ancient Old City and enjoy a communal Kabbalat Shabbat service and dinner.

Day 4

Experience Shabbat in the world's holiest city. Attend morning services at a nearby synagogue and experience the unique beauty of Shabbat in Jerusalem. Or, embark on a different spiritual journey:

Visit Masada, the ancient desert fortress and majestic Heritage Site overlooking the Dead Sea, to learn about the Jewish zealots who held strong to their identities during Roman rule.

Take a walking tour of picturesque Yemin Moshe, the



first modern Jewish neighborhood established outside the Old City walls.

Participate in a bike tour to the 9/11 Memorial in the Jerusalem forest on the outskirts of the city to reflect on the cultural and diplomatic ties between the U.S. and Israel.

As Shabbat ends, gather on the terrace of the David Citadel Hotel for a beautiful Havdalah ceremony. Later, relax or join an expedition to the famous Western Wall Tunnels.

Day 5

Venture south to the Gaza border. Travel to the Black Arrow Memorial, overlooking the Gaza Strip, where you'll hear from the former director of the Israeli Counterterrorism Bureau. Continue into the Negev and fully experience how Federation is revitalizing the desert, inspiring residents, and bringing com-

munities together. Enjoy an authentic Moroccan lunch with our partners at Hama-kom, a community initiative where North African culture is expressed through song, art, and food. Then tour Sderot with residents of Netiv HaAsara — the community closest to the Gaza Strip — to discuss life on the border and how our work sustains it.

Days 6 & 7

Welcome to Federation's seminal event, the General Assembly of North American Jewish Communities— for the first time in Tel Aviv! Communities from around the world will come together to deepen our mutual understanding of one another — putting you at the epicenter of dialogue between Diaspora and Israeli Jews. More information about the General Assembly program can be found by visiting <https://generalassembly.org/>.

Share coffee, conversation, and viewpoints with Israeli philanthropists, intellectuals, and activists. Hear from renowned religious, cultural,

and political thought leaders from around the globe on topics that most impact our Jewish world.

Day 8

Return from your trip feeling connected — to Israel, to Israelis, to your global Jewish community, and to your Jewish values and identity. There's no place like home.

Cost

\$3,595 per person, which includes the fees for the General Assembly. Costs are for land only, based on double occupancy. Single supplement is \$1,275.

\$1,500 reimbursement grant is available to qualifying fulltime residents of Berkshire County from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. For more information about this subsidy and to see if you qualify visit <https://hgf.org/grants-awards/israel-travel-and-study>.

Hotel Information

October 17-19
Elma Hotel Zichron Yaacov, 1 Yair Street, Zichron Ya'akov, 3094260 Israel

October 19-21
David Citadel Hotel, 7 King David Street, Jerusalem, 94101 Israel

October 21-24
Carlton Hotel, Tel Aviv, 10 Eliezer Peri Street, Tel Aviv, Israel 6357325

Air Travel Information

Participants are responsible for arranging their own travel to and from Israel. If you would like assistance with your travel arrangements, please contact Gil Travel at (212) 284-6999.

Interested?

Call Dara Kaufman, Executive Director, (413) 442-4360, ext. 12.



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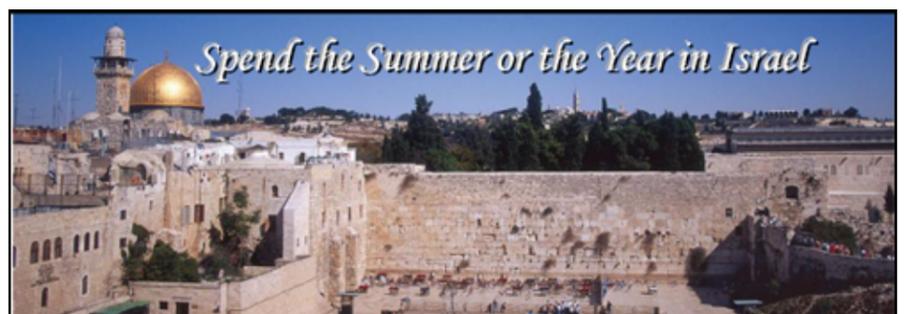
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The Michael Nathaniel Shute Endowment Fund

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

Download an application at jewishberkshires.org

or pick one up at the Federation's office
196 South Street, Pittsfield, MA

 **Jewish Federation**
OF THE BERKSHIRES

LOCAL NEWS

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

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

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

From Nixon to Clinton, Watergate to Whitewater, few Americans have observed the ups and downs of presidential leadership more closely over the past thirty years than David Gergen. A White House adviser to both Republican and Democrat presidents, he offers a vivid, behind-the-scenes account of their struggles to exercise power and draws from them key lessons for leaders of the future.

As the world's economic and political dynamics continue to evolve, a new age is ahead for America, but its realization will depend heavily upon the success of a new generation at the top. Drawing upon all his many experiences in the White House, Gergen offers seven key lessons for leaders of the future. What they must have, he says, are: inner mastery; a central, compelling purpose rooted in moral values; a capacity to persuade; skills in working within the system; a fast start; a strong, effective team; and a passion that inspires others to keep the flame alive.

Andy Hochberg, lecture committee co-chairman notes, "This is the 51st 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, who established the Hilda Vallin Feigenbaum Lecture Series in perpetuity as a living memorial to their mother's spirit."

About the Guest Speaker

David Gergen is a professor of public service and co-director of the Center for Public Leadership at the Harvard Kennedy School, positions he has held for over a decade. In addition, he serves as a senior political analyst for CNN and works actively with a rising generation of new leaders. In the past, he has served as a White House adviser to four U.S. presidents of both parties: Nixon, Ford, Reagan and Clinton. He wrote about those experiences in his *New York Times* best seller, *Eyewitness to Power: The Essence of Leadership, Nixon to Clinton* (2001).

In the 1980s, he began a career in journalism. Starting with The McNeill-Lehrer News Hour in 1984, he has been a regular commentator on public affairs for some 30 years. Twice he has been a member of election coverage teams that won Peabody awards, and he has contributed to two Emmy award-winning political analysis teams. In the late 1980s, he was chief editor of *U.S. News & World Report*, working with publisher Mort Zuckerman to achieve record gains in circulation and advertising.

About the Hilda Vallin Feigenbaum Lecture Series

The Hilda Vallin Feigenbaum Memorial Foundation continues to enhance the spiritual and intellectual life of Temple Anshe Amunim and



David Gergen

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 and Bret Stephens.

Refreshments will be served after the lecture.

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

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

Rabbi Liz P.G. Hirsch to begin Rabbinic Tenure at Temple Anshe Amunim

PITTSFIELD – Temple Anshe Amunim has announced that as of July 1, 2018, Rabbi Liz P.G. Hirsch will serve the congregation as its next rabbi.

Rabbi Liz joins Anshe after serving as rabbi and assistant director to the URJ Eisner Camp. A skilled song-leader and teacher, trained in mindfulness, meditation, yoga, pastoral care, educational and leadership development, the congregation looks forward to Rabbi Liz's powerful worship and spiritual leadership, and her inspired oversight of the Temple's Religious Education Program.

Rabbi Liz makes her home in Great Barrington with husband, Rabbi Neil P.G. Hirsch, rabbi at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, and their 15-month-old son, Lior.

A community 'Meet and



Rabbi Liz P.G. Hirsch

Greet' will be announced at a future date. Rabbi Liz's profile and background information, and her beginning experiences at Anshe, will be provided in the next edition of the BJV.

In the meantime, the congregation looks forward to Rabbi Liz's full engagement in a community that she "already loves!"



Seeking Compassionate Volunteers for NEW FRIENDLY VISITORS PROGRAM



Isolation and loneliness among aging adults is an increasing problem for local community members who can no longer get out and miss the companionship of family and friends. We know that regular friendly visits can make all the difference in bringing joy and connection to their lives.

Volunteers will be matched with at home elders. Together they will plan their visiting schedule and choose how to spend their time. Activities might include reading, conversation, listening to music, playing cards, puzzles, arts and crafts, or even a simple walk outside.

Volunteer qualifications:

- Be reliable, compassionate, a good listener and sensitive to the needs of older adults
- Able to commit to a 1 hour weekly visit. Bi-weekly visits are also possible.
- At least 18 years of age
- Complete an application and CORI check
- Participate in a short training program to be scheduled in June

Training and support will be provided in conjunction with Elder Services of Berkshire County and the Federation's social worker.

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



The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires' Tikkun Olam Volunteer (TOV) Network connects community members of all ages with Mitzvah opportunities to make a difference in our community.

Author Judith Schumer on *In The Presence of My Enemies*

GREAT BARRINGTON – On Thursday, July 19 at 7 p.m., Congregation Ahavath Sholom hosts Judith Schumer who will speak about her new book, *In The Presence of my Enemies: A Memoir of the Holocaust and its Aftermath*, a true story of a Jewish survivor who spent part of the war in Poland pretending to be a Christian Pole in order to save himself and his family.

Adam Zurawin jumped off a cattle car headed for the Auschwitz concentration camp, eventually came to America, and was later accused of being a Nazi collaborator. Schumer says it is a particularly compelling narrative in 2018, with the new law being passed in Poland that criminalizes what can and cannot be told about Polish involvement in the Holocaust.

Zurawin was a family friend of Schumer's, and told her his story in 1994, before his death. This account is only appearing now at the request of his widow, who asked that the story not be released until after her own passing.

Schumer was born in Shanghai, China in October, 1945 – two months after the end of the war with Japan. Her parents survived the Holocaust by first escaping to Lithuania from Nazi-occupied Poland, and then getting a special visa which enabled them to get out of Eastern Europe and travel first to Japan and then to China. They spent the war under Japanese occupation in Shanghai and were finally able to get visas to the United States in 1948. Her first book was about her family's escape and survival titled *Esther's Journey – A Holocaust Memoir*.

She and her husband live in Sheffield, MA and in Reno, NV, where she was recently appointed chairperson of the Nevada Governor's Advisory Council on Education Relating to the Holocaust. She is also a member of the Northern Nevada Holocaust Education Task Force, and speaks at schools, universities, and adult groups about her books and her responsibility as a "Second Generation" survivor.

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



Judith Schumer

JEWISH EDUCATION IN THE BERKSHIRES 2018/19

The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires has a strong commitment to Jewish youth, helping to provide a high-quality Jewish education for more than 158 children and young adults through \$63,000 in grants to congregational religious schools across the Berkshires.

