Sam Glaser and “The Power of the Jewish Soul”
Celebrate Israel at 70 with one of the top Jewish musicians in the USA

LENNOX – 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.

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

LENNOX – 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 Court Yard 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 $11 (RSVP required).

Mission Impossible?
President 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 JFK 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 talk, President Suri 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 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 democracy might be reimagined for the future.
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 violent chants of white nationalistic 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 DIFFERENCES® 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 McCauley, 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 how to respond 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 DIFFERENCES® 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 very much in every community. This program gives us the tools to educate and raise above hate and intolerance in Pittsfield and beyond.”

I am so proud that our Federation is leading the way in helping 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 an 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:

“Wow! That’s fantastic! How on earth are we ever going to be able to do it again next year?”

First of all, thank you again, readers, for providing us with a high level of support via 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 unlimited generosity generally enabling us to defray (trudging) 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 make that happen.

“So for this year’s insert,” you say, “what if we...”

“What we did last year worked – don’t change a word!”

“If we want results, we have to keep doing what worked last year.”

“Do we have a choice?”

“Who said we have to do it the same way?”

“Why don’t we try something new?”

“Too risky! No, just stick with what we know works.”

Consequently, attentive readers of this year’s volunteer subscriber insert may notice a certain sameness in the stories this 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 continue to publish 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 we need your support. And so I will further economize by using this verbamit 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 to our color, while additional voluntary subscriptions help 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.
Rabbi Reflections

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

By Rabbi Levi Volovik

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 of 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.

Inuced 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 vibrant 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 driving the 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 are 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 campaign, 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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Letters to: Berkshire Jewish Voice, 196 South Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201, or email: stern@jewishberkshires.org.

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

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Published nine times a year by the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires

Dara Kaufman: Publisher and Managing Editor
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A publication of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, serving the Berkshires and surrounding NY, CT and VT

Published July 19, 2018
Advertising deadline: August 2, 2018

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MAIMONIDES, continued from page 1

and respiration, brain death and organ transplantation, problems in 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
Chairperson Dr. Stuart Masters says: “We are a fellowship of physicians, dentists, chiropractors, nurses and many other healthcare professionals who are committed to the highest ideals of the healthcare profession. We serve as resources to the general and Jewish community, wherever leadership may be needed, whether in areas of healthcare, education, community leadership, or philosophy.”

About Our Speaker
A native of Boston, Rabbi Sharzer graduated from Boston University School of Medicine. He completed a 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 Fullbright 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 Westmead Hospital, 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 Lambert-Moore Prize in Theology, and the Einhorn Award for a Hebrew essay, Jerusalem Journal 2000.


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 federations@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 kozupsky@jewishberkshires.org or (413) 442-4360, ext. 19.

On Monday, July 16 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires will present "Jewish Germany – Its History and Legacy." The program is presented by 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.”

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 2000 years. Secondly, to discuss Jewish Germany’s contributions to Jewish life and the human experience in general, including commercial innovations, the Enlightenment, Jewish, scientific discoveries, and cultural advances.

Dr. Levinson is a renowned scholar with over fifty years of experience. His research focuses on Jewish life in the 20th century, with a focus on Germany. He has published numerous books and articles on Jewish history, culture, and politics. The book "Jewish Germany – Its History and Legacy" is a comprehensive overview of Jewish life in Germany over the centuries, providing a rich resource for understanding the complex relationship between Jews and the German people.

Current Affairs: Contemporary American and International Politics

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

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

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

IF YOU GO
Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community
Venue: Knesset Israel
Date & Time: Thursday, July 19 and Thursday, August 2 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 2).

On Tuesday, July 16, the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires’ Connecting With Community series will present a program focusing on “A Horse Walks into a Bar: A Memoir by Avram Horowitz.”

The program is presented by Professor Steven J. Rubin, a well-known author and journalist.

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 Mizrachi (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 some years after 9/11. The book became a national cause when Israel’s Education Ministry decided to pull them out from the approved list of books for high-school reading. The Best Place on Earth by Ayelet Tsharbi collects stories that take place in Israel, Canada (where she lives now), and India. Themes include a summer of independence in Tel Aviv, 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... 1941-1948 or memoir of her life growing up in Romania during the Holocaust and the subsequent postwar Communist regime.

