Making a Difference in the World
Major Donors Celebration to focus on Federation’s anti-bias outreach in local schools

PITTSFIELD – The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires will host its annual Major Donors Celebration on Sunday, July 14 at 9:30 a.m. at the Country Club of Pittsfield, an event that year after year has demonstrated the tremendous impact major donors have on building and sustaining, Jewish life in the region. “We are thrilled that we have such a diverse group of supporters who understand the unique challenges a small community faces,” says Executive Director Dara Kaufman. “Our Federation could not possibly accomplish all that we do to meet essential needs across the Berkshires, in Israel, and beyond without the inspiring compassion, generosity, and leadership of our major donors. That’s why we are so grateful to David and Lorna Strassler for stepping up as our honorary chairs this year.”

This is an event to share experiences of how Federation impacts the lives of all the Jews in our community – both those who come for the summer season and those who live here year round. “It’s an opportunity for peers to share ideas on how to make a difference in a Jewish community like the Berkshires – small in population, yet one where the need for the essential services is as acute as anywhere else. MAJOR DONORS, continued on page 5

Out of Blackness, Into the Light
Susan Miller’s darkly provocative new sculptures illuminate the human cost of violence

Susan Miller’s first BJV profile (December 2016) focused on her dreamy Berkshire landscapes and her refined marble sculpture inspired by the Hebrew Bible. Her new series, “Lethal Bloom,” comes from a much darker place – her response to the spate of mass shootings that have taken place around the world in recent years. A work from this series, “My Calvary” (above), will be on view this summer in the SculptureNow installation at The Mount in Lenox. “This work came out because I am Jewish in sensibility,” says Miller. For more, please see page 28. (Photo by Larry Frankel for the BJV)

Bluegrass and Jewish Music Meet
Nefesh Mountain brings its Jewish / bluegrass fusion to Federation’s summer concert

LENOX – “Bluegrass and Jewish music meet and fall in love,” is what Bluegrass magazine had to say about Nefesh Mountain. Headliners of this year’s summer concert presented by the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. All are invited to come on down for an evening of peace, love, and toe-tapping joy! The concert will take place at 7 p.m. on Sunday, August 4 at the Dufflin Theater at Lenox Memorial High School. This year, all concert proceeds will benefit the Anti-Defamation League’s A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE program in Berkshire County schools. This event is sponsored by the Federation, with support from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. Thanks, as always, to concert co-chairs Norman Michaels and Judith Cook, who have once again stepped up to help bring exciting family-friendly Jewish entertainment to the Berkshires for a good cause. Tickets 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.

MAJOR DONORS, continued on page 5

“Thinking About Today’s Supreme Court,” with Linda Greenhouse
New York Times columnist, Pulitzer Prize winner speaks at July 12 Knosh & Knowledge

GREAT BARRINGTON – On Friday, July 12 at 10:45 a.m., Knosh & Knowledge welcomes Linda Greenhouse, who has covered the United States Supreme Court as a reporter and columnist for decades. Her topic will be “Thinking About Today’s Supreme Court.”

This Jewish Federation of the Berkshires program will take place at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire at 10:45 a.m., and will be followed by lunch. Please note: If you would like to have lunch, you must RSVP and pay in advance. Email federation@jewishberkshires.org, or call (413) 442-4360, ext. 10. to RSVP or if you would like information about this new policy. About her talk, Greenhouse writes: “I will draw on decisions from the Supreme Court’s current term, which will end in late June, to offer some observations about the direction of the Court; its relationship to Congress and the presidency; and prospects for the future, with a particular emphasis on the implications of the Court’s current focus on enhancing the role of religion in public life.”

Linda Greenhouse, continued on page 4

MAJOR DONORS, continued on page 5

NEFESH MOUNTAIN, continued on page 13
In My View

Williams College Controversy – On-Campus Anti-Israel Bias Hits Close to Home

By Dara Kaufman

Now that the academic year is over and students are on their summer breaks, the widely-reported on controversy involving a pro-Israel student group at Williams College this past spring may seem like old news.

The group, Williams Initiative for Israel (WIFI), was established “to support Israel and the pro-Israel campus community, as well as to educate the College on issues concerning Israel and the Middle East.” In an op-ed published in the Williams Record, supporters of the group stated that “our goal is simply to bring an additional perspective into the ongoing campus discourse.”

Despite WIFI’s meeting the all qualifications, the Williams College Council, the college’s student government, voted 13-8 not to recognize the group at its April 23 meeting. The vote was anonymous and the meeting was not live-streamed or video recorded, contrary to the council’s usual practices. The Council had not rejected any other quasi-recognized group in over 10 years.

WIFI’s opponents openly admitted, at the meeting and in follow up letters published in the Williams Record, that they did not want a pro-Israel organization to operate on campus. At the meeting, one student voiced the extremist and false proposition that Israel had perpetrated a genocide against Palestinians, with one going so far as to posit that Palestinians have it worse than Jews during World War II because “the purpose of these [World War II] ghettos were basically to control, segregate, and separate the Jewish people for short periods of time.” Even the council’s note taker admitted he did not enter “clearly anti-Semitic things” into the meeting minutes.

To her credit, Williams President Maud Mandel expressed disappointment with the Council’s decision in a statement posted on the office of the president’s website. “The transcript of the debate and vote indicate that the decision was made on political grounds,” Mandel wrote. “In doing so, Council departed from its own process for reviewing student groups, which at no point identifies a proposed group’s politics as a criterion for review. The decision also seems to be in tension with College Council’s bylaws, especially Article V, Section 3: Prohibition Against Discrimination in Student Organizations.”

The administration worked to help WIFI achieve recognition of equal standing through a parallel path outlined in the council’s own bylaws. WIFI is now a student association with the full rights as other campus groups.