Berkshire County is fortunate to have a diverse Jewish community that offers educational opportunities encompassing a wide range of approaches and family preferences. This section offers an overview of local Jewish schools.

Please note that owing to the BJV's publishing schedule and the way the holiday season falls on this year's calendar, some key dates for local religious schools were not finalized at press time. *Please contact the congregations for complete details.*

Temple Anshe Amunim

Pittsfield

Temple Anshe Amunim, a Reform Jewish congregation, offers religious education and Hebrew for students at all levels from early childhood through high school, along with adult education. The Temple's program features professional educators who focus on individualized learning.

The Religious School will be led by Rabbi Liz P.G. Hirsch, who assumed her role as rabbi and head of the religious school on July 1.

Rabbi Liz has extensive experience with both formal and informal Jewish education. She most recently served as the rabbi and assistant director at the URJ Eisner Camp in Great Barrington, where one of her key portfolio areas was the oversight of the Jewish educational vision and curriculum for this 1000-person camp. Rabbi Liz grew up as an active leader in NFTY, Reform Judaism's youth movement, which serves as the umbrella organization for PFTY, the Temple's youth group.

Rabbi Liz has diverse religious educational experience, and has worked with students ranging from kindergarten to high school. Rabbi Liz is passionate about service learning and has created Jewish educational opportunities that incorporated hands-on volunteer experiences throughout

Massachusetts, New York, and the Berkshires. She recently participated in a three-year pilot fellowship through the Institute for Jewish Spirituality called "Educating for a Jewish Spiritual Life," which equipped her to teach meditation and yoga to youth in a Jewish context. Rabbi Liz plays guitar and is a trained songleader. She loves to use music to teach, inspire, and create community!

Debora Cole-Duffy, immediate past Temple president says, "Based on our history to offer a rich and valued Jewish education program to meet the unique learning styles of our students and the personal and social needs of our families, TAA looks forward to Rabbi Liz bringing her special talents to oversee our school. While our students enjoy learning about Shabbat, festivals, and Jewish traditions and rituals, they also delight to lead services and offer meaningful *Divrei Torah*, speeches and commentary on the weekly Torah portion, even before celebrating their B'nai Mitzvot."

Debora adds, "Our TAA Religious School offers special instruction to students. For example, in 2016, one of our students won the Regional Chidon Hatanach Contest (Bible Contest) and participated in the national contest in New York City."

In the coming year, along with other experienced teachers, Rabbi Liz will teach Hebrew and Jewish studies, fostering *mitzvot* and *tikkun olam* through creative arts and service learning projects. Group tutoring sessions (TBA) may also be available for those students who wish additional help with learning Hebrew.

Several times each year, TAA holds family education programs designed to bring families together to celebrate and learn with an emphasis on *l'dor vador* (from generation to generation). Some past family programs include a Tu B'shevat Seder, Chocolate Seder, Yom Hatzma'ut (Israeli Independence Day) service and Seder, and a special service to commemorate Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day). Families also love to take springtime trips to discover their Jewish roots, visiting destinations such as New York City or Boston.

At press time, the Temple's school calendar had not been finalized. To learn more about the Religious School offered by Temple Anshe Amunim, or to learn more about family High Holy Day Services, please contact Rabbi Liz P.G. Hirsch at the Temple Office, (413) 442-5910 or at: templeoffice@ansheamunim.org.

CHAI (Community Hebrew Afterschool Initiative)

Pittsfield

CHAI is a partnership between Temple Anshe Amunim and Knesset Israel that meets Wednesday afternoons. These classes use formal and informal techniques to help students learn to read Hebrew fluently and accurately. The school is look-

ing forward to introducing a brand new visual arts program, featuring the participation of local Judaica artists.

For more information about CHAI, please call the education director at TAA or KI.

Hevreh of Southern Berkshire

Great Barrington

Experience Jewish life, learning, and community at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, a Reform congregation.

From the littlest learners in Tiny Talmidim (ages 3-5) to teenage confirmation students and everyone in between, Hevreh is a place where Jewish tradition comes alive. From hands-on learning through art and music, to lively debate about important moral issues, students at Hevreh have the opportunity to engage in Jewish life in new and meaningful ways.

The talented and caring faculty, energetic *madrikhim* (young teachers), and the education team of Rabbi Jodie Gordon and Jodie Friedman are eager to welcome families to the community.

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 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. for grades 3 through 7.

Tiny Talmidim is a monthly parent-child program for pre-school age children.

Pre-Confirmation (8th grade) & **Confirmation Class** (9th-12th grade) meet twice per month.

Religious School registration opens on July 15. 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 Jodie Friedman at jfriedman@hevreh.org. Visit Hevreh online at www.hevreh.org/youth-family-life.

LOCAL NEWS

Lunch and Learn at TAA

Lecture series to cover a diverse range of topics

PITTSFIELD – Temple Anshe Amunim will host an informal series of lunchtime events this summer. Guests are invited to bring their own lunch; beverages and dessert will be provided. Admission is free for Temple members and \$5.00 for non-members.

The S.S. St. Louis: An Illustrated Lecture

April, 1939: Nearly one thousand Jewish refugees, fleeing the Nazis, board the S.S. St. Louis in Hamburg, Germany, bound for Cuba, where they will await permission to complete their migration to the United States. But will they be allowed to disembark in Cuba? In the United States? Anywhere?

This program will be presented by Jesse Waldinger on Thursday, August 9 at 11:30 a.m.

Death with Dignity

On Thursday, August 16

at noon, Dr. Larry Pellish, a retired physician, will lead a discussion about end of life issues. The main focus will be the need to dialogue with oneself, one's family and friends, and with one's physicians regarding how you define death with dignity. Specific issues like the Massachusetts MOLST (medical order for life sustaining therapies) form, life directives, the Do Not Resuscitate order, and health care proxies will be addressed.

Eleanor Roosevelt: Personal & Political Transformation

On Thursday, July 12 at 11:30 a.m., Dr. Robyn Rosen presents on the life and career of Eleanor Roosevelt. "The groups we most associate with Eleanor Roosevelt's courage and commitment to justice are the poor and African-Americans," says Dr. Rosen. "This talk shifts our gaze to two other constituencies who were

benefactors of her activism – women and Jews. By broadening our focus we enrich our understanding of and admiration for this remarkable woman and her capacity for spiritual and political growth."

Robyn Rosen is professor of history at Marist College, where she has taught US history, women's history, and women's studies since 1994.

Matches Made in Heaven

On Thursday, July 19 at 11:30 a.m., join Keren Weiner for "Matches Made in Heaven: Genealogy Research Uncovers Love Stories in a Family of Jewish Immigrants." "What do we know of our ancestors' deepest commitments beyond the names and the dates?" wonders Weiner. Follow one immigrant family from New Orleans during the Civil War era through their move to New York City. Research methods from the Internet to the telephone reveal how they sur-

vived war, epidemic, fire and who knows what else – to leave loving legacies that inspire us all.

Temple Anshe Amunim is a Reform Jewish congregation that promotes engaging and widespread participation in services, education, cultural

and social action programs. The Temple, located at 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield, MA 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.

Fertile, A Play Produced by the Israeli Stage

LENOX – On Sunday, August 12 at 5:30 p.m., Hevreh of Southern Berkshire presents a staging of *Fertile*, a play produced by Israeli Stage, a group that brings Israeli theater to American audiences.

This event will take place at Shakespeare & Company, 70 Kemble Street in Lenox.

Fertile was born with a gift – she was born without a uterus. An inherited genetic abnormality makes her barren at birth. Throughout her life, she is marked by society and by herself as faulty and defective. At 26, following a romantic encounter with the man

of her dreams, *Fertile* decides to reexamine the "broken" parts of her life, and sets on a journey of healing herself. Her journey makes her confront all sides of her femininity and her right to exist as a woman, despite her inability to fulfill the basic female mission, bringing **FERTILE**, *continued on next page*



JEWISH EDUCATION IN THE BERKSHIRES 2018/19

Congregation Beth Israel

North Adams



CBI Hebrew School students having some fun

The Congregation Beth Israel Community Hebrew School offers a vibrant after-school Jewish learning program for pre-K through 7th grade. The program supports children's Jewish development by fostering friendship, empathy, acts of caring, creative exploration and Jewish literacy. 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 by this Reform congregation.

This year, CBI's Community Hebrew School begins on Monday, September 17. The education team is headed by Rabbi Jarah Greenfield, a seasoned and passionate Jewish educator who recently joined CBI as director of education.

As the program evolves in new directions this year, students will continue to benefit from the presence of beloved teachers Rabbi Rachel Barenblat, Jane Shiyah, and Heather Levy. Rabbi Rachel, CBI's own spiritual leader, is a poet, rabbi, chaplain, and blogger who works closely with students as they move

through the b'nai mitzvah experience. Jane is a school counselor, family coach, storyteller and magician with 45 years of working with children and their families. She is assisted by Inquisitive Bernard (aka, Inky the Wonder Dog), a trained therapy dog and state certified reading specialist, as well as several parent volunteers. Heather, a local teacher and artist, blends Torah learning with art making in many forms, having students integrate knowledge and self-expression through projects such as writing and designing psalm art, Torah story dioramas, game building, and map-making.

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.

Knesset Israel

Pittsfield

The Knesset Israel Hebrew School, now a part of this Conservative congregation's new Families Together program, welcomes students from preschool 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.

This year KI welcomes Judith Weiner as the new director of Knesset Israel Families Together. She will administer the Shabbat morning program together with Rabbi David Weiner, and the Wednesday afternoon program in conjunction with Rabbi Weiner and Rabbi Liz P.G. Hirsch of Temple Anshe Amunim. She will also spearhead KI's family education and teen education programs, 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 will bring creativity, professionalism and passion to her new leadership role.

Primary School: Pre-school students age 2 years 9 months and up enjoy programming on Shabbat mornings. A 45-minute class with a highly qualified teacher features song, movement and Shabbat-friendly crafts. Students in kindergarten and first grade also meet on Shabbat mornings, beginning

their study of Hebrew, prayer, *mitzvot* and Jewish holidays. Afterwards these students join together for Purposeful Play, a new program for Knesset Israel 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 School: Grades 2-6 meet twice a week, on Shabbat mornings and on Wednesday afternoons. Over the course of their elementary school years, students study stories from the Torah, lifecycle, holidays and Jewish values. This year, grades four and five will explore the history of Israel and the Middle East through maps and geography and grade six 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.