On Monday, July 23 and Thursday, July 26 at 10:45 a.m., Fedora Horowitz and Avram Horowitz will present "A Horse Walks into a Bar: A Memoir by Avram Horowitz." The program is presented by Professor Steven J. Rubin, a well-known author and journalist.

On Thursday, July 26, 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.

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A Horse Walks into a Bar is a memoir of the historical novel Jaffa Beach and Only Yesterday... 1941-1948 or memoir of her life growing up in Romania during the Holocaust and the subsequent postwar Communist regime.
“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 talking about the adventure of playing requests unrehearsed or delivering the many songs that they have performed dozens of times together... always, a fun time will be had by all.

David Grover spent many years as Hal 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 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, healing centers, cafes, 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).

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Director: Megan L. Finnerty

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 2006 play If This Is a Man, a one-man production created by and featuring actor Anthony Sher. Sher is often harrowing as he brings Levi’s words to life, and provoking in 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,

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. Of the 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 production...
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 themes 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 with 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, “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 unexplored challenges at all times… For the framers, however, the role was less time-intensive and more conscientious 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 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 posted 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 and social complexity.

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 “glide” as 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 Knobs & 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 office in 2016, Suri says “neither addressed the structural weaknesses of the office, which is that it has taken 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-exemplify 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 Knobs & Knowledge and find out more.

If You Go
Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires
Date & Time: Friday, July 20 at 1:045 a.m.
Venue: Hebrew of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Road, Great Barrington
Cost: Knobs & Knowledge program is $5. Fresh buffet lunch is $11. Advance lunch reservations required for this event.
Email: federation@jewishberkshires.org, or call (413) 442-4360, ext. 10

Your Federation Presents

Secure your Future. Enrich your Life.

Discover retirement as it was meant to be at Kimball Farms Life Care Community. Nestled in beautiful Lenox, Mass., on 63 stunning acres, Kimball Farms is conveniently located near Tanglewood and many other cultural attractions.

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• Memory Care
• Skilled Nursing Care
Call 800-283-0061 today to schedule your tour at Western Massachusetts’ ONLY Life Care Community.
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 Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, in Pittsfield, is part of the Federation’s Connecting With Community series.

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

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

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

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

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IF YOU GO
Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community
Venue: Knesset 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 rolling 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, Russia, and from Germany. Decisions 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 in the 1970s, and, in recent years, the rise of Islamic 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 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 / Connecting With Community
Venue: Knesset Israel
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 Knesset 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 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: Knesset Israel
Date & Time: Thursday, August 16 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 23).
SAM GLÄSER, continued from page 1

his energetic style and passion for song 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, Gläser 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 the United Nations and the U.S. 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 Songs We Sing, Hallel, Nigun/Voice of the Soul, Nigun/Voice, A Day in the Life, and of the Soul. His albums include Kol Bamidbar, Bridge, and Nigun. His sheet music includes the song “Great God Pan” and he has published four collections of lyrics and poetry, four musicals, three sheet music songbooks of his Jewish music and an SATB choral book, Gläser Musiaworks. In his cutting-edge recording studio, Gläser Musiaworks produces albums for a wide variety of recording artists and music for such networks as the WJ, ESPN and Frank. And he has a Berkshire connection. The home of Jane Gläser, 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 becomes old news. Physical, emotional, 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.

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 agonist 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 Knesset Israel, 16 Colb 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 timeless meaning. ‘We 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 understand the text. 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 facult

“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 Knesset Israel, 16 Colb Road, in Pittsfield, is part of the Federation’s Connecting With Community series.

At the outbreak of World War II, West Germany 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 will this small and once insignificant nation of North Korea, with a population close to 25 million people, become a threat, not only to America and South Korea, but also to the world? In this lecture, Rutstein will review the Korean peninsula’s place in its historic, political, and geographical context and explain this question.

Highlights of his presentations 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 history of North Korea.

David Rutstein is a graduate of the University of Vermont and holds a master’s 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, 1928-1967, Great Barrington, Massachusetts.

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 Knesset Israel, 16 Colb 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 Puddin, Belleville, and 4000 Miles. Diane 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 the producer/facilitator of the Anne Frank Theater Project for Jewish Family and Children’s Service of Philadelphia.

The Jewish Transportation Network

Discount Taxi Vouchers

for Jewish residents aged 65 years and older

Purchase $50 worth of taxi coupons for $5

($6 if requested via mail)

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

Some restrictions apply.