Robert Leikind, director of the American Jewish Committee’s Boston region, noted in a recent commentary aired on WGBH-Boston: “Many students, including those on elite campuses like Williams College, look upon ideas they don’t like as violations of their safe spaces and see no problem in discriminating against, rather than debating, those with whom they disagree.”

Such anti-Israel initiatives have been advanced on college campuses across the United States, and we cannot be surprised that it is happening here in the Berkshires, as well. However, the ease with which university students are willing to dispense with free and open debate, a hallmark of the world of academia, in favor of open discrimination, often against predominately Jewish pro-Israel students, is deeply concerning and needs to be called out.

Federation’s work and messaging in recent years has included a focus on combating bias through education. Whether nationally or in our own backyard, our primary concern is for young people of all backgrounds who must have the freedom to confidently pursue their studies, share their opinions, and realize the potential that education can unlock in safe environments in which they are treated fairly.

As summer inevitably gives way to autumn, we hope to hear news that is more positive from the campus of Williams College.

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

Letters to the Editor

Women’s Foundation Helping Patients Get to Their Medical Appointments

Dear Jewish Women’s Foundation of Berkshire County:

We received your check for $1000 in May, and wish to extend our gratitude for your continued funding.

The support is so meaningful for those who are unable to get to medical appointments, especially for those who need appointments outside of Berkshire County. Having this assistance allows us to alleviate some of the overwhelming feelings people experience when they are without access to needed medical care.

Each individual who receives funding is sent a letter informing them that their Medical Appointments was established “to support Israel and the pro-Israel campus community, as well as to educate the College on issues concerning Israel and the Middle East.” In an op-ed published in the Williams Record, supporters of the group stated that “our goal is simply to bring an additional perspective into the ongoing campus discourse.”

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As summer inevitably gives way to autumn, we hope to hear news that is more positive from the campus of Williams College.

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

Just in Time for a New Arrival

Dear Jewish Federation of the Berkshires:

I am writing to thank you on behalf of the women, children, and staff of the Haifa Women’s Crisis Shelter for your generous donation.

Your donation was allocated for the sole purpose of buying baby and toddlers’ supplies such as diapers, wipes, baby food, feeding bottles, pacifiers, and more. These babies and toddlers reside with their mothers at the Shelter.

Your support came right on time, just weeks before one of the Shelter’s residents gave birth. This baby boy is the Shelter’s youngest resident – for now.

This year, 61 women and 61 children were treated at the Shelter. In addition, four women and their children resided at the transitional dwelling we operate. Of these children, 22 were under the age of three. Another 19 were under the age of six.

We are proud that most of the women choose to go to a non-violent environment when they leave the Shelter, and we hope they will not be victims in the future.

Sincerely,

Dina Herlin Dahan
Executive Director
Haifa Women’s Crisis Shelter

Thank you volunteers Ellen Rosenblatt and the BJV delivery team, Michael Albert, Roman Rozenblumy, Ron Turbin and Colin Ovitsky.
It’s About Time…

By Rabbi Barbara Cohen

The Talmud says “There is no before and there is no after.” The biblical use of the Hebrew letter ‘yod’ before a verb can change the future tense to the past and the past tense to the future. The Exodus from Egypt happened to all of us. We are to understand that we were all standing at Sinai to receive the Torah. That the sandals and clothing of those wandering for 40 years in the desert did not wear out…

What is our tradition attempting to tell us in so many different ways? What are we being called to understand about the flexibility and experience of time that is built into our consciousness in myriad ways, and yet so challengingly inaccessible…down to the grammatical philosophical/linguistic cue of using a single letter that makes time reversible by its mere placement before a word of text.

You will be reading this at the beginning of summer, our precious gem of a season. Nature is shimmering around us like emeralds, rubies, sapphires, and diamonds on the water, hills undulating with every shade of green, leaves and flower petals translucent, sky filled with sun and moon, rain and stars…our summers sparkling and alive with outdoor activities, music, dance, theater, and friends and good food.

Tell the truth. How many of you are already thinking about how overbooked you’re going to be? How many guests you’ll be hosting every weekend? How will you need a vacation from your summer schedule? How will it fly by and you’re going to be? How many guests you’ll be hosting every weekend? How you’re going to feel at the end of this summer? How your children will feel? How will you feel about the future yet to unfold? Suggestions ways to incorporate ‘now’, in trances of timeless ‘now’, experiencing an epiphany of the Holy One Being, a transformational moment out of time, a transmutation of my very material nature to one of more refined substance. I can only hope…

We have just come through the festival of Shavuot, commemorating the giving of the Torah and the offering of the first fruits of the season. We are called upon to count 49 days and bring daily offerings from the second day of Pesach and, on the 50th day, we mark this momentous holiday. In our spiritual imaginations, if each of us was standing at Sinai, experiencing the soul shaking and world changing events described in our Torah, how would it have changed us, if at all? We criticize our biblical ancestors who wandered between rebellion, awe-struck gratitude, and childlike grumbling about food variety and water. What would our stance have been? Would we have spent any time speechless and overcome by wonder at what we were a part of? Or would we have moved on, quickly distracted by the thought of what comes next?

I would love to think I would have stood stock still, in a trance of timeless ‘now’, experiencing an epiphany of the Holy One Being, a transformational moment out of time, a transmutation of my very material nature to one of more refined substance. I can only hope…

Letters to the Editor

Dear Jewish Federation of the Berkshires:

Thank you so much for providing me with the opportunity to join my class on a school trip to Israel. Being with my classmates in Israel was fun, and also a tremendous learning experience. Some of the places we visited were Shiloh, Masada, Ein Gedi, the Dead Sea, the Kotel, Hermon, Reber Rachel, the Shok, Tel Azaka, Latrun, Kfar Chabad, Ben Yehuda, Hash Hanikra, Acre, and so much more! These memories will remain with me for a lifetime!