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 leadership of Jewish religious life. Instruction includes chanting Torah and Haftarah and leading all Shabbat services and is complemented by a mitzvah project and the preparation of a short sermon for the morning of the bar/bat mitzvah.

High School: Students convene on Shabbat morning for a class with Rabbi Weiner. This year, the group will study Jewish values using a new curriculum from the Jewish Theological Seminary called "The Ethical

Life." Lively discussions will explore problematic hot topics like the ethics of lying, fracking, medical enhancement, end-of-life care, and surrogacy. High school students also have the opportunity to serve as teaching assistants in our Hebrew School, especially in Junior Congregation, the bar/bat mitzvah program, and Purposeful Play programs. This year Knesset Israel will be piloting new youth programming, incorporating the arts, social time, leadership development and regional conventions with United Synagogue Youth. These youth programs welcome the participation of members and non-members.

Family Programming: Exciting programs for the whole family linking themes of the Jewish holidays and year with contemporary social issues take place on select Sundays, Wednesday afternoons, and Shabbat afternoons 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. Please check the Knesset Israel calendar (at <https://knessetisrael.org>) or Facebook page for details.

At press time, KI's school calendar had not been finalized. 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.

LOCAL NEWS

Summer Outings with Temple Anshe Amunim

Join Temple Anshe Amunim on Saturday, July 28 at 7 p.m. for a special experience at Tanglewood as David Newman conducts Bernstein's *West Side Story*. The Boston Symphony plays Leonard Bernstein's electrifying score live, with the newly re-mastered film is shown on large screens with the original vocals and dialogue intact. Look for the blue and white balloons on the lawn. Attendees will need to purchase their own tickets at www.bso.org.

On Sunday, July 15 at 5 p.m., TAA will have a picnic and watch the Pittsfield Suns play baseball at Wahconah Park. The cost is \$20, which includes the price of the ticket and picnic.



Tanglewood at dusk

For more information, contact the Temple Anshe Amunim office at (413) 442-5910, email

templeoffice@ansheamunim.org, or visit www.ansheamunim.org.

Join Chabad for Special Shabbat Lectures

LENOX – This summer, Chabad of the Berkshires hosts two special speakers following Shabbat morning services at its summer space at the Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker Street. The speakers will present following Kiddush at approximately 12:30 p.m. All are welcome.

On July 7, Sonia Beker will discuss her book, *Symphony on Fire: A Story of Music and Spiritual Resistance During the Holocaust*, a memoir describing the Holocaust journey of her Vilna-born musician parents. Max Beker, violinist, and Fania Durmashkin, pianist, came from a rich musical family heritage in their beloved town, Vilna, Lithuania. When Nazi horror destroyed their family, the music continued as they navigated through the Holocaust with music as their lifeline. They survived the war and ended up in a DP Camp near Landsberg, Germany. Today, the family legacy is being celebrated in symposia in Landsberg, where Max, Fania and her sister, Henia, were then DP members of the survivor Ex-Concentration Camp Orchestra, which shared its life-affirming performances with other DPs, the American troops, the Nuremberg judges, David Ben-Gurion, and Golda Meir, and was conducted by Leonard Bernstein.

On July 14, join Eugene R. Fidell for "The United Nation's Peacekeepers: Some Revolutionary Thoughts for Bastille Day." Gene Fidell teaches at Yale Law School and specializes in military law. He and his wife Linda Greenhouse, who also teaches at Yale Law School and is a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter who covered the United States Supreme Court for the *New York Times*, have a home in Stockbridge.



Eugene Fidell

FERTILE, continued from previous page

children into the world. The Israeli Stage shares the diversity and vitality of Israeli culture through theater. Since their first season in 2010-11, the Israeli Stage has presented over 25 pre-

mieres of Israeli plays, and hosted five Israeli playwrights. To purchase tickets (prices vary), visit hevreh.org/summer and click on the link for eventbrite.

LOCAL NEWS

Berkshire Hills Hadassah's Annual Donor Dinner

PITTSFIELD – Berkshire Hills Hadassah will host its annual donor dinner on the evening of Tuesday, August 28 at the Country Club of Pittsfield.

This year, Hadassah celebrates the 100th anniversary of Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO), the 100th anniversary of Hadassah Ophthalmology Department, and the 100th anniversary of the Henrietta Szold Hadassah-Hebrew University School of Nursing.

"It is our great pleasure, in recognition of this anniversary celebration," says Sherry Boullt, co-president of Berkshire Hills Hadassah, "to honor the healing arts and our local community nurses for their great contributions in our medical care, from bedside nursing at hospitals to home visits, as well as participating in specialized health initiatives.

"Dr. Rachel Schonberger, Hadassah Medical Organization National Chair, will be our highlighted speaker. Dr. Schonberger will share with us the latest medical and scientific breakthroughs at Hadassah Hospital and their global impact."

Berkshire Hills Hadassah members and associates will receive an invitation in the mail. All are welcome. For more information, please contact Pattie Lipman at plipman@fairpoint.net or (518) 281-7340.



Dr. Rachel Schonberger

B'Shalom Chorale 5th Season Concert

GREAT BARRINGTON

The B'Shalom Chorale will hold its 5th season concert on Wednesday evening, August 15 at 7 p.m. at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire.

The Chorale is conducted by Jack Brown and accompanied by Joe Rose, and will be singing music of various eras and genres, including a tribute to Leonard Bernstein on the 100th anniversary of his birth.

For more information call Cantor Emily Sleeper Mekler at (413) 418-1836, email BshalomChorale@gmail.com, or visit the group's Facebook page.

The B'Shalom Chorale is sponsored, in part, by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.



MORE LOCAL NEWS APPEARS ON PAGES 19 - 21

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Christiane Amanpour with Maureen Dowd
Wednesday, August 15, 2 pm (RSVP by Aug 10)
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(413) 442-4360, ext. 14 or visit jewishberkshires.org/pj-library



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Your Federation Presents

More Than Just Books – PJ Library Events in the Berkshires

By Susan Frisch Lehrer, Coordinator of Volunteers & PJ Library

PJ Library is connecting families throughout the Berkshires in small neighborhood programs, recognizing that smaller more intimate programs work well for busy families. Our most recent program in Williamstown at Cricket Creek Farm (shown in the photos) brought 10 families together on a beautiful summer day to celebrate Shavuot.

On Friday, August 10 at 5:30 p.m., we travel south for PJ Library Shabbat at the Lake. We welcome all families to join us for a special PJ Library Shabbat at Lake Mansfield, Great Barrington for an evening of blessings, songs,

and stories with a light supper. Free to all. Bring chairs and blankets. In case of rain we'll have an alternate location.

Please RSVP by contacting slehrer@jewishberkshires.org or (413) 442-4360, ext. 14.

Stay tuned for more info about PJ Library programs throughout the county. And, parents (or grandparents) if you would like to help us plan and implement programs, please be in touch! PJ Library is made possible through the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, the Jewish Women's Foundation of Berkshire County, and the Spitz Tuchman Family Fund.

PJ Library at Cricket Creek Farm



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Superb Super Sunday Showing

More than 55 volunteers, with cell phones in hand and pledge cards in front of them, worked diligently May 6 to reach out to hundreds of potential donors to ask for their support. By mid-afternoon, callers in Pittsfield and Great Barrington had reached 255 donors and successfully raised more than \$61,000 for the 2018 Annual Campaign to support community programs locally and help Jews in need around the world.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered and everyone who gave! You are supporting Jewish life across the Berkshires and around the world! A special thanks to Ed Udel, our Super Sunday campaign chair.

If you did not have the opportunity to answer the call on Super Sunday, please contact the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires at (413) 442-4360, ext. 10, or visit www.jewishberkshires.org.

Special thanks to these partners:



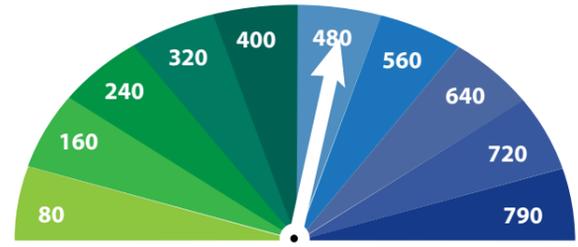
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BERKSHIRE JEWISH VOICES

Traveling with Jewish Taste

Rhubarb!

By Carol Goodman Kaufman



Rhubarb season is here, and with it comes a flood of childhood memories. A big patch in back of a neighbor's garage was a treasure we looked forward to every year. We kids would snap off stalks to chomp on, the intense sourness seemingly not a problem for us as we sat in a circle telling ghost stories in the dark on balmy summer evenings. It may even have enhanced the spooky atmosphere.

Perhaps due to these fond memories, or perhaps because it is a super-easy plant to maintain, I still love rhubarb and have two different varieties growing in my garden. In fact, one of the plants came from my father's backyard, and

I have recently given a piece of that plant to my eldest son, Seth, as a sort of horticultural *mi'dor l'dor* action. Given my total lack of success with bonsai, I figured this would be my way of perpetuating the family love of gardening while providing a memento of his grandfather. Growing the family tree, as it were.

As a little girl, I believed that rhubarb was a Jewish vegetable, named in fact for my Uncle Reub. (I also believed that brisket was Jewish. After all, on the eighth day...) Anyway, when he wasn't practicing optometry, Uncle Reub was a big-time gardener and grafter of tree fruit, and his wife, Aunt Bea, was a phenomenal cook and baker who incorporated rhubarb from said garden into all manner of delectable dishes.

I also believe that rhubarb has the power to save a romance. The first time my then-boyfriend came to visit, my stepmother had cooked mackerel for dinner. The house reeked of the oily fish, so I rushed out to the garden, picked some stalks, grabbed a pint of strawberries from the fridge, and baked a pie. By the time the boy arrived, flowers in hand, the house smelled divine. He is now my husband.

Today, many Jewish cooking websites feature recipes for everything from strawberry-rhubarb blintzes to Shabbat rhubarb chicken. So, I figured that the veggie must have figured large in the cuisine of our ancestors.

In fact, rhubarb had its roots in China, where its dried root was used for its laxative properties. In fact, it was so coveted for that purpose that at one point it cost more than cinnamon and saffron. Islamic traders brought it west over the Silk Road beginning in the 8th century, and Venetian Marco Polo mentioned the vegetable in journals of his travels to China in the late 13th century, but his fellow Italians didn't get around to planting it until much later. In the 14th Century, rhubarb arrived in Syria, and from there it traveled to the rest of Europe, where cooks began incorporating it as a fruit into pies and tarts (hence, its other name, "pie plant").