Purchase vouchers at the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires

196 South St, Pittsfield, MA 01201 (413) 442-4360, ext. 10

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

The Jewish Voice presents

Your Federation Presents

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

New Home? Second Home? Retirement Home?

Berkshire Jewish Voice, Pittsfield, MA 01201

Your Federation Presents

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

PITTSFIELD – On Monday, July 12 – the first night of Tammuz/Av/Elul – a local historian Lorraine German will present a talk about her new 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 family accounts to tell the tale of this Jewish farming community and which she uncovered.

This free program at Knesset Israel, 16 Coll 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 Berkshires town of Sandisfield since the 1970s. She and her husband, Steve, were members of the committee that published published Sandisfield Then and Now, a general history of 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 grand-parents, 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 Sandisfield: A Berkshires Farm Colony. Barbara Greenfeld, the book’s author, had spent many hours researching the town’s history in the roundups of stories about Jewish life that you will find in the Berkshires after the BJV published Flora Sandisfield: A Berkshires Farm Colony. 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 Suskind who brokered many of the sales.

Although the immigrants were extracted 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 country-side 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.

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

I was surprised at the architecture. There’s a big new building 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 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.

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).
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 hopes and fears for the future, and share yours with them.

Itinerary

Day 1
Canaan was once a storied port to rival Alexandria and Carthage. Gaze upon its past through the lens of the First Aliyah, and stay the night there at the acclaimed Elma Arts Hotel.

Day 2
In Haifa, visit Beit HaGefen, founded in 1882 by pioneers of the Second Aliyah, and hold its fruit in your hand. The winemaker Roni Saslove will join you for a tasting over steaming cups of coffee. 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 hopes and fears for the future, and share yours with them.

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 converse. 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.

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 communities together.

Day 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 full-time 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 Yaakov, 1 Yair Street, Zichron Yaakov, 3089260 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 6357252

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

Spend the Summer or the Year in Israel

ISRAEL TRAVEL & STUDY GRANTS FOR YOUTH

The Michael Nathaniel Shute Endowment Fund provides grants to Berkshire area youth for educational travel or study in Israel.

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 jewisberkshires.org

or pick one up at the Federation's office

196 South Street, Pittsfield, MA
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.

Seeking Compassionate Volunteers for NEW FRIENDLY VISITORS PROGRAM

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:
- Relatable, 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.

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 this 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 Canada. 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.

For more information, call (413) 528-4197, or visit www.ahavathsholom.com.
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 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 Joel P.G. Hirsch, who assumed her role as rabbi and head of the religious school on July 1.

Rabbi Hirsch has extensive experience with both formal and informal Jewish education. She most recently served as the rabbi and assistant director for EJ Essner 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 Hirsch grew up as an active leader in NFTY, Reform Judaism’s youth movement, which serves as the umbrella organization for youth organizations across the Temple’s youth group.

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

Rabbi Hirsch has a gift for teaching meditation and yoga to youth in a Jewish context. Rabbi Hirsch plays guitar and is a trained songleader. She loves to use music to teach, inspire, and create community!

Debora Cole-Duffy, immediate past TAA president, says, “Based on our history of offering 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 Hirsch bringing her special talents to oversee our school. While our students enjoy learning about Shabbat, festivals, and Jewish traditions and rituals, they are also eager to lead services, and offer means to challenge and inform their weekly Torah portion, even before celebrating their B’Nai Mitzvot.

Debora adds, “Our TAA Religious School offers special Pre-confirmation (8th grade) & Confirmation Class (9th-12th grade) meet twice per month. Religious School registration opens on July 15. Hevreh welcomes interfaith families. GKITQ 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.

**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 looking forward to introducing a brand new educational program, featuring the participation of local Judaica artists.

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

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

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

**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 Remble 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 children.

**Local News**

**Lunch and Learn at TAA**

Lecture series to cover a diverse range of topics

**PITTSFIELD** – Temple Anshe Amunim will host an inform series of luncheon 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?

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 end-of-life decisions 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 social justice are the poor and African-American citizens,” says Dr. Rosen. “This talk highlights her role in other constituencies who were beneficiaries of her activism – women and Jews. By broadening our focus we enrich our understanding of and admi¬ration for this remarkable woman and her legacy for spiritual and political growth.”