Forever grateful,
Riki Volovik
Pittsfield

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

Dara Kaufman: Publisher and Managing Editor
Robert Bildner and Elisa Spungen Bildner: Honorary Publishers
Alpert Stern: Editor
Rose Tannenbaum: Graphic Design and Layout
Jenny Greenfeld: Advertising Sales Representative and Assistant Editor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

The color photography in this issue of the Berkshire Jewish Voice is made possible through the generosity of Robert Bildner and Elisa Spungen Bildner, honorary publishers. The staff of the Federation and the BJV are deeply grateful.

Paid advertisements do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires or its members.
Federation Plans for the Future
Our strategic planning task force gets to work this summer
By Judy Usow (Federation president) and Ed Udel (task force chair)

We are pleased to share that the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires is embarking upon an exciting and critically-important strategic planning initiative. The Board of Directors, cognizant of our Jewish community’s changing demographics, has authorized a thorough and thoughtful process to determine how to best meet our evolving needs and make the very best use of our community’s resources in order to sustain a vibrant Jewish future for the Berkshires.

A strategic planning task force has been formed to work with a professional consultant to produce a strategic plan that will help guide the Federation’s programming and activities over the next three to five years.

The task force is composed of board members and other community volunteers who have a solid knowledge of our mission and who represent the different constituencies within our Berkshire Jewish community.

Beginning in late June and over the summer into September, the task force, with the help of our consultant, will be reaching out to the community to seek input from a wide sampling of constituents and stakeholders using online surveys, focus groups, personal interviews, and other approaches.

We are committed to ensuring that our work is informed by the diversity of our broader Jewish community — including full-time and part-time residents, young adults and seniors, individuals and families, unaffiliated and those in interfaith relationships.

If you are contacted by our strategic planning task force and are asked for input, please respond and help the Federation to make the best use of the resources that you so generously provide each year by supporting our annual campaign.

We hope to present our recommendations to Federation’s Board of Directors by the end of the year.

This is an exciting opportunity to shape the future of our work together, and we welcome your participation.

Letters to the Editor, continued

Student Life at Hillel at UMass Amherst Nourished by Your Campaign Dollars
Dear Jewish Federation of the Berkshires:

Thank you so much for your generous support of Jewish student life at Hillel at UMass Amherst! Your support will enable more students to engage in Jewish life through our wide-range of cultural, religious, social, and community service programming. This programming includes:

- Shabbat and holiday services and meals
- Israel programming and trips
- Social justice programming and internships
- Bridge-building projects with other faiths and communities on campus
- Bridge-building projects with other faiths and communities on campus
- Jewish education through our 8-week Jewish Learning Fellowship.

I’d also like to highlight our innovative initiative called The Extended Family of Innovators and Thinkers, which is empowering less-involved Jewish students. Funding from Jewish Federation of the Berkshires helps young Jewish adults take ownership of Jewish life on their own terms and develop positive Jewish identities. Today’s UMass Hillel students will be tomorrow’s synagogue members and Jewish organizational leaders throughout the state. We are grateful to partner with you to create a vibrant Jewish future!

Rabbi Aaron Fine
Executive Director, UMass Hillel Amherst

Trust can provide a sense of security.

Research completed by Dimensional’s 2017 Global Investor Feedback Survey found the most important benefit that investors receive from their relationship with their financial advisor is “peace of mind.” Having that sense of security—and the knowledge that your advisor understands your financial situation—is invaluable.

Have a conversation with Gary Schiff, Managing Director, and discover the qualities that can help provide some certainty in these uncertain times.

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About Our Speaker
Linda Greenhouse is the Joseph Goldstein Lecturer in Law and Knight Distinguished Journalist-in-Residence at Yale Law School. She assumed this position in 2009 after a 40-year career at the New York Times, including 30 years covering the United States Supreme Court. At Yale, she is a member of the faculty of the Supreme Court Advocacy Clinic and teaches other Supreme Court-related courses.

She writes a bi-weekly op-ed column on the Supreme Court and law for the New York Times website as a contributing columnist. In her extra-curricular life, she is president of the American Philosophical Society and serves on several nonprofit boards. She is a graduate of Radcliffe College-Harvard, and earned a Master of Studies in Law degree from Yale Law School.

She received numerous journalism awards for her reporting, including a Pulitzer Prize in 1998 (beat reporting), the Carey McWilliams Award from the American Political Science Association in 2002 for “a major journalistic contribution to our understanding of politics”, and the Goldsmith Career Award for Excellence in Journalism from Harvard University’s Kennedy School in 2004. Her newest book, published in October 2017 by Harvard University Press, is a brief memoir, Just a Journalist.

Other books include The Burger Court and the Rise of the Judicial Right (with Michael J. Graetz), The U.S. Supreme Court: A Very Short Introduction (Oxford University Press); a biography of Justice Harry A. Blackmun, Becoming Justice Blackmun; and Before Roe v. Wade: Voices That Shaped the Abortion Debate Before the Supreme Court’s Ruling (with Reva B. Siegel).

Greenhouse and her husband, Professor Eugene Fidell (also of Yale), are part-time residents of Stockbridge.

IF YOU GO
Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires
Date & Time: Friday, July 12 at 10:45 a.m.
Venue: Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Road, Great Barrington
Advance lunch reservations and prepayment required for this event.
Email federation@jewishberkshires.org, or call (413) 442-4360, ext. 10.
MAJOR DONORS, continued from page 1

Donors have the chance to see all that this small community accomplishes, and fully understand the impact their support has on sustaining the vital programs Federation provides – care services and social engagement for area seniors, Jewish education for our children, camp and Israel experiences for teens and young adults, and engaging programming to enrich Jewish identity and connection for people of all ages.