Documentation of Ashkenazim cultivating it in their gardens I could not find, but Sephardic and Mizrahi Jews are absolutely known to use the sour rhubarb as

a vegetable (it is actually classified as one botanically), adding it to fish and lamb dishes, such as the stew Khoresht-E-Reevas.

There is some dispute over rhubarb's arrival in America in late 18th century. Some records indicate that a Maine gardener planted it and then introduced it to Massachusetts. Others say that it was first grown by Philadelphian John Bartram, from a case of the root sent to him by Benjamin Franklin. At any rate, by the 1820s, rhubarb became available for purchase in markets.

But, why buy it when it is so incredibly easy to grow? Because rhubarb likes the cold – and in fact it can survive deep freezes in those places – the northeastern United States is an ideal place to grow it. I'll bet that many of the readers of this column have a patch or two in their yards. The vegetable can grow in hot climates, but it must be done as an annual and with lots of shade. The plants will live for decades, the only maintenance being a necessary splitting every five or six years.

Khoresht-E-Reevas: Persian Rhubarb Stew



Adapted from *My Persian Kitchen*
Serves 4

Ingredients:

1 lb. stew beef or lamb, cubed
2 medium yellow onions
1 teaspoon turmeric
3 cups parsley
1½ cups mint
2 lb. rhubarb, peeled and cut into 1/2 inch pieces
salt & pepper
oil

Instructions:

Sauté onion until just past translucent.
While onion is sautéing, separate herb leaves from stems, wash and chop.
Add turmeric, stir, and continue cooking for two more minutes.
Add beef. Season with salt and pepper. Brown meat on all sides.
Add 2 cups of water. Cook, covered, on medium low for one hour.
Add enough oil to thinly cover the bottom of a sauté pan.
Add herbs and fry them for about 5 to 10 minutes, stirring frequently.
Add herbs to the stew.
Continue to cook, covered, for a half hour longer until meat is tender.
Adjust seasoning if needed.
Add rhubarb to the stew.
Give one gentle stir and cook untouched for 10 to 15 minutes longer.

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

LOCAL NEWS

Exploring Jewish Survival and Resistance during World War II

GREAT BARRINGTON – Hevreh of Southern Berkshire will host two talks by Hevreh member Stu Schweitzer exploring the Jewish experience in Europe during the Second World War. Schweitzer is a docent at the Holocaust Museum and Education Center of Southwest Florida. These events are free and open to the public.

Vichy France and the Jews

On Thursday, July 19 from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Schweitzer will talk about the right-wing French regime based in Vichy that governed much of France following its fall to Germany in 1940. Schweitzer will discuss the rise of official anti-Semitism in Vichy France, where he says the authorities attempted to outdo the Germans in their treatment of the Jews. “We will, at the same time,” explains Schweitzer, “strive to reconcile this vicious treat-

ment with the fact that French Jews survived at markedly higher rates than Jews elsewhere in Europe.”

Jewish Resistance in the Holocaust

On Thursday, August 2 from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Schweitzer returns to address what he says is the “oft-heard, false assertion is that the Jews went passively, ‘like lambs to slaughter’ during the Holocaust. We will put this myth to rest, highlighting Jewish resistance in the ghettos, the camps, and the forests. Measured in terms of German dead and injured, these episodes had little impact. But as Elie Wiesel once said ‘The question is not why all the Jews did not fight, but how so many of them did. Tormented, beaten and starved, where did they find strength – spiritual and physical – to resist?’”

Lunch ‘N’ Learn Series – “The Jewish Road to Character: A Taste of Mussar”

GREAT BARRINGTON – On six consecutive Wednesdays starting July 18, Rabbi Eric Gurvis will lead a class on Mussar at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire. Classes are free and open to the public.

Dates will be the following Wednesdays: July 18 and 25, and August 1, 8, 15, and 22. The classes will be held from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Says Rabbi Gurvis: “In his 2015 book, *The Road to Character*, David Brooks posits that we live our lives by two different sets of virtues, what he calls ‘resume virtues’ and ‘eulogy virtues.’ Brooks writes, ‘Resume virtues are the ones you list on your resume, the skills that you bring to the job market and that contribute to [your] external success. The eulogy virtues are deeper. They’re the virtues that get talked about at your funeral, the ones that exist at the core of your being – whether you are kind, brave, honest or

faithful; the kinds of relationships you formed. Most of us would say that the eulogy virtues are more important than the resume virtues.’

“Brooks contends that we live in a world that celebrates the resume values, and demands that we enhance those values. In our confusing and contentious time, many are seeking to find a greater sense of grounding in core virtues which can guide us, uplift us and inspire us to become the best persons we can be. For the Jewish world, asking such a focus is hardly new. Yet, in our time, we have the uncovering of a rich part of our Jewish heritage which was nearly lost to our people – the study and practice of Mussar.”

In large part inspired by the work of The Mussar Institute and other contemporary efforts at reclaiming Mussar for the present day, an ever-expanding number of communities and individuals are bringing the



Rabbi Eric Gurvis

study of Mussar teachings and their accompanying practice into their lives. In this 6-week series, participants will delve in the study and practice of some of the Mussar tradition’s wisdom.

Rabbi Eric Gurvis is rabbi emeritus of Temple Shalom of Newton in Newton, MA. He has studied and practiced Mussar for over 5 years and has trained with The Mussar Institute as a facilitator of Mussar groups.

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LOCAL NEWS

Open for Discussion – #MeToo, Finance, Writing History, and Jewish Comedy

GREAT BARRINGTON – This summer, Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Road, hosts a variety of free talks on topics of general interest that are open to all interested in attending.

#MeToo: Changing Sexual Attitudes

On Monday, July 9 from 9:30 to 11 a.m., join Dr. Bonnie Saks, clinical professor of psychiatry at the University of South Florida, whose topic will be “#MeToo: Changing Sexual Attitudes.”

Topics to be addressed will include: “How are sexual attitudes changing in America? Is sexual behavior changing? How do we talk about sex and what are we teaching our kids?” Dr. Saks will also discuss sex as power, sex as sport, sex as

intimacy, and changes in the brain with sex and trauma. Dr. Saks, a Hevreh member, is a renowned expert on human sexuality, and a teacher to medical students and residents.

“Becoming the Nazi Officer’s Wife”

On Thursday, July 12 from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., biographer Susan Dworkin discusses the writing of *The Nazi Officer’s Wife*, a New York Times best-seller that tells the story of the astonishing escape from the Holocaust experienced by Edith Hahn Beer. Dworkin collaborated on the book with Beer, and will talk about what it is like for an author to “inhale the realities of another person, another time. Identifying with Edith’s struggle was the true work of writing this book.”

Investment Approaches for Today’s Economy and Markets

On Monday, July 16, and Monday, July 30 from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., join facilitator Stu Schweitzer for a fourth consecutive year of discussions focused on personal investment topics, including the outlook for the economy and markets, asset allocation, taxes, and investment strategy. Both sessions will have a clear, differentiated focus.

What’s So Funny? Jewish Humor from Genesis to Seinfeld and Soloway

On Monday, August 6 from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., Roberta Rosenberg, emerita professor of English and a visiting scholar at the Center for Jewish History, explores the sources of Jewish laughter. “How and why is Jewish comedy funny?” asks Dr. Rosenberg. “How has Jewish comedy responded to the circumstances and relationships of the Jewish people throughout the ages and in contemporary America?”

The seminar will address traditional Jewish humor from the Bible to the European Diaspora (Genesis, Kafka, Aleichem) as well as contemporary Jewish humor in an assimilated American community (Roth, Englander, Seinfeld, Larry David, and Jill Soloway). No prior knowledge of the subject is required beyond having a sense of humor!” Roberta Rosenberg writes on Jewish identity in popular literature, television and film.

TAA to Host Play Analysis Series with Dr. Barbara Waldinger

PITTSFIELD – Temple Anshe Amunim will host a four-part play analysis series taught by Dr. Barbara Waldinger, theater professor and director, entitled, “Starting Over: Jews in America,” on Tuesday mornings July 24, 31, and August 7, concluding on Monday, August 20. The series will be conducted from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and is open to the public.

Plays to be discussed are Mark Harelik’s *The Immigrant*, based on the life of Harelik’s grandfather, a Russian Jew who arrives in Texas in 1909; and Barbara Lebow’s *A Shayna Maidel*, about a survivor of a Nazi concentration camp in German-occupied Poland who reunites with her family in New York City in 1946.

Dr. Waldinger, a director and professor of theatre, taught at Hofstra University,

Marymount Manhattan College, and Queens College for twenty-five years. She received her Ph.D. from the CUNY Graduate Center in New York City, and is serving her 17th year as Artistic Director of HR Showcase Theatre in Hudson, which is dedicated to staged readings of the five winners of its annual nationwide play-writing contest. Waldinger directs for Plays in Progress, a theatre group that helps to develop the work of new playwrights, teaches for OLLI, and reviews plays for Berkshire On Stage, an online publication.

The cost for the four-session course is \$40 for members; \$45 for non-members for 4 sessions or \$15 per session.

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

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The Return of Musician Steve Katz

GREAT BARRINGTON – On Thursday, August 16 at 7 p.m., Hevreh of Southern Berkshire welcomes back Steve Katz, founding member of the legendary Blood, Sweat & Tears, and The Blues Project. Katz will present a humorous discussion about his firsthand experiences with folk songs of the 1960s and the Greenwich Village scene at the time, and will also perform songs from that period. His stories include anecdotes about many of the musical icons of the folk, rock, jazz and blues idiom, including his performance at Woodstock. A nice Jewish boy from Long



Steve Katz

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LOCAL NEWS

Summertime JTS Lectures in the Berkshires

LENOX – Once again this summer, Knesset Israel and New York’s Jewish Theological Seminary will be partners for a four-part educational series at the Bernstein Theater on the campus of Shakespeare & Company. Starting July 13, sessions will be held on alternating Friday mornings in July and August from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. To ensure a seat, please register early.

As in years past, an overall broad theme will be interpreted by four different distinguished professors from their respective and diverse academic perspectives. The 2018 theme is “Back to Nature:

Jewish Encounters with the Natural World.” For a full description of lectures, please refer to Berkshire Jewish Summer, the previous issue of the BJV, or www.jtsa.edu/berkshires.

On July 13, Rabbi Daniel Nevins will present “Biotech and the Bible: Jewish Perspectives on Genetic Engineering.”