Rabbi 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 faces that wondrously Weiner. Follow one immigrant family from New York to Israel during the era through their move to New City. Research methods focus on the telephone reveal how they sur¬veyed 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 temppleoffice@ansheamunim.org or visit www.ansheamunim.org.
JEWISH EDUCATION IN THE BERKSHIRE 2018/19

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

North Adams

The Congregation Beth Israel Community Hebrew School includes the price of the ticket for the Blue and White Balloons fundraiser. The cost is $20. which includes the price of the ticket and picnic. Students in kindergarten through 12th grade are also involved in programs during the school year and summer. Activities include the price of the ticket and picnic. Students in kindergarten through 12th grade are also involved in programs during the school year and summer. Activities include children and their families. As she is a board member of the Zabbinim family, she works closely 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 skill through projects such as writing and designing psalm art. Torah story dramas, 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.chibebrewschool.weebly.com. Education Director Rabbi Jarah Greenfield can be reached at rabbijgreenfield@gmail.com.

The school prides itself on its commitment 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 Daavid Weiner, and the Wednesday afternoon program in conjunction with Rabbi Weiner and Rabbi Lu 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 ages 2 years 9 months and up enjoy programming on Shabbat mornings. A 45-minute class with a highly qualified teach- er features song, movement and Shabbat-friendly crafts. Students are kindergarteners and first grade also meet on Shabbat mornings, beginning their study of Hebrew, prayer, mitzvot and Jewish holidays. Afterwards these students join together for Purimful Play, a new program for the Knesset Israel that gives the young- est pupils a chance to learn creatively and experientially. A team of experienced primary school educators is working together to infuse this pro- gram 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, holiday traditions, and Israel 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 lead- ership of Jewish religious life. Instruction includes chanting Torah and Haffarah and lead- ing all Shabbat services and is complemented by a mitzvah project and the preparation of a short sermon for the morn- ing of the bar/bat mitzvah. High School: Students converse on Shabbat morn- ing for a morning of Jewish values. 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 en- hancement, etc. Knesset Israel’s KI, rabbi and Shabbat service. High school students also have the op- portunity to serve as teaching assistants in our Hebrew School, especially in Junior Congregation, the bar/bat mitzvah program, and Purimful Play programs.

This year Knesset Israel will be piloting new youth pro- gramming 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. Issues take place on select Sundays, Wednesday afternoons.

Fun for all ages and members as well as non-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 formal- ized. Registration for Knesset Israel’s Hebrew School will take place during the sum- mer months. Members and non-members are welcome, and Hebrew School and KI’s Hebrew School are an excellent gateway to becoming more involved in the community. Information about KI’s Hebrew School is available on our website. Interested families are invited to contact Judith Weiner at (413) 445-4872, or tweiner@knessetisrael.org.

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 father and son, Rabbi Joseph and Rabbi Koby Kopp. The Kopp’s family is known for their success in the field of Jewish education and programming. They will discuss the importance of education in the Jewish community and how it can be integrated into daily life.

On July 7, Sonia Becker 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 Becker, violinist, and Fania Dworkin, pianist, came from a rich musical family heritage in their beloved town, Vilna, Lithuania. When Nazi terror destroyed their family, they continued and 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 preserved and celebrated through music and education.

On July 14, join Eugene R. Fidel for “The United Nation’s Peace-keepers.” Some Revolutionary Thought on Hasidism, a new program for the Knesset Israel that gives the young- est 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.

Eugene Fidel is a pianist, composer, and speaker who has taught 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 author, have a home in Stockbridge.

LOCAL NEWS

Summer Outings with Temple Anshe Amunim

Join Temple Anshe Amunim on Saturday, July 7 at 7 p.m. for a special experience at Tanglewood as David Newman conducts Bernstein’s West Side Story. The Boston Symphony Orchestra plays Leonard Bernstein’s electrifying score live with the new- ly restored Steinway on large screens with the original vocals and dialogue intact. Look for the large screens as you walk on the lawn. Attendees will need to purchase their own tickets at www.bso.org.

On Sunday, July 15 at 5 p.m., CBIA 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.

Join Chabad for Special Shabbat Lectures

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

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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 Busell, co-president of Berkshire Hills Hadassah, "to honor the healing arts and our local community nurses for their great contributions to 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) 281-7240.

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 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.