This year, our featured speaker is Robert Trestan, executive director of the Anti-Defamation League’s New England office, who will be sharing an update on recent efforts to combat hate in the Commonwealth. We will also focus on the effort to bring ADL’s A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE-Institute Peer Training Program to students, parents, faculty, and administrators in Berkshire County middle and high schools. This collaborative effort with the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts and the Berkshire County Jewish Federation will bring the program to all 14 schools in Berkshire County.

David Strassler is vice president of Riverside Capital Management, and a general partner of Weston Associates. Management, and a general president of Riverside Capital for our 2019 Major Donors Strassler as honorary chairs of support of David and Lorna’s work in the Berkshires. We are so proud and honored to be a part of the Berkshires federation and to help to support the outstanding programs that it brings to the community. The partnership with the ADL in providing education to the schools against bias is outstanding, as well as educating the broader community in Jewish life and learning. We want to make sure that they have the resources to continue that important work.

We are also impressed with the Federation’s leadership in bringing the ADL’s A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE Institute’s anti-bias training and peer-led programs to the elderly and engaging our youth, supporting many in our community rely coming and caring Jewish management, and a general president of Riverside Capital for our 2019 Major Donors Strassler as honorary chairs of support of David and Lorna’s work in the Berkshires. We are so proud and honored to be a part of the Berkshires federation and to help to support the outstanding programs that it brings to the community. The partnership with the ADL in providing education to the schools against bias is outstanding, as well as educating the broader community in Jewish life and learning. We want to make sure that they have the resources to continue that important work.

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**Connecting With Community Programs/ kosher Hot Lunch**

Programs in the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires’ Connecting With Community series are free and start at 10:45 a.m. most Mondays and Thursdays at Knesset Israel (16 Colt Road, Pittsfield). Programs are followed by a kosher hot lunch. Lunch is a $2 suggested donation for adults over 60 years of age or $7 for all others. Advance reservations are required for lunch and can be made by calling (413) 442-2400 before 9 a.m. on the day of the program.

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

For further information on all programs, please call Nancy Maurice Rogers, program director, at (413) 442-4360, ext. 15. For lunch menus and a chronological list of all scheduled programs, please see page 26. Note that lunch menus are $10.45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 26).

**“Don’t Die Till You’re Dead: Becoming the Protagonist in Your Third Act”**

On Thursday, June 27 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires welcomes Sam Bittman, founder and creator of the Third Act Project, who will present about the process of growing older, positive risk taking, and the potential for spiritual, intellectual, and emotional growth. This free program at Knesset Israel. 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield is part of the Federation’s Connecting With Community series. The Third Act Project (thirdactproject.com) is a curated online treasury of material from the world of the arts that demonstrates with great certainty that, though our bodies grow old, risk-taking is still alive and therefore potential for spiritual, intellectual and emotional growth is endless.

Sam Bittman is founder and curator of the Third Act Project and both producer and participant in the video series, The Five Wise Guys, now in its second season. (The other four are actor Jeff Kent, bookman/storyteller Matthew Tannenbaum, author/playwright Daniel Klein, and actor Bob Lobhauer.) Born in New York City, he moved to the Berkshires in the mid-70s to raise his family. Trained as a playwright at the University of Iowa, he is also author of several non-fiction books and a young adult novel. He is grandfather of seven.

Bittman will play an episode from the current season of The Five Wise Guys called "Melancholy Baby," a short play written by Daniel Klein that has its characters asking: "How do we old guys make sense of life without kids?"

**A Hundred Acres of America: Jewish American Literature and the Sense of Place**

On Thursday, July 18 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires welcomes Professor Michael Hoberman, who will discuss his new book about Jewish American literature, A Hundred Acres of America. This free program at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield is part of the Federation’s Connecting With Community series.

Professor Michael Hoberman’s book A Hundred Acres of America, just out from Rutgers University Press, explores the relationship between several generations of Jewish American authors and the land. His talk will explain the theme and scope of the book, and it will also touch of some of its highlights. A Hundred Acres looks at work by highly-acclaimed authors such as Philip Roth, Allegra Goodman, and Jonathan Safran Foer, but it also discusses the contributions of lesser-known figures from the mid-19th century to the present day.

Michael Hoberman teaches American literature at Fitchburg State University and is the author of several books and essays on Jewish American culture, including New Israel/New England: Jews and Partisans in Early America (UMASS Press, 2011). He grew up in New York City, received his BA from Reed College, his PhD from UMASS Amherst, and has lived in Buckland, MA since 1996.

For further information on all programs, please call Nancy Maurice Rogers, program director, at (413) 442-4360, ext. 15. For lunch menus and a chronological list of all scheduled programs, please see page 26. Note that lunch menus are $10.45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 26).

**Israeli Authors, with Fedora Horowitz and Avram Horowitz**

On Monday, July 22, and Monday, July 29 at 10:45 a.m., join Avram Horowitz and Fedora Horowitz for discussions of work by prominent Israeli authors David Grossman and Dorit Rabinyan. 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 22, 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 29, Fedora Horowitz will discuss the autobiographical novel All The Rivers by Dorit Rabinyan, an Israeli author from an Iranian Jewish family. It’s about a love affair between an Israeli woman and a Palestinian Arab who met in New York not long after 9/11. The 2016 book became a national cause when Israel’s Education Ministry decided to pull it out from the approved list of books for high-school reading.

Dr. Avram Horowitz received a B.A. degree at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in Experimental Psychology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Horowitz publishes Israeli literature book reviews in Florida’s Jewish Journal and lectures on Israeli literature across South Florida.

Fedora Horowitz is the author of the historical novel Jaffa Beach and Only Yesterday... 1942-1958, a memoir of her life growing up in Romania during the Holocaust and the subsequent postwar Communist regime. A professional pianist, she continued her career in Israel and later in the United States. Her father’s premature death inspired her to write; she wanted to preserve his memories. Music and Literature are her message for peace and understanding in the world.

She is writing her Israeli memoir Between Dream and Reality, an Immigrant in Israel.