On July 27, Rabbi Mychal Springer, speaks about “Watering the Soul: Rain, Dew, and Spiritual Care.”

On August 10, Dr. Alan Mittleman discusses “Is Nature Sacred? Reassessing the Value of Nature in Judaism.”

On August 24, Dr. Raymond Scheinind tackles “Gardens of the Gilded Age: The Pleasures and Perils of Nature in Medieval Hebrew Literature.”

Register early for the series on-line at www.jtsa.edu/berkshires, or contact Lynn Feinman at (212) 678-8821. The four-session series is \$85; each separately is \$25. Tickets may be purchased at the door. The Berkshires contact is Myrna Hammerling, director of programming at Knesset Israel, (413) 445-4872, ext. 16, or mhammerling@knessetisrael.org.

Special Summer Shabbatot with Hevreh

GREAT BARRINGTON – This summer, Hevreh of Southern Berkshire is organizing several outings to enhance and expand the Shabbat experience.

Tanglewood Shabbat

On Friday, July 20 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., join Hevreh for a special gathering on the lawn at Tanglewood. Look for the blue and white balloons in the middle of the lawn and then gather for Kabbalat Shabbat at the back of the lawn at approximately 7 p.m. Contact the Tanglewood box office to purchase lawn tickets.

Shabbat Hike

On Saturday, August 4 from 9:45 a.m. to noon, meet at Hevreh for a hike. Although they won’t be scaling Everest – or even Greylock – participants should have some experience walking in the woods and be able to sustain a good pace for approximately 90 minutes.

Rabbi Neil Hirsch says: “Our goals are threefold: to deepen our understanding

of the connection between God, Torah and nature; gain a greater appreciation for our environment, and build our intergenerational community. We will walk, talk, pray, sing, eat (after all, we are Jewish) and experience a different kind of Shabbat morning amid the natural beauty of our Berkshires. Throughout the ages our literature prominently connects our biblical figures to nature, and the Torah has been compared metaphorically to a tree of life. Join us as we explore pathways to God literally and spiritually.”

Plan to meet at the Hevreh parking lot where participants will carpool to a nearby destination, and reconvene at Hevreh for a Kiddush lunch. They plan to picnic at their destination. Group size is limited to 20 hikers, so please RSVP well in advance with an email address so that they can get respond with the necessary details. This event is free and open to all.

Playgrounds and Playpens: A Model for Creative Leadership

GREAT BARRINGTON – On Thursday, August 9 from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., join Hevreh of Southern Berkshire’s Rabbi Jodie Gordon for a discussion on creative leadership for the 21st century based on the teachings of Karina Zilberman, a Jewish educator and community leader. This event is free and open to the public

Would you rather play on a playground or in a playpen? This question, and how you answer it, may have more to do with leadership in the Jewish community than you might imagine. Rabbi Gordon says, “In her phenomenal ELI Talk, Zilberman says we need to foster a holy ‘playground’ mentality where spontaneity, creativity, imagination, and collaboration are affirmed. Presenting four building blocks to creating holy playgrounds, Zilberman demonstrates that when we have faith in what will be created, we move past the walls of a playpen.”

Hevreh is located at 270 State Road in Great Barrington.



Rabbi Jodie Gordon

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

5th Annual Maimonides Society Meeting
Sunday, August 12, 2018
9:30 -11:30 am
Marriot Courtyard, 70 Pittsfield Road, Lenox, MA

Rabbi Leonard A Sharzer, MD
Associate director for bioethics of the Finkelstein Institute of Religious and Social Studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary

Decision Making at the End of Life: Paradoxes and Paradigms
Over the last half century, technological advances have given us control over both the beginning and end of life that our forebears could not even have imagined. In a world of ICUs and respirators, brain death and organ transplantation, prolongation of life without hope of recovery, how are we to draw inspiration and guidance in decision making from a 2000 year old tradition? We will look at Rabbinic, medieval, and modern sources to see what they can offer to the vexing problems we face at the end of life.

Open to all Jewish healthcare professionals, family, friends, and colleagues.

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

Bagels & Lox Breakfast
Couvert \$15
RSVP BY AUG 3
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Jewish Federation OF THE BERKSHIRES

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

Country Club of Pittsfield
639 South Street, Pittsfield, MA

Special Guest: Yehuda Hanani
Israeli Cellist and Artistic Director of Close Encounters with Music

Event Chairs: Elaine & Bernie Roberts

Host Committee:
(as of May 9, 2018)

Susan & Michael Albert	Miriam & Ronald Hinds
Marjorie & Barry S. Berg	Marilyn & Elie Katzman
Helene Berger	Shirley & Bill Lehman
Nancy & Steve Bernstein	Nancy & Norman Lipoff
Mimi & Saul Cohen	Ellen & Stuart Masters
Terry & Mel Drucker	Frani & Albert Rothman
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Jill & Harold Gaffin	Lauren Spitz
Julie & Peter Gale	Joan & Michael Ury
Jane Glaser	Judy & Mark Usow
Joan & Paul Gluck	

Couvert: \$36 per person

RSVP Required by July 9
(413) 442-4360, ext. 10 or federation@jewishberkshires.org
Minimum gift of \$1,000 to the Federation’s 2018 annual campaign.

Jewish Federation OF THE BERKSHIRES
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OBITUARIES

Philip Franklin Heller, 73, well respected attorney

STOCKBRIDGE – Philip Franklin Heller died on Wednesday, May 30 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. He was the beloved husband of Anita Heller, devoted father to Elizabeth Pyle, loving father-in-law to Jeffrey Pyle, proud grandfather to Lucy and Emily Pyle, and dear brother to Frederic Heller.

Born April 15, 1945 in New York City, Philip received his bachelor's degree from Adelphi University; did graduate studies in Urban Affairs at American University; and received a Juris Doctor degree from Suffolk University Law School. He began his legal career in the Berkshires. For 6 years, he was a public defender for the Massachusetts' Defenders Committee.

Philip then was appointed as a special prosecutor for the Berkshire County District Attorney's office, a position he held for 8 years. He began his private practice in Lenox in 1976. In 1984, he formed a partnership with Frederic D. Rutberg; in 1986, Lori A. Robbins joined the firm. He continued to practice until the time of his death. He was well respected for his expertise in zoning law, encouraging local development while maintaining the beautiful character of the Berkshire area.

Philip was known for his generosity in providing pro bono legal work for many local non-profits, among them Shakespeare & Company and The Berkshire Theater Festival. He served on the board of Edward J. Madden Open Hearts Camp for 40 years. He also created a trust for The Lillian Heller Curator's Award at Chesterwood Museum in honor of his mother. Philip was a member of Temple Anshe Amunim, where he blew the shofar for over 20 years.

Philip served in the New York State National Guard and the Massachusetts Army Reserve from 1969 through 1975. He was an avid reader of historic books. Although he loved history in general, his greatest interest was in World War II.

Philip had a passion for antique cars and was often seen tooling around Stockbridge in his prize-winning 1967 Austin

Healy convertible. He loved playing the trumpet. In the winter, he loved to ski, and in the summer, he loved to golf. He was a long time member of the Stockbridge Golf Club.

Philip had a keen wit and was famous for his humorous axioms which were not only hilarious, but true. We will miss his smile, love, friendship, generosity, and wisdom.

Funeral services were held at Temple Anshe Amunim on June 3. Burial followed at the Stockbridge Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to Shakespeare & Company, Berkshire Theatre Festival, or the Edward J. Madden Open Hearts Camp.

Dr. Ronald M. Krasnick, just plain mensch

STOCKBRIDGE – Dr. Ronald Mark Krasnick passed away on Thursday, May 31.

He was the beloved husband of Carla Joy (nee Yaffe); loving father of Alex Krasnick of Louisville, CO and Shelley Krasnick of Seattle, WA; and the son of the late Horace and Byrdie Krasnick.

Dr. Krasnick was a native of Montreal, a McGill University alum, an orthopedic surgeon devoted to his patients, canoeist, stone carver, lover of the outdoors, passionate music fan, supporter of the arts, Tanglewood docent, Scrabble snob, and scotch aficionado.

He put his family first, was generous to a fault, gentle as can be, passionate, strong, good-willed, a natural educator, and a just plain mensch. He brought good and warmth to the lives of many.

Funeral services were held on June 3 at Finnerty and Stevens Funeral Home, Great Barrington with interment at the Stockbridge Town Cemetery.

Contributions in his memory may be made to The Michael J. Fox Foundation, PO Box 5014, Hagerstown, MD 21741-5014; or to a charity of the donor's choice.

Richard (Dick) Koffman, 85, spirit, generosity, strength, loyalty

GREAT BARRINGTON – Richard (Dick) Koffman, 85, passed away in his home on Wednesday, June 6.

The son of the late Harry and Billie Koffman, Dick was born and raised in Bingham-

ton, NY. He was predeceased by his sister, Charlotte, and his brother and partner of many years, Burton (Bud) Koffman. It seems when Bud joined Dick's Uncle Milton in heaven late last year, G-d decided that they both needed someone up there to say "no" to whatever deals they'd been cooking up, so He asked Dick to join them.

Dick is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Sara; daughter, Deb; his elder son, Joby, and his wife, Lorraine; his younger son, Marty; and his six grandchildren: Sam, Harry, Abe, Isaac, Genevieve, and Billie.

His body faded out before we expected, but that was typical. He always wanted to leave before the party was over.

He will be remembered for his spirit, generosity, sense of responsibility, strength and loyalty. He was one of a generation who wore a leather helmet onto the football field and rode his horses like his favorite movie cowboys, with his beloved dogs running behind. He was a man of few words; yet, just being in his presence was sufficient to let us know we were loved and safe, and that he'd always take care of us. We sit in the shade today because Dick labored to plant a tree a long time ago. We are so grateful for the luxury of sitting at the roots of all Dick sowed.

Memorial services were held Monday, June 11 at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire. If you wish to honor him, please give to any of the following charities: Berkshire Horseworks, 101 Patton Road, Richmond, MA 01254; Guiding Eyes for the Blind Canine Development Center, 361 Route 164, Patterson, NY 10509; or an educational or scholarship fund of your choosing.

Arthur D. Winston, 92, founder of A.D. Winston Corp

GREAT NECK, NY – Arthur D. Winston, 92, passed away on Wednesday, April 25.

Born February 18, 1926, he grew up in Brooklyn, NY and served in WWII in the US Army Air Corp. He married Judith Winston in 1956. After her death, he married Joan Davidson Winston in 2002.