Your Federation Presents

PJ Library at Cricket Creek Farm
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:

![Image of partners]
Superb Super Sunday Showing

Jewish Federation of the Berkshires’ 2017 Annual Campaign
GOAL $805,000

DOING EXTRAORDINARY THINGS
YOUR IMPACT IS REAL
ANNUAL CAMPAIGN 2018

Sam Glaser
AND BAND, LIVE IN CONCERT!

THE POWER OF THE JEWISH SOUL
Dive deep into your Jewish soul through Sam’s inspiring and contemporary take on Jewish music. Sam Glaser and his band will have you up on your feet for this joyful, feel good concert in celebration of Israel’s 70th birthday!

Sunday, August 5 at 7:00 pm
Duffin Theater, Lenox Memorial High School

General Admission: $25
Young adults under 30 are $20, Kids under 10 free
Proceeds to benefit the Jewish Agency for Israel’s Fund for Victims of Terror.
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 hor-midor 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 gratter of tree fruit, and his wife, Aunt Bea, was a phenom-enal 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.

While onion is sautéing, separate herb leaves from stems, wash and chop.

Instructions:

2 lb. rhubarb, peeled and cut into 1/2 inch pieces
3 cups parsley
1 teaspoon turmeric
2 medium yellow onions
1 lb. stew beef or lamb, cubed
2 cups of water

Ingredients:

Add turmeric, stir, and continue cooking for two more minutes.
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.
Adjust seasoning if needed.
Add herbs and fry them for about 5 to 10 minutes, stirring frequently.
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 beef. Season with salt and pepper. Brown meat on all sides.
Add 2 medium yellow onions, 1 teaspoon turmeric, 3 cups parsley, 1 1/2 cups mint.

—as adapted from My Persian Kitchen—

Khoresht-e-Reevas: Persian Rhubarb Stew

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.

—Family-Owned and Operated for Three Decades—

140 Melbourne Road, Pittsfield, MA 01201 | WingateHealthcare.com
Exploiting 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.

Schweitzer explains Schweitzer, “strive to reconcile this vicious treatment with the fact that French Jews suffered 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 “observed false assertion 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.’”

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 study and practice of Mussar for over 5 years and has trained with The Mussar Institute as a facilitator of Mussar for the present day, an ever-expanding number of communities and individuals are bringing the study and practice of Mussar for over 5 years and has trained with The Mussar Institute as a facilitator of Mussar for the present day, an ever-expanding number of communities and individuals are bringing the study and practice of Mussar for over 5 years and has trained with The Mussar Institute as a facilitator of Mussar for the present day, an ever-expanding number of communities and individuals are bringing the study and practice of Mussar for over 5 years and has trained with The Mussar Institute as a facilitator of Mussar for the present day, an ever-expanding number of communities and individuals are bringing the study and practice of Mussar for over 5 years and has trained with The Mussar Institute as a facilitator of Mussar for the present day, an ever-expanding number of communities and individuals are bringing the study and practice of Mussar for over 5 years and has trained with The Mussar Institute as a facilitator of Mussar for the present day, an ever-expanding number of communities and individuals are bringing the study and practice of Mussar for over 5 years and has trained with The Mussar Institute as a facilitator of Mussar for the present day, an ever-expanding number of communities and individuals are bringing the study and practice of Mussar for over 5 years and has trained with The Mussar Institute as a facilitator of Mussar for the present day, an ever-expanding number of communities and individuals are bringing the study and practice of Mussar for over 5 years and has trained with The Mussar Institute as a facilitator.
### 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 bestseller 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, emeritus 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, Semifeld, Larry David, and Jill Soloway).

No prior knowledge of the subject is required beyond having a sense of humor.”

Roth, Englander, Semifeld, Larry David, and Jill Soloway.

**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 native Jewish boy from Long Island, Steve survived the sex, drugs and rock ‘n’ roll culture and speaks candidly about it all.

**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 Shyra Model*, 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 playwriting 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 $815 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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**local news**

**Get Connected**

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**written by Robert S. Shamrock**

www.BerkshireTheatregroup.org

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**sent by Robert L. Shamrock**

www.BerkshireTheatregroup.org

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Summertime JTS Lectures in the Berkshires

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.

 Lorenz – 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 reserve 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 August 24, Dr. Raymond Scheinblond 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 $88, each separately is $22. 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.