**IF YOU GO**

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community

Venue: Knesset Israel

Date & Time: Thursday, June 27 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 26).

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community

Venue: Knesset Israel

Date & Time: Thursday, July 18 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 26).

Knesset Israel
16 Colt Road
Pittsfield

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

CANDLE-LIGHTING
June 28......................8:16 p.m.
July 5..........................8:14 p.m.
July 12.........................8:11 p.m.
July 19..........................8:07 p.m.
July 26..........................8:01 p.m.
Current Affairs: Contempo-
rary American and Interna-
tional Politics

On Thursday, July 25 at 10:45 a.m., join Professor Steven J. Rubin for “Current Affairs: Contemporary American and International Politics.” This course will meet to discuss and explore current issues that influence our lives and society at large. This free program at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield is part of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires’ Connecting With Community series.

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

Steven J. Rubin is professor emeritus of international studies and former dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Adelphi University, Garden City, NY. He is the author of numerous books and articles, and frequently lectures both here and abroad on such topics as international anti-Semitism, Jewish history, popular culture, and literature.

His radio play “Dem Bums” (see page 26).

Intergenerational: The Process of Aging

On Monday, July 15 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires presents “Intergenerational: The Process of Aging” with therapist Maggie Bittman. This free program at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, in Pittsfield is part of the Federation’s Connecting With Community series.

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

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

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community
Venue: Knesset Israel
Date & Time: Monday, July 15 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 26).

“Exploring Jewish Humor,” with Dick Macht

On three consecutive Mondays – June 24, July 1, and July 8 – at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires invites you to join educator, writer, and raconteur Dick Macht for “Exploring Jewish Humor.” This free program at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield is part of the Federation’s Connecting With Community series.

The series begins on June 24 with “Hershele Ostropoler and The Wise Men of Chelm.” Hershele Ostropoler, a “shoichet” in the Polish town of Ostropol, is one of the poorest of the poor who earned his livelihood by making fun of the Jewish community and rabbis. He was a great Jewish clown and his clever witticisms and satirical remarks have survived to this day. Chelm in Poland was the legendary Jewish town of fools and innocents, nebechs, shlimazels, and shlemiels.

On July 1, Macht speaks about Isaac Bashevis Singer, who is known for his writings delighting in Jewish religious customs that are filled with humor and psychological skepticism. When asked at a synagogue where he was giving a lecture, “Mr. Singer, are you a vegetarian for health reasons?” His reply was, “Yes, for the health of the chicken.”

Macht concludes the series on July 8, with a talk on Sholom Aleichem. Considered the father of modern Yiddish literature, he was a cultural hero of Eastern European Jews who wrote about their virtues and shortcomings with humor. Once seen talking to himself, a friend remarked, “Sholom, don’t you realize you’re talking to yourself?” To which Sholom replied, “And what if I do? I’ve finally found a clever person to talk to and you have to butt in!”

The Rise and Demise of the Brooklyn Dodgers” was broadcast live on National Public Radio in December 2017 and can currently be heard online.

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community
Venue: Knesset Israel
Date & Time: Thursday, July 25 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 26).

The Modern History of Congressional Investigations

On Thursday, July 11 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires hosts political pundit Jeffrey S. Robbins for talk titled “The Modern History of Congressional Investigations.” This free program at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield is part of the Federation’s Connecting With Community series.

The battle between the White House and Congress over Congressional investigations continues to be a part of the American political landscape. In this uniqueness, the Branches of government have acted as checks on one another, raising the specter of impeachment and the potential for political partisanship to a level rarely seen in a capital already known for its partisanship. In this capacity, former Chief Counsel to the Democratic Senators on the United States Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, former Assistant U.S. Senator Attorney and Visiting Assistant Professor of Practice in Hamline University’s Political Science Department, will trace the modern history of congressional investigations into the Executive Branch, highlighting the historic clashes between Congress and the President on how the current clash resembles, and differs from, those in recent history.

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community
Venue: Knesset Israel
Date & Time: Thursday, July 11 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 26).

Therapist Maggie Bittman

Jewish War Vets Marched in Memorial Day Parade

Members of the local Louis Green Post #140 of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America marched in the May 27 Memorial Day parade in Pittsfield. From left: Gary Turetsky, Morty Lapin (in auto), Post Commander Bob Wuldheim, new recruit Casey Nodel, and Irwin Mossef.
**Meet Jill Goldstein, Our New Social Worker**

The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires recently welcomed Jill Goldstein, LICSW, to her new position as community social worker. In this role, Jill will support the Jewish community in all areas of social work, including information referrals, outreach, and case management.

Jill’s services are contracted by the Federation on behalf of the Berkshire Jewish community through Jewish Family Service of Western MA (JFS) in Springfield.

Life can present challenges, both expected and unexpected. Sometimes a little help along the way can make things easier. The Federation has identified the most immediate challenges are those faced by older adults, many of whom are aging in place in Berkshire County that allows for its elders, “We need,” she says, explaining that she can help formulate care plans that can be followed while family members are elsewhere. Jill says she’s also available to check in on residents who may be in nursing homes or assisted living facilities.

“Federation does so much for its elders,” she says, adding that she was particularly impressed with the transportation voucher program funded by the Jewish Women’s Foundation of Berkshire County that allows older adults to more easily get around the Berkshires, thereby fostering more independence.

Right now, Jill says, she continues to learn about the resources available, and adds that she is available to arrange consultations at the Federation’s office and remotely. For more information, please email Jill Goldstein at j.goldstein@jfswm.org, or call at (413) 442-4360, ext. 17.

**Your Federation Presents**

**“Choosing Enemies: The Jews of Palestine in the Second World War.”**

Knosh & Knowledge hosts Dr. Louis Levine on June 28

GREAT BARRINGTON – On Friday, June 28 at 10:45 a.m., Knosh & Knowledge welcomes Dr. Louis D. Levine, the founding director of Collections and Exhibitions at the Museum of Jewish Heritage A Living Memorial to the Holocaust in New York City.