In 1958, Arthur founded A. D. Winston Corp., an HVAC

mechanical contracting firm headquartered in Long Island City, NY, which is still in operation today.

Funeral services were held on Friday, April 27.

Sandy Parisky, always an artist

SANDISFIELD – Irwin Sanford (Sandy) Parisky passed away on Monday, February 19. Always an artist, he valued and imbued design and style into every part of his life. Whether singing in a barber-shop quartet, acting with the Sandisfield Players, or leading a historic park restoration, Sandy brought his love of life, aesthetics, and culture to all projects he touched.

Born and raised in Toledo, OH, Sandy completed a degree in architecture and urban design at Washington University in St. Louis. A life-changing fellowship with the Scandinavian Seminar brought him to Denmark where he was introduced to a European sensibility and a deep and lasting connection with his host family, the Breums. Sandy's early career included projects in Copenhagen, Paris, San Francisco, and New York City.

Guided by the principles of Frederick Law Olmsted, Sandy worked to ensure that the great public green spaces were refurbished to be as accessible as they were majestic for generations. After establishing Parisky Associates and the Bushnell Park Foundation in the early 1980s, Sandy partnered with Quennell Rothschild Associates in the celebrated restoration of the New Haven Green and Hartford's Bushnell Park.

Since retirement, Sandy embarked on a new career of painting, pursuing constant study and exhibiting widely. His greatest pride later in life was the result of working alongside other volunteers to build the Sandisfield Arts Center in the Berkshires into a vibrant arts destination. The center has now been recognized by the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

Sandy's deep love of art, good design, travel, and above all, his family was unmistakable to those who knew him. But so many more enjoy the lasting work of this remarkable man as they stroll or play through the green spac-

es Sandy worked so hard to rejuvenate.

Sandy is survived by his wife, Flora, of fifty years, and four daughters: Katherine, Elizabeth, Jennifer, Rebecca; nine grandchildren: Neviah, Liam, Andrew, Silvia, Alexander, Xavier, Anna, Brenna, and Cory. He is predeceased by his parents, Harold and Jean, and his brother Marvin Donald. A memorial service was held on Sunday, February 25 at Temple Sinai in Brookline, Massachusetts. Memorial donations may be made to the Sandisfield Arts Center, 5 Hammettown Road, Sandisfield, MA, 01255 via Levine Chapels, Brookline at (617) 277-8300 or www.levinechapel.com.

Ira Yohalem, 77, generous contributor to cultural institutions

MILL RIVER - Ira Yohalem, 77, accountant and business advisor, died on Wednesday, May 16 from a sudden illness.

Born in Mt. Vernon, NY, Ira received his BA from the University of Michigan and MBA from Columbia University. He joined his father's accounting firm, Yohalem Gillman, which he expanded and later merged with Anchin, Block & Anchin, a prominent New York firm.

A long-time second homeowner in the Berkshires, Ira and his second wife, Shirley, lovingly renovated an old home and then became full-time residents. Ira was a generous contributor to cultural institutions in the Berkshires. He was a board member and treasurer of Barrington Stage Company. An avid tennis player, he competed in tournaments at Wyantenuck Country Club in Great Barrington and became an enthusiastic golfer. Ira enjoyed talking sports and business, and always found time to advise friends, young and old.

Ira is survived by his wife, Shirley; his children, Matthew and Beth and their spouses; two grandchildren; his brother, Nat, and sister-in-law, Louise, and their daughters; his sister-in-law, Judy Brown, and his many nephews and nieces who lovingly call him "Uncle I."

Donations in his memory can be made to Barrington Stage Company in Pittsfield.



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, berkshirereminyan.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, cbweb.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

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

Advanced reservations are required to attend lunch.

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

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



Jewish Federation
OF THE BERKSHIRES

When making a reservation please inform us if a person in your party has a food allergy. The Federation's kosher hot lunch program is offered in collaboration with Elder Services of Berkshire County.

What's for Lunch?

Dairy Free, ** Gluten Free Main Entrée

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

JULY

Monday, 2 10:45 a.m., Film screening on life of Primo Levi. Film begins at 10:45, breaks for lunch, and completes after lunch. **Lunch: Hot dogs and hamburgers***, tomato juice, coleslaw, potato chips, potato salad, choice of bun, watermelon, and tea.**

Thursday, 5 10:45 a.m., Discussion of author, Primo Levi, with Hugh Black. **Lunch: Barbecued turkey***, macaroni salad, 3 bean salad, corn cobettes, rolls, pears, and tea.**

Monday, 9 10:45 a.m., Music and Friendship with Linda Worster and David Grover. **Lunch: Meat loaf***, mashed potatoes, peas & carrots, salad, pumpernickel bread, grapes, and tea.**

Thursday, 12 10:45 a.m., Soil and Shul – The Story of a Jewish Farm Colony in the Berkshires. **Lunch: Fresh fish**, gazpacho, rice pilaf, Italian beans, muffins, cake and ice cream, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.**

Monday, 16 10:45 a.m., Jewish Germany – Its History and Legacy with Dr. David Levinson. **Lunch: Egg salad and cottage cheese platters**, pineapple juice, coleslaw, farmer's loaf, tropical fruit salad, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.**

Thursday, 19 10:45 a.m., Current Affairs" with Professor Emeritus, Steven J. Rubin. **Lunch: Spinach pies, tomato juice, salad, beets, rolls, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.**

Monday, 23 10:45 a.m., Israelis Fedora and Avram Horowitz discuss Israeli authors. 1st installment. **Lunch: Roasted chicken***, salad, broccoli baby carrots, rye bread, apricots, and tea.**

Thursday, 26 10:45 a.m., Israelis Fedora and Avram Horowitz discuss Israeli authors. 2nd installment. **Lunch: Fresh fish**, borscht and potato, blintz soufflé, asparagus cuts n tips, Challah, strawberry shortcake, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.**

Monday, 30 10:45 a.m., Using Theatre to Extend Community and Deepen Empathy. **Lunch: Chef's salad***, cranraspberry juice, pumpernickel bread, grapes, and tea.**

AUGUST

Thursday, 2 10:45 a.m., Current Affairs with Professor Emeritus, Steven J. Rubin. **Lunch: Tuna salad platter** with mini Greek salad, potato salad, Italian bread, ice cream and cookies, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.**

Monday, 6 10:45 a.m., Amy Herzog – A New Talent of American Theatre. **Lunch: Meat loaf***, gazpacho, mashed potatoes, peas, whole wheat bread, applesauce, and tea.**

Thursday, 9 10:45 a.m., North Korea: The Road to Infamy. **Lunch: Tomato basil quiche, salad, beets, green beans, muffins, mandarin oranges, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.**

Monday, 13 10:45 a.m., The Process of Aging, with therapist, Maggie Bittman. **Lunch: Stir fried chicken***, pineapple juice, brown rice, Oriental blend vegetables, multi-grain bread, pineapple, and tea.**

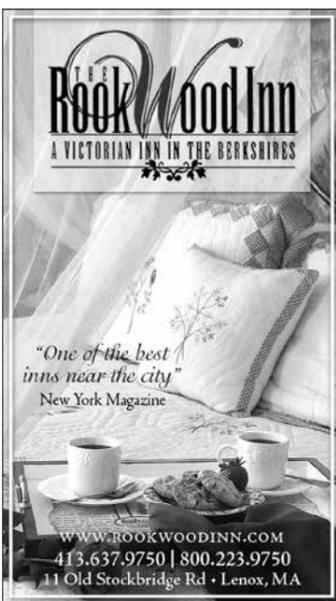
Thursday, 16 10:45 a.m., Beyond the Hora: How Israeli Contemporary Dance Became World Famous. **Lunch: Vegetarian chopped suey, salad, mixed vegetables, scones, cookies, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.**

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

Thursday, 23 10:45 a.m., Current Affairs, with Professor Emeritus Steven J. Rubin. **Lunch: Middle Eastern Day, Hummus platters to include stuffed grape leaves, feta, olives, etc. **, Hearts of Palm salad, pita bread, baklava, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.**

Monday, 27 10:45 a.m., Program to be Announced. **Lunch: Salisbury steak***, hash browns, broccoli, salad, marble rye bread, apricots, and tea.**

Thursday, 30 10:45 a.m., Program to be Announced. **Lunch: Fresh fish**, salad, zucchini medley, rice, Challah, coconut cake, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.**



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Calendar – Ongoing Events Around the Community

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

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

Sundays (second of each month) – Berkshire Hills Society of Israeli Philatelists meet. Discuss Israeli and American stamps. Coffee and donuts. Information: Ed Heitzer, (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 founda-

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

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

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

Fridays, at 9 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 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.

MAZEL TOV

Mazel Tov to...

Len Schiller, past president of Knesset Israel, on being honored by the congregation in gratitude for his 4-year term and his work on the synagogue’s renovation. A brunch will be held on Sunday, August 25 – please call KI at (413) 445-4872 for time and cost.

*

Bill Wright, chosen to be the 2018 artist in residence at the Red Lion Inn in Stockbridge this summer, a residency that celebrates the artistic and creative energy of the Berkshires and invites artists to interpret and express.

*

Diana and Stanley Feld on their 65th anniversary.

*

Elliot Krantz on his June 2 bar mitzvah at Temple Anshe Amunim.

*

Roselyn and Edwin Kolodny on their 60th anniversary.

*

Georgia Raser on her June 9 bat mitzvah at Knesset Israel.

*

Sam and Stephanie Frommer on the birth of their son, Rory Jo Frommer.

*

Isabelle Hoffstein on her extra-special birthday.

*

Ronald and Karen Rettner on the marriage of son Mathew Rettner to Amy Brower.

*

Carole Siegel of OLLI and Berkshire Children and Families (Lifetime Achievement) and **Jay Weintraub and Mark Lefenfeld** of Backyard Bounty of the Berkshires (Rising Star), winners of the inaugural Berkshire Nonprofit Awards, presented by the Nonprofit Center of the Berkshires in partnership with *The Berkshire Eagle*, for outstanding commitment and contributions to the Berkshire community.

*

Carol and Irv Smokler, honored by Hillel International with this year’s Renaissance Award, the organization’s highest honor bestowed each year upon an individual or individuals whose bold vision and transformative initiatives enrich the campus, the Jewish community, and the world.

*

Suze Goldman on being honored by the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts.