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
Isrēlī Cellist and Artistic Director of Close Encounters with Music

Event Chairs: Elaine & Bernie Roberts

Host Committee:
(as of May 9, 2018)

Susan & Michael Albert
Marjorie & Barry S. Berg
Helene Berger
Nancy & Steve Bernsten
Mimi & Saul Cohen
Terry & Mel Drucker
Eliza Schickler Frueh & Larry Frueh
Jill & Harold Gaffin
Julie & Peter Gale
Jane Glauser
Joan & Paul Gluck
Miriam & Ronald Hinds
Marilyn & Elie Karzman
Shirley & Bill Lehman
Nancy & Noam Lipoff
Eileen & Stuart Masters
Feudi & Albert Rothman
Elaine & Ben Silberman
Lauren Spitz
Joan & Michael Ury
Judy & Mark Urow

Convert: $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.

Create a Jewish Legacy Campaign

Please remember the Jewish Community in your will.
Philip Franklin Heller, 73, well respected attorney

STOCKBRIDGE — Philip Franklin Heller died on Wednesday, May 30 following a long and courageous battle with cancer. He was the beloved husband of Andrea Heller, devoted father to Elizabeth Pyle, loving father-in-law to Jeffrey Pyle; grand parent to Lucy and Emily Pyle, and dear brother to William (Bill) Heller. Born April 15, 1945 in New York City, Philip received his bachelor’s degree from Adelphi University; did graduate study 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 Massachusettts’ Defenders Committee.

Philip then was appointed as special attorney for the Berkshire County District Attorney’s office, a position he held for 12 years. He then began his private practice in Lenox in 1976. In 1984, he formed a partnership with Frederick D. Rutberg; in 1986, Lori A. Rothenberg joined the firm. Philip continued to practice until the time of his death. He was well respected for his dedication to zoning law, encouraging local development while maintaining the historic character of the Berkshire area.

Philip was known for his generosity in providing pro bono legal work for many local non-profits, among them Shaker Heights Congregational Church and The Berkshire Theater Festival. He served on the board of the Ira M. and Christine M. E. 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 is survived by a niece of The Lillian Asnhe Amunim, where he worked the shoal for over 20 years. He is also survived by his brother Marvin Donald. A service, to be announced, will be held at Stockbridge Cemetery. Memorial donations can be made to Barrington Hebrew Knesset Israel.

Philip had a passion for antiques and was often seen tooling around Stockbridge in his prize-winning 1967 Austin Healey 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 anecdotes which were not only humorous, but of wit. 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 Shalsheles & Company, Berkshire Theater Festival, or the Edward J. Madden Open Hearts Camp.

Dr. Ronald M. Kranknick, just a great stockbroker

STOCKBRIDGE — Dr. Ronald Mark Kranknick passed away on Thursday, May 24. He was the beloved husband of Carla Joy (nee Yaffe), loving father of Alex Kranknick of Louisville, CO and Shirley Kranknick of Seattle, WA; and grandfather of Lucas Horace and Byrdie Kranknick.

Dr. Kranknick was a native of New York City and a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, an orthopedic specialist devoted to his patients, caring doctor, and a great human being. He took pleasure in the outdoors, passionate music fan, supporter of the arts, numerous book club, Scrabble snob, and scotch aficionado. He put his family first, was generous to a fault, gentle as a snob, and scotch aficionado. He was a man of few words, but his silence was sufficient to let us know we were loved and safe, and that we were a part of his loving circle of care. 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 planted.

Memorial services were held Monday, June 11 at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire. If you wish to honor him, please give to any of his following charities: Berkshire Horseworks, 101 Patton Road, Richmond, MA 02160; The Scadfares, Inc., Guiding Eyes for the Blind Canine Development Center, 361 Route 144, Patterson, NY 10508; or an educational or scholarship fund of your choosing.

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

GREAT NECK, NY — Arthur D. Winston, 92, passed away on Wednesday, May 23. 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 married2 David Davidson Winston in 2002. He was a member of Temple Sinai in Brooklyn, Massa- chusetts. Memorial donations can be made to Barrington Hebrew Knesset Israel.

His greatest pride in life was the result of working alongside his father, Arthur D. Winston Sr., to build the Sandisfield Arts Center in the Berkshires into a vibrant cultural 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 just the weather this year of this remarkable man as they stroll or play through the green spaci es Sandy worked so hard to rejuvenate.