This Jewish Federation of the Berkshires program will take place at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire at 10:45 a.m., and will be followed by lunch.

Please note: If you would like to have lunch, you must RSVP and pay in advance. Email federation@jewishberkshires.org, or call (413) 442-4360, ext. 10, to RSVP or if you would like information about this new policy.

Says Dr. Levine: “As war between Britain and Germany broke out in 1939, the Jews of Palestine faced a dilemma – should they continue to oppose the British who had just passed draconian anti-Jewish legislation, or join with them to fight Hitler, the Germans, and their allies. We will look at some of the decisions that were made, and some of the ways that the Jews of Palestine participated in the war against the Axis. Special attention will be paid to the ‘parachutists,’ the small group that penetrated the Axis lines and what their missions hoped to accomplish.”

Prior to retirement, Dr. Levine served as the founding director of Collections and Exhibitions at the Museum of Jewish Heritage from 1998 to 2011, where he was responsible for 25 exhibitions about Jews in the 20th century. These included the award-winning “Ours To Fight For: American Jews in the Second World War.” “Scream the Truth at the World: Emanuel Ringelblum and the Hidden Archive of the Warsaw Ghetto,” and “Fire in My Heart: The Story of Hannah Senesh.” He also taught at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the University of Copenhagen, held a Fulbright Fellowship in Iran, and was a Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Dr. Louis D. Levine

He has written or edited seven books and dozens of articles and book reviews in the fields of Holocaust studies, museum studies, archaeology, and ancient history.

He is currently preparing a biography of Hannah Senesh.

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires

Date & Time: Friday, June 28 at 10:45 a.m.

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

Cost: $11 with fresh buffet lunch, free admission to program only.

Advance lunch reservations and prepayment required for this event. Email federation@jewishberkshires.org, or call (413) 442-4360, ext. 10

**Nurturing wonder. Building skills.**

"...to make schools more human and learning utterly meaningful...school should be a magical place, full of wonder and joy."

BCC New Head of School, Jennifer Fox

**Berkshire Jewish Voice • jewishberkshires.org June 24 to July 28, 2019**

**“Hey. That wasn’t so bad.”**

Yeah. We get that a lot.
Why the Vote Mattered and Why It Didn’t

Thinking beyond suffrage on the centennial of the 19th amendment.

PITTSFIELD – July 11 at 3 p.m., Temple Anshe Amunim will host a talk by Dr. Robyn Rosen marking the 50th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment, which gave women the right to vote.

In this lunch and learn series, Dr. Rosen will examine the suffrage victory in the broader context of concerns and demands that women brought forward from the 1890s through 1970s. Dr. Rosen is a professor of history at Marist College, where she has taught U.S. history, women’s history, and women’s studies. She earned her B.A. in American Studies from Brandeis University and her Ph.D. in history from Binghamton University.

Her research focuses on American women’s political and social movements. Her public works in this area includes articles in scholarly journals as well as a book entitled, Reproductive Health, Reproductive Rights: Reformers and the Public Policy Debate, 1917-1940, published in 2003.

In addition to this work, Robyn has also edited a textbook in the field of Women’s Studies, entitled Women’s Studies in the Academy: Origins and Impact, published in 2004.

GREAT BARRINGTON – On Monday, July 8, in the Berkshires will host Sassy Reuven, a veteran of the Israeli Defense Special Operation Forces who served in the IDF’s elite “Red Beret” paratrooper unit during the terror filled years of 1973-1976. He participated in several covert operations in Israel’s struggle against Arab terrorism.

This event will be held at the Holiday Inn, One West Street in Pittsfield.

In July of 1976, Sassy participated in the famed Entebbe counterterrorist hostage-rescue mission, code named “Operation Thunderbolt.”

A week earlier, on June 27, 1976, Sassy was hijacked, by members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the German Revolutionary Cells, and flown to Entebbe, the main airport of Uganda. More than 100 Israeli and Jewish passengers remained hostages and were threatened with death.

Israeli transport planes carried 100 commandos over 2,500 miles to Uganda for the rescue operation, which took place at night. The operation lasted 90 minutes, and 102 hostages were rescued. Five Israeli commandos were wounded and one, the unit commander, Lt. Col. Yonatan Netanyahu, was killed. All the hijackers, three hostages and 45 Ugandan soldiers were killed.

Sassy Reuven will share his personal experience, step by step from the moment he was called to duty and prepared for the mission, to landing in Uganda and engaging in the mission behind enemy lines. Says Chabad co-director Rabbi Levi Volovik: “Sassy Reuven’s story is Israel’s story: of courage, endurance, defi- ance, and a willingness to sac- rifice it all for the right to live in your homeland in freedom.”

Cost is $15 in advance. $20 at the door. Please RSVP via jewishteacheshires.com. Call (413) 499-9899 for more information.

The event is sponsored in part by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

Hevreh Celebrates Member Shelley Rolf with Tzedek Circle of Honor

GREAT BARRINGTON – On Saturday, July 6, Hevreh of the Berkshires will host Shelley Rolf with Tzedek Circle of Honor. This honor is bestowed upon members who exemplify Hevreh values and a commitment to the broader Jewish community. A gala evening begins with a picnic (including food, entertainment, music, and more) at 4:30 p.m., to be followed by a Kabbalat Shabbat service at 6 p.m.

The event will be held at the Hevreh, 102 Main Street in Great Barrington.

Rabbi Eric Gurvis, a Senior Rabbi Fellow of the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, has studied and practiced Mussar for over 6 years and has trained other rabbinic leaders. He has written Mussar sermons and Sunday school lessons and he has authored Mussar articles and a Mussar blog for a Jewish newspaper. In 2014, Rabbi Gurvis was named a Senior Rabbi Fellow, an honor that animated women reformers from the 1920s through 1970s.