*

Cookie and Enrico Lamet, whose daughter, Beth Reinhard, shared a Pulitzer Prize for a series of articles published in the *Washington Post*, “The Senate Race in Alabama.”

*

Barbara and Michael Wasserman on the birth of their twin granddaughters.

*

Janie and Larry Pellish, co-chairs of the Social Action Committee at Temple Anshe Amunim, for being named 2018 Members of the Year.

*

Dr. Michael Smith on being honored by the Jewish Federation of Dutchess County for his many years of service and exceptional community work.

*

Sara and Rabbi Levi Volovik, co-directors of Chabad of the Berkshires, on the June 18 birth of their baby boy.

*

Norman Michaels on his special birthday.

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

July 6	8:15 p.m.
July 13	8:12 p.m.
July 20	8:07 p.m.
July 27	8:00 p.m.
August 3	7:52 p.m.
August 10	7:43 p.m.
August 17	7:33 p.m.

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CULTURE AND ARTS

Children's Book Reading and Event: Sparkle Havdalah, July 28

By Avi Dresner / Special to the BJV

GREAT BARRINGTON – On Saturday, July 28 at 4:00 p.m., Hevreh of Southern Berkshire presents a *Sparkle Havdalah*. This free program, co-sponsored by Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, and PJ Library, is this year's signature children's event of Hevreh's four-day Jewish Festival of Books.

Families are invited to wear their sparkly best, and bid farewell to Shabbat with a special story time, featuring drag queen "Robin From Human Resources" reading Lesléa Newman's *Sparkle Boy*, which tells the story of a boy named Casey who likes to wear sparkly clothes.

Inspired by the national initiative, "Drag Queen Story Hour," this event aims to capture the imagination and play of gender fluidity and childhood, where parents and children can see people who defy rigid gender restrictions, and imagine a world where people can present as they wish, and where dress-up is real.

According to Hevreh's Rabbi Jodie Gordon: "An event like this is meant to demonstrate a commitment to diversity and this *Sparkle Havdalah* is very much in keeping with that commitment. Not to mention supporting authors like Lesléa Newman, who has worked hard to represent peo-

Although Newman will not be able to attend the event due to a scheduling conflict, she was on hand at a similar event held in January at the Lander-Grinspoon Academy, a Jewish day school, in her native Northampton.

When asked what having a drag queen read her story adds

performer, is particularly excited about doing the reading at a synagogue. "I think it says a lot about our changing societal climate, and about how (Reform) Judaism is ready to adapt with those societal changes. It's great to see religion and the queer community coming together in this way,



to it, Newman says, "a drag queen, by her very presence, illustrates the main point of the book: that sparkly, glittery, shimmering things are for everyone, and we all deserve to freely express ourselves through what we wear and how we present ourselves to the world."

For parents who might be nervous about bringing their child to an event like this, Newman says "I would ask the parents what makes them nervous. What are they afraid of? If the book inspires a par-

and I am honored to be a part of something so special to the community."

Robin's "out of drag" professional career is in theatrical education, working mainly with middle school age students between grades 6 and 8, "so it'll be cool to see these two worlds combine, working with kids while in drag."

At the end of the program, children and parents will enjoy a hands-on havdalah, and some sweet Shabbat treats. Although reservations

are not required – to make sure that they have enough for everyone – kindly RSVP by calling the Hevreh office at (413) 528-6378, or registering for this and the other festival events at hevreh.org. See the Hevreh website, Federation's

Berkshire Jewish Community Calendar online, as well as its *Berkshire Jewish Summer* guide, for more about all of the other book festival events.

A complete listing of events can also be found in the insert in this issue of the BJV.

IF YOU GO

Sponsors: Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, and PJ Library

Venue: Hevreh of Southern Berkshire

Date & Time: Saturday, July 28 at 4:00 p.m.



ple and experiences that are often overlooked in children's literature."

Newman is also the author of the groundbreaking *Heather Has Two Mommies; Mommy, Mama, and Me; Daddy, Papa, and Me; The Boy Who Cried Fabulous*; as well as over 20 picture books, and half a dozen others for middle grade and high school readers.

Rabbi Gordon says that "*Sparkle Boy* is the kind of book I want to read to my own children." (She has two girls, aged 2 and 4.) "It demonstrates the Jewish value of *b'tzelem Elohim* (of recognizing the divine uniqueness of each person) in terms that are recognizable, whether the reader is four years old, or forty."

Newman says that the book is intended for "readers aged five to 105" and adds that, although it isn't explicitly Jewish, "some of the Jewish values explored in it are kindness, loyalty, protecting those who can't protect themselves, and respect."

ent to do some soul-searching that's a good thing. The book is about challenging gender stereotypes, and celebrating everyone's right to be their authentic selves." She adds that "I have had more than one grown man read the book, grow teary-eyed, and say, 'I wish I'd had a book like this when I was growing up.'"

"Robin From Human Resources" – who will be reading Newman's book at the festival, and who describes herself as "equal parts fat, funny, and flawed" – definitely agrees.

"I honestly never remember having books like this when I was much younger," she explains. "I grew up in a small town in central Massachusetts that was definitely more on the traditional end of things than the progressive way of thinking. I think *Sparkle Boy* is helping to cultivate forward thinking regarding gender, gender identity, and the way we identify as people."

Robin, who has always been more of a nightclub

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CULTURE AND ARTS

Drama, Comedy, Documentaries, and Shorts at This Year's Berkshire Jewish Film Festival

Plus some Screening Committee testimonials

LENOX – The Berkshire Jewish Film Festival (BJFF), one of the longest-running film festivals in the United States, is proud to announce its 32nd season comprising screenings on six Mondays from July 9 through August 13, all at the Duffin Theater, Lenox Memorial High School, 197 East Street, Lenox.

Presented by Knesset Israel, BJFF will present thirteen films hailing from the United States, Israel, France, Ireland, Germany, and Latin America. All presentations are open to the public.

July 9

The festival opens at 4 p.m. with *The Oslo Diaries*, a documentary about a group of Israelis and Palestinians who secretly come together in Oslo for unsanctioned peace talks during the 1990s.

A Bag of Marbles (8 p.m.) depicts the story of the Nazi occupation through the eyes of two young Jewish boys struggling to survive on their own. Joseph, age 10, has such little understanding of the persecution of the Jews that he thinks nothing of swapping his yellow star for a bag of marbles. The boys survive on courage and ingenuity as they make their way through France hoping to reunite with their families.

July 16

At 4 p.m., BJFF presents the film *Levinsky Park*, a documentary about the tens

of thousands of refugees from sub-Saharan Africa who are seeking relief and safety in Israel only to find a society bitterly divided on how to treat them.

At 8 p.m., BJFF presents *Shelter*, a drama about two women—a Mossad agent and a Lebanese informer—who find themselves trapped in a labyrinth of deception, paranoia, and intrigue in this Israeli espionage thriller.

July 23

At 4 p.m., enjoy *Sammy Davis, Jr: I've Gotta Be Me*, the first major film documentary to examine Davis' vast talent and his journey for identity through the shifting tides of civil rights and racial progress during 20th century America. Davis was the most public black figure to embrace Judaism, thereby yoking his identity to another persecuted minority. New interviews with Billy Crystal, Norman Lear, Jerry Lewis, Whoopi Goldberg, and Kim Novak are featured with never-before-seen photos from his personal collection.

At 8 p.m., *Foxtrot* is Israel's bold and highly controversial Academy Award submission for Best Foreign Language Film. This audacious and brilliantly crafted critique of Israel's military confronts the absurdity of war through the ordeal of a young Israeli soldier and his grief-stricken parents. Nominated for 13 Israeli Academy Awards.

July 30

At 4 p.m., *Keep the Change* follows protagonist David as he struggles to come to terms with his own high-functioning autism. Unexpectedly, he falls for Sarah, a quirky and outgoing woman whose lust for life both irks and fascinates him. As their relationship evolves, *Keep the Change* blossoms into a refreshingly off-kilter story about the ups and downs of romantic life and the rewards of acceptance and mutual trust.

At 8 p.m., see *Good Thoughts, Good Words, Good Deeds: The Conductor Zubin Mehta*, a documentary that follows the dazzling international career of a musical maestro. Filled with stirring performances and interviews with friends, family, and colleagues, this globe-trotting biography is a magnificent tribute to a virtuoso and a true believer in the international language of music.

August 6

At 4 p.m., *A Classy Broad* is a film portrayal of the life and career of trailblazing Hollywood executive Marcia Nasatir, who broke through the glass ceiling as the first woman to serve as vice president of production at a major Hollywood studio. Nasatir championed such classics as *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Rocky*, *Carrie*, *Coming Home*, *Apocalypse Now*, and *The Big Chill*.

At 8 p.m., *The Cakemaker* tells the story of a gay German baker and his deceased lover's weary Israeli widow who are unwittingly united in grief by a closet affair. The pair seeks mutual catharsis in this compassionate meditation on the human urge for connection. Mature content.

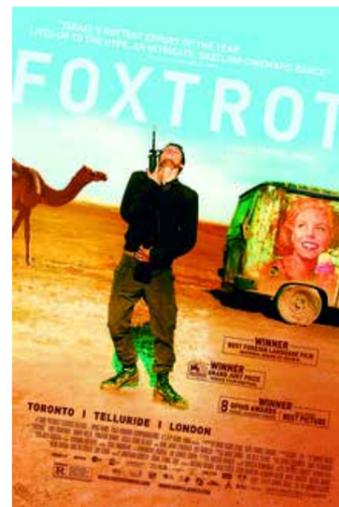
August 13

At 4 p.m., the short film *Hannah Cohen's Holy Communion* is the tale of a spirited seven-year-old girl from Dublin who can't wait to make her Holy Communion – the only problem is she's Jewish! The second short film is *To Be A Child Again, Israel*, a snapshot of Israel as seen through the lens of eleven children from different backgrounds and demographics. This candid view casts an intimate and personal light

From the BJFF Screening Committee

"If you have experienced the loss of a loved one or have tried to understand how it feels to be an Israeli and your children have to serve in the army, Israeli's award-winning *Foxtrot* will affect you deeply; it did me. It is a cinematic experience that never looks away from the hard truth of life and death in Israel, the army, what death does to a marriage, and the cruelty of chance. Nevertheless, it remains one of the most memorable films."