Sandy is survived by his wife of 42 years and four daughters: Katherine, Elizabeth, Jennifer, Rebecca; four grandchildren; his brother, Liam, Andrew, Silvia, Alexander, Xavier, Anna, Brena, and Carolyn; and by his parents, Harold and Jean, and his brother Marvin Donald. A service, to be announced, will be held on Sunday, February 25 at Temple Sinai in Brookline, Massa- chusetts. Generous donations may be made to the Sandisfield Arts Center, 5 Hammermill Road, Sandisfield, MA 01255 via Levine Chapels, Brooklyn (at 617) 277-8300 or www.levinchapel.com.

Ira Yohalem, 77, generous contributor to cultural institutions

MILL RIVER — Ira Yohalem, 77, dedicated cultural and business ad visor, died on Wednesday, May 16 from a sudden illness. Born in Mt. Vernon, NY, Ira received his BA from the Uni ver sity of Florida, and PhD from Columbia University. He joined his father’s accounting firm in New York City, and moved to Sandisfield, MA, and later to Poughkeepsie, NY where he expanded and later merged with Anichkin, Block & Anichkin, a firm he presided.

A long-time second home owner in the Berkshires, Ira and his wife, Rozaline, lived a lovingly renovated an old home and then became full-time residents. Ira was a generous contributor to cultural in stitutions in the Berkshires. He joined the board of the Berkshire Playhouse, and later the treasurer of Barrington Stage Company. As an avid tennis player, he competed in tournaments at Wnyantucck 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.

He is survived by his wife, Shirley; his children, Matthew and Ira Yohalem, 77, generous
d of the book. He was very interested in history, his greatest interest was in World War II.

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Connecting with Community
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Enjoy an educational program followed by a delicious kosher hot lunch!
Programs take place Mondays and Thursdays at 10:45 a.m. Lunch is served Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays at noon. Beginning on June 1 and continuing through the summer months, the Tuesday kosher lunch program will be on hiatus. Tuesday lunches will resume in the fall.

Advanced reservations are required to attend lunch.

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

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

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

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

What’s for Lunch?

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, peas, 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 installation.
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 installation.
Lunch: Fresh fish**, borscht and potato, blintz souffle, asparagus cut 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**#, cranberry 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.

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.

Monday, 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.

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

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Calendar – Ongoing Events

Around the Community

Continuous – Chabad of the Berkshires “Smile on Senior,” 5-6:30 PM. Volunteer program to serve senior citizens in the Berkshires. Information for families who can benefit and volunteers: Rabbi Levi Volovik at (413) 499-8989 or visit www.jewishberkshires.org.

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.


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

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

Wednesdays at Knesset Israel – “Enhanced Prayer Class for Adults” 10:00-11:30 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 familiar 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, 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.cbishare.org.

Fridays, once a month at 5:30 p.m. (followed by a family style Shabbat dinner at 6:30 p.m.) – Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield. Shabbat (“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: rhirsch@hevreh.org.

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

MAZEL TOV

Mazel Tov to…

Lea 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 Kl 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 arts 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 Aminum.

Rosalyn 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, Rori Jo Frommer.

Isabelle Hofsstein on her extra-special birthday.

Ronald and Karen Rentner on the marriage of son Matthew Rentner to Amy Brower.

Carole Siegel of OLLI and Berkshire Children and Families (Lifetime Achievement) and Jay Weinstein 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 on an individual or individuals whose bold vision and transformative initiatives enrich the campus, the Jewish community, and the world.

Suzie 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 Aminum, 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 Michael on his special birthday.

51ST ANNUAL

HILDA VALLIN FEIGENBAUM MEMORIAL FOUNDATION LECTURE

SUNDAY – AUGUST 26, 2018 – 7:30 PM

Eyewitness to Power: Leadership in America

with Guest Speaker

David Gergen

Senior Political Analyst, CNN

Sponsored by

The Hilla Vallin Feigenbaum Lecture Endowment

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

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

Temple Anshe Aminum is an accessible building.

Temple Anshe Aminum – 26 Broad Street – Pittsfield, MA – 413-442-5910
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 Leslea Newman’s Sparkle Boy, which tells the story of a boy named Casey who likes to wear sparkly clothes.

According to Hevreh’s Rabbi Judie 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 Leslea Newman, who has worked hard to represent people and experiences that are often overlooked in children’s literature.”