Hassidic Rebbe Shneur Zalman of Liadi, known as the Mitteler Rebbe, authored the book, Chovos Ha’maasim: A Journey into the Jewish Road to Character, in 1779. It is the work of new playwrights, contemporary efforts at reclaiming mussar for our day.

The teaching is inspired by the work of The Mussar Institute and other contemporary teachers.

“Study and Practice of Mussar.” The teaching is inspired by the work of The Mussar Institute and other contemporary teachers.

The cost for this series is $180. At the first meeting and its influence on what happened at that meeting and its influence on the development of the atom bomb.

The program will include a hands-on workshop, teaching partici- pants the secret to baking great tast- ing challah from scratch and exploring the symbolic meaning behind this special bread.

This event will be held at the Chabad House, at 450 South Street in Pittsfield. Cost is $18 per person. RSVP required at www.jewish-berkshires.org or by calling (413) 499-9899.

Play Analysis Series with Dr. Barbara Waldinger

PITTSFIELD – Temple Anshe Amunim will host a four-part play analysis series enti- tled “Fascism’s Grip” on Tuesday evenings starting July 12 at 6:13 and 30 at 10 a.m. The series will conclude on July 26. Dr. Barbara Waldinger will lead discussion and analysis of plays from the first two dec- ades of the class will focus on Bertolt Brecht’s “The Private Life of the Master Race,” the first of Brecht’s anti-Nazi works. It premiered in Paris in 1938, during Brecht’s exile from Germany. We will be reading several of the short plays contained in this depiction of life in 1930s Germany under National Socialism.

The second half of the course focuses on Michael Frayn’s “Copenhagen,” which premiered in London in 1998, on Broadway in 2000, and became a BBC film in 2002.

Based on a 1953 meeting in Copenhagen between the Nobel Prize-winning phys- icists Niels Bohr, a Danish Jew, and Werner Heisenberg (a German), this play takes place after the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings at that meeting and its influence on the development of the atom bomb.

Dr. Waldinger: a direc- tor 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 seventeenth year as artis- tic director of HR Showcase Theatre in Houston, which is dedicated to staged read- ings of the five winners of its annual nationwide playwriting contest. Waldinger directed 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-ses- sion course is $40 for mem- bers, $45 for not-yet-mem- bers; or $15 per session.

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

Behind Enemy Lines: The Raid on Entebbe Remembered by IDF Paratrooper

Sassy Reuven: “Rabbi Levy Volovik: ‘Sassy Reuven’s story is Israel’s story: of courage, endurance, defi- ance, and a willingness to sac- rifice it all for the right to live in your homeland in freedom.’

PITTSFIELD – On Sunday, July 7 at 12 p.m., Chabad of the Berkshires will host Sassy Reuven, a veteran of the Israeli Defense Special Operation Forces who served in the IDF’s elite “Red Beret” paratrooper unit during the terror filled years of 1973-1976. He participated in several covert operations in Israel’s struggle against Arab terrorism.

This event will be held at the Holiday Inn, One West Street in Pittsfield.

In July of 1976, Sassy participated in the famed Entebbe counterterrorist hostage-rescue mission, code named “Operation Thunderbolt.”

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Sassy Reuven will share his personal experience, step by step from the moment he was called to duty and prepared for the mission, to landing in Uganda and engaging in the mission behind enemy lines. Says Chabad co-director Rabbi Levi Volovik: “Sassy Reuven’s story is Israel’s story: of courage, endurance, defi- ance, and a willingness to sac- rifice it all for the right to live in your homeland in freedom.”

Cost is $15 in advance.

The event is sponsored in part by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

“The Jewish Road to Character: A Journey into the Study and Practice of Mussar”

GREAT BARRINGTON – For nine sessions starting on Friday, July 12 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Rabbi Eric Gurvis will be at Hevreh of the Berkshires to lead a series titled “The Jewish Road to Character: A Journey into the Study and Practice of Mussar.” The teaching is inspired by the work of The Mussar Institute to offer contempo- rary efforts at reclaiming mussar for our day.

The cost for this series is $1680. At the first meet- ing on July 12, Rabbi Gurvis and participants will together determine the schedule for the remaining eight sessions.

Says Rabbi Gurvis: “Over the summer of 2019, we will delve into the study and practice of Mussar – the wisdom for our lives as Jews and as human beings on a weekly basis. In our confusing and contentious time, many are seeking 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.”

Rabbi Gurvis is a Senior Rabbi Fellow of the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem. He has studied and practiced Mussar for over 6 years and has trained other rabbinic leaders. He has written Mussar sermons and Sunday school lessons and he has authored Mussar articles and a Mussar blog for a Jewish newspaper. In 2014, Rabbi Gurvis was named a Senior Rabbi Fellow, an honor that animated women reformers from the 1920s through 1970s.

All you KNEAD to know about Challah

PITTSFIELD – An awesome challah bake will be led by Sara Vidovsk, co-director of Chabad of the Berkshires, on Monday, July 10, at 12:30 p.m. Challah, a leavened loaf tradi- tionally eaten by Jews on Shabbat and holidays, “evokes warm sentiments,” says Rabbi Neil Hirsch. “Challah embodies the spirit of Hevreh in so very many ways and it is our honor to welcome everyone to the Hevreh community.”

To buy tickets for the event or participate in the trib- ute journal for Shelley, go to hevreh.org/tzedekcircle or call Hevreh at (413) 528-6378.

Hevreh is at 270 State Road in Great Barrington.
GREAT BARRINGTON – On consecutive Sundays starting July 28 and continuing August 4, 11, 18, and 25, Hevreh of Southern Berkshire’s spiritual leaders Rabbi Neil Hirsch and Rabbi Jodie Gordon will present a course exploring the elements that make American Reform Judaism distinct and vibrant.

Courses will be held at 9 a.m. – cost is $85 for this series.

Using a new curriculum released by the Reform Movement, the rabbis will study text and learn via video lectures with many of the leading Jewish thinkers in America today, exploring the Reform Movement’s history, theology, development of prayer, and its mission in this world.

Advanced registration required. Visit hevreh.org/summer or call (413) 526-6378.

Scholar in Residence Weekend with Pardes Institute Educator Yiscah Smith

PITSFIELD & GREAT BARRINGTON – From Thursday, June 27 through Sunday, June 30, Hevreh of Southern Berkshire welcomes Yiscah Smith as its scholar in residence for a special weekend of lectures and study.

Yiscah Smith, educator at Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, is dedicated to the pursuit of authentic Jewish living. She will share her personal story of the joys and struggles in encountering her own inner Divine spark. Having transitioned from a restricted, sumptuous woman, she exemplifies what it means to carve one’s own path: understanding one’s inner being and cultivating the integrity to remain faithful to that understanding unapologetically. As a spiritual trailblazer carving and continually defining her path, Yiscah encourages and empowers others to journey through Jewish sources of inspiration and discovery.

“Fifty Years In the Wilderness: My Journey to Authentic Living”

In this session on Thursday, June 27 at 7 p.m. at Temple Anshe Amunim in Pittsfield, Yiscah will recount her personal life story, based on her memoir, Forty Years in the Wilderness: My Journey to Authentic Living. Yiscah’s 40-year memoir details her joys and struggles with her own spirituality, gender identity, and commitment to living true to herself. The story she tells is one of a man, facing his truth, embracing the woman she was always meant to be, and returning to her faith with wholeness and authenticity. Yiscah will discuss as well sources of inspiration in the Jewish tradition for authentic living.

This event is being presented in collaboration with Temple Anshe Amunim, Knesset Israel, and the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. Temple Anshe Amunim is at 26 Broad Street in Pittsfield.

Jewish Living as the Cultivation of a Spiritual Practice

On Friday, June 28 following the 5:45 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat services at Hevreh, 270 State Road in Great Barrington, all are invited to join Yiscah Smith for a talk that explores excerpts from the writings of Rabbi Kalonymus Kalman Shapira, the Piaseczna Rebbe (d.1943), teachings that describe Jewish living and tradition as the cultivation of a spiritual practice. The Piaseczna Rebbe’s inspirational and progressive ideas discuss mankind’s inherent spiritual nature, how we awaken to the Divine presence within us, and how we can integrate this awareness into a fuller mind, body and soul experience in our lives. There is no cost for this program.

“Developing Sacred Chutzpah” – Kiddush and Lunch N Learn

On Saturday, June 29 following Shabbat morning services that begin at 10 a.m. at Hevreh, Yiscah Smith will talk about “Sacred or Holy Audacity/Brazenness/Chutzpah.”

“There is something deeprooted, a fundamental matter, that without it, one’s spiritual journey – the entirety of a life journey in general – is not able to succeed,” says Smith. “This session explores amazing texts that pass cultivating the self-confidence, trusting in one’s self and developing a ‘different spirit’ that challenges the status quo power construct.”

“Lech Lecha – Go to Yourself: Heeding the Still Small Voice Within”

On Sunday, June 30 at 10 a.m., the concluding session of Hevreh’s scholar in residence weekend will explore the spiritual practice of ‘Lech Lecha’ with Yiscah Smith.

“Lech Lecha is moving away from one sense of self – the finite self, the ego based self, the limited self – towards another sense of self – the infinite self, the beyond ego self, the limitless self. Yet, why would a person move away from the familiar to an unknown destination? A light brunch will be served.

All events are free and open to the public.

Enjoy the Berkshires Summer with TAA Outings

Temple Anshe Amunim is hosting several events this summer that are open to those interested.

TAA Picnic at Pittsfield Suns Baseball Game

On Sunday, June 30 at 5:00 p.m., bring the whole family and Temple Anshe Amunim for baseball, a pic-nic, and a lot of fun watching our home team, the Pittsfield Suns, at Wahconah Park, 105 Wahconah Street, Pittsfield. Please RSVP to the Temple office at (413) 442-5910 by June 29, or email templeoffice@ansheamunim.org. Admission to both the game and picnic is $20 per person or $10 for children 10 and under.

Tanglewood Summer Sundays – Young Families Meet Up

On Sunday, July 14 at noon, Temple Anshe Amunim will be at Tanglewood in Lenox for a young families meet up. Bring a picnic, enjoy the arts, and stay for the concert. Look for the blue and white balloons on the lawn – if you make arrangements, someone will welcome you and point the way to our gathering.

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

LOCAL NEWS

“Life of Meaning: Exploring the Sacred Path of Reform Judaism,” and Other Classes at Hevreh

GREAT BARRINGTON – On consecutive Sundays starting July 28 and continuing August 4, 11, 18, and 25, Hevreh of Southern Berkshire’s spiritual leaders Rabbi Neil Hirsch and Rabbi Jodie Gordon will present a course exploring the elements that make American Reform Judaism distinct and vibrant. Courses will be held at 9 a.m. – cost is $85 for this series.

Using a new curriculum released by the Reform Movement, the rabbis will study text and learn via video lecture with many of the leading Jewish thinkers in America today, exploring the Reform Movement’s history, theology, development of prayer, and its mission in this world.

Advanced registration required. Visit hevreh.org/summer or call (413) 526-6378.

Other Learning Opportunities at Hevreh

In this session on Thursday, August 1, 8, 15, and 22, Rabbi Neil Hirsch and Rabbi Jodie Gordon of Hevreh of Southern Berkshire will host two classes required. Visit hevreh.org/mission in this world.

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Jewish Religious Revolution: Teachings and Approaches to