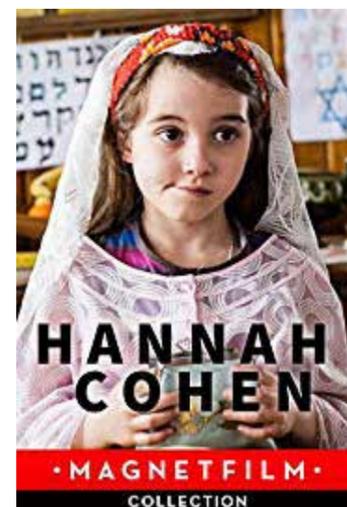
— Susan Miller



From the BJFF Screening Committee

"*Hannah Cohen's Holy Communion* is a delightful short film that completely charmed me. I found myself completely taken with this young girl who herself was intrigued by her Catholic friend's Communion party. I hope that her heart of gold will warm and surprise you, and make you smile as I did!"

— Laura Ferber Hazen



on Israel's youth—what they see, how they think, what they learn—and the astonishing impact their thoughts and lives have on their country and the world they will soon inherit.

At 8 p.m., the bittersweet and wistful road movie, *The Last Suit*, is the story of 88-year-old Abraham Bursztein, who feels that he's about to be put out to pasture by his children who have sold his house in the suburbs of Buenos Aires and booked him into a retirement home. Refusing to bow to family pressure, Abraham sets off on an adventure halfway around the world to find the man who saved him from Auschwitz and to fulfill a promise he made years before.

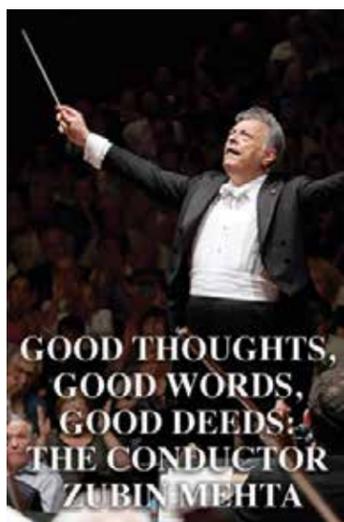
A poignant message of the enduring importance of family, friends, and honor.

The Berkshire Jewish Film Festival, organized and hosted by Knesset Israel in Pittsfield is generously supported by the Greylock Federal Credit Union, the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, the Spitz-Tuchman Charitable Trust and Berkshire Bank. All seating is general admission. Season passes are available at www.berkshirejewishfilmfestival.org or (413) 445-4872, ext 10.

From the BJFF Screening Committee

"If you are here for the music, aka Tanglewood, and you are here for the BJFF, we have a double delight for you. *Good Thoughts, Good Words, Good Deeds: The Conductor Zubin Mehta* is a captivating documentary that will take you on a personal journey of the music and the values that have made Mehta an international ambassador and natural choice as maestro of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. And wait until the interview with former concertmaster Chaim Taub – you will be moved to tears (I know I was) as he recounts a particular performance of 'Hatikva. Bravo!"

— Amy Herman



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CULTURE AND ARTS

Yidstock '18 to Feature Berkshire-based Ladino Songstress Sara Aroeste
Four-day festival includes concerts, talks, workshops

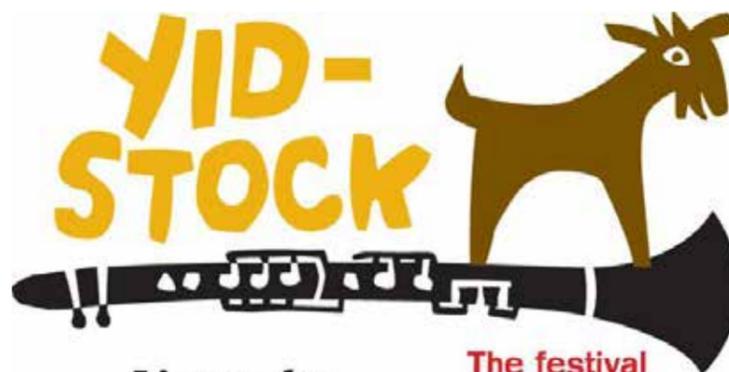
AMHERST – The seventh annual Yidstock: The Festival of New Yiddish Music will feature a headlining performance by David Krakauer's Acoustic Klezmer Quartet...

David Krakauer's Acoustic Klezmer Quartet, featuring the world-renowned clarinetist, whose playing can be heard in recordings and performances by the Kronos Quartet...

stripped-down and unplugged, forefronting his skills as a performer and arranger while enlivening a new Yiddish music for the 21st century by celebrating and dusting off forgotten masterpieces...

Talks and workshops during the festival include an exploration of Yiddish theater music with Hankus Netsky, founder and director of the Klezmer Conservatory Band...

And on July 14 at 1 p.m., the multimedia presentation "A Journey to LadinoLand" with international Ladino singer-songwriter Sarah Aroeste...



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CULTURE AND ARTS

Turn Park's Second Season

Founders of the Berkshires' newest art space are realizing their vision for creative community

WEST STOCKBRIDGE – It is fitting that one of the centerpieces of Turn Park Art Space is a sculpture of Don Quixote, as that particular piece embodies much of what co-founders Igor Gomberg and Katya Brezgunova are currently creating in an old marble quarry sited a stone's throw from Six Depot Roastery and Cafe.

For one, creating a new arts and culture destination in a region so rich in established institutions may seem like a distinctly quixotic pursuit. But what's really interesting about this Don Quixote is that, unlike so many of the clichéd portrayals of Cervantes's shabby knight errant, this Man of La Mancha is *really interesting*, both visually and in its back story. It was created by Russian artist Nikolai Silis, now a nonagenarian, and is reflective of his own struggles to sustain his creativity and artistic spirit in the Soviet era. The artwork languished in the sculptor's Moscow studio for years after Gomberg and Brezgunova acquired it in 2001, finally finding a permanent home when Turn Park opened last summer.

been to build a traditional collection of artworks, but rather to create a community of interesting people that we can share our life and inspiration with."

The site in West Stockbridge inspired love at first sight – it was the first place they investigated after deciding to create an art space. Ultimately, says Brezgunova, they hope to expand the number of cultural events offered so that Turn Park becomes the kind of place visitors will return to many times over the course of a season. Scheduled this summer are programs of dance, music, film, lectures, and also a Phoenicia Flea, what they describe as "a nomadic market of makers and merchants from the Catskills, Hudson Valley and beyond." Gomberg and Brezgunova invested their own money to develop Turn Park, and are now exploring funding opportunities that will allow them to sustain their vision for the space.

Upon entering the site, one is immediately aware that a distinct sensibility has shaped it. The entrance building and gallery is the epitome of "a clean, well-lighted space." A



Turn Park co-founders Katya Brezgunova (left) and Igor Gomberg (center, between Einstein and Niels Bohr), with Luke, Iosif, and Alyona

Although Gomberg and Brezgunova, who are married, own several of the sculptures currently installed at Turn Park, they say that they are not "collectors" and that the art space is more than just a showcase for artworks they have acquired. The couple befriended Nikolai Silis and say that Turn Park is their own effort to recreate the creative energy and community they experienced when visiting the sculptor's bustling Moscow studio. (In addition to sculpture by Silis, this summer Turn Park features an exhibition of his drawings.)

As they put it on their web page "Our main goal has not

pathway constructed over the rooftop of the building takes visitors from an intimate sculpture garden to more expansive fields, which feature an amphitheater made of



marble and also sculptural installations, some of them monumental and others tucked in corners.

Gomberg and Brezgunova are both Jewish, and their stories follow a pattern that was altogether too uncommon during the Soviet era. Gomberg's great-grandfather was a successful entrepreneur in Ukraine whose properties were confiscated by the Communist state after the Bolshevik Revolution. Many members of his family were killed in the Babi Yar massacres of 1941, and his family kept alive awareness of their background during the Cold War era, even as they downplayed it in order to better get by. Even so, Gomberg ended up having to enroll in college in Moscow because, as a Jew, he would not have been placed in a university in Kiev.

Brezgunova said she didn't know about her family's Jewish connection until she was fifteen, and began to inquire more about her family stories. "I learned that my grandmother had different names," she says, "which changed to allow more opportunities for the family." Their Jewishness "went without mention."

Gomberg operated a software business after the Soviet Union fell, and moved it to the Boston area in 2012 because of the political climate in Russia. In recent years, both Gomberg and Brezgunova

had their DNA tested. "Igor's DNA was 98 percent of Jewish origin," says Brezgunova, "and mine just a little bit less."

"The USSR destroyed Jewish traditions," says Gomberg, but as Americans, the couple has explored their Jewish identities, sending their three children to the Jewish Community Day School in Watertown and learning more about Jewish faith and values.

The couple is also using Turn Park to explore their Jewish connection. Last

mixes video with sewing and embroidering craft. His art shows are always colorful, avant-garde and outrageous." The installation will remain on view through October.

On Saturday, July 7 at noon, Maxim Frank-Kamenetskii, professor of biomedical engineering at Boston University, will deliver a talk on "The Jewish Genes," an exploration of the founder effect (the reduced genetic diversity that results when a population is descended from a small number of colonizing ancestors) as



summer, the space hosted a concert that melded Jewish *niggunim* (prayer melodies) and traditional Iranian melodies. The performance was conceived by Turn Park's artistic director, the composer Matti Kovler, who was born in Moscow, made aliyah to Israel with his family as a child and served in the IDF, was a Tanglewood fellow in 2008, and founded Floating Tower, a music theater production company based in Brooklyn that has staged performances around the world.

Floating Tower performed at the July 1 opening of a new installation "Inhabitants of Childhood," created by Uta Bekaia, a New York City-based artist originally from Georgia in Eastern Europe. As described on the Turn Park website: "Bekaia is a multimedia artist—in his work he uses various kinds of media. He combines performance with wearable sculptures. He

it relates to Ashkenazi Jews. As he explains: "Ashkenazi Jews are of special interest because of several population bottlenecks in their turbulent history. These bottlenecks entailed specific Jewish genetic diseases. Modern genomics and Jewish history studies complement each other in pursuing better understanding of the origin and the identity of the Ashkenazi Jews."

Professor Frank-Kamenetskii's talk is the first of a planned series of lectures on popular science, and reflects the diversity of programming that Gomberg and Brezgunova envision for Turn Park. "We want to exhibit interactive art for the whole family," says Brezgunova, "and inspire them to explore."

Turn Park Art Space is at 2 Moscow Road in West Stockbridge. Visit www.turnpark.com for more information.

PHOTO: BOB GITTLEMAN

PHOTO: COURTESY TURN PARK

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