Newman is also the author of the groundbreaking Heather Has Two MOMmies: Mommy, Moma, and Me; The Boy Who Cried Queer, 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 parent to do some soul-searching and they are 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 sparkly 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 55 Interlaken Rd (Route 183), Stockbridge, MA

It’s terrific to see our kids inspired to learn, and to see an education that is tailored specifically to them. We would encourage any prospective parents to check out BCD and all it offers. – BCD 3rd GRADE PARENT

Schedule a visit to learn more about our compelling curriculum that connects the dots!

berkshirecountryday.org

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.
LENNOX – The Berkshire Jewish Film Festival (BJFF), ongoing since 2001, has become 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 Stuller 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 ingenuity to survive on their own. 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 Ron Novak are featured with never-before-seen photos from his personal collection.

At 8 p.m., Duffin Theater, Lenox Memorial High School.

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 streaming into 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 Mosassd 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 Got To 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 Ron Novak are featured with never-before-seen photos from his personal collection.

At 8 p.m., Duffin Theater, Lenox Memorial High School.

From the BJFF Screening Committee

“If you are here for the music, aka Tanglewood, and you are here 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 concert master Chaim Taub – you will be moved to tears (I know I was) as he recounts a personal performance of Hatikva. Bravo!”
— Amy Herman

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 Brood 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 Confectioner tells the story of a gay German baker and his deceased lover’sewish 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.

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 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

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 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 movie, Israel Last Stand, is the story of 88-year-old Abraham Burzstein, 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.
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 that draws from and emphasizes the beauty of traditional klezmer dance tunes, ritual songs, and reflective melodies, all given the ineffable David Krakauer touch.

The four-day festival—July 12 to 15, at the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, Massachusetts—will also include performances by a diverse group of groundbreaking, innovative bands and performers: Heather Klein and Joshua Horowitz; Tseyv Birder, featuring Anthony Russell and Dmitri; David Krakauer’s Klezmer Madness Reunion Concert, with special guest Socalled; Beyond the Pale; Sarah Aroeste and Anthony Russell; and the Socalled String Quartet.

Yidstock kicks off July 12 at 8 p.m., with the chamber music-like sounds of David Krakauer’s Acoustic Klezmer Quartet, featuring the world-renowned clarinetist, whose playing can be heard in recordings and performances by the Kronos Quartet, Emerson String Quartet, Dresdner Philharmonie, Amsterdam Sinfonietta, Klezmatics, and the works of composer Osvaldo Golijov, among dozens of others.

Sunday, July 15, includes three concerts, including the closing performance featuring the Socalled String Quartet—a one-of-a-kind concert with Josh Dolgin (aka Socalled), the mad wizard of Yiddish hip-hop, on vocals backed by members of the Common Music Collective, playing newly commissioned transcriptions of classic Yiddish theater, folk, and art songs, some of which he discovered in the Yiddish Book Center’s archive of Yiddish sheet music from the early 20th century. The program presents Socalled as he’s never been heard before—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 for a new audience of music lovers.

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 co-chair of the Contemporary Improvisation Department at the New England Conservatory, on July 12 at 4 p.m.; a klezmer music dance class with world-renowned dance instructor Steve Weintraub on July 13 at 11 a.m.

And on July 14 at 1 p.m., the multimedia presentation “A Journey to LadinoLand” with international Ladino singer-songwriter Sarah Aroeste, in which she uses sound clips, videos, and live music to demonstrate how Ladino culture is still evolving with unique linguistic interpretations, modern technologies, and contemporary musical arrangements.

The full Yidstock schedule and ticket information can be found at yiddishbookcenter.org/yidstock. The Yiddish Book Center is located at 1021 West Street, Amherst, MA.
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 centrepieces 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 that’s what’s really interesting about this Don Quixote is that, unlike so many of the cliché portrayals of Cervantès’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 Sîls, 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.

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 Sîls 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 Sîls, this summer Turn Park features an exhibition of his drawings.)

As they put it on their website, “Our mission has not 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 Phoenixia 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 marble and also sculptural installation, some of them monumental and others tucked in corners. Gomberg and Brezgunova are both Jewish, and their stories form 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 their 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 Rîv. 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 soft ware 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 have 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 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 Koelew, 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 Bekaiia, a New York City-based artist originally from Georgia in Eastern Europe. As described on the Turn Park website: “Bekaiia is a multimedia artist—in his work he uses various kinds of media. He combines performance with wearable sculptures. He 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-Kamenetskiy, 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 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-Kamenetskiy’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 it 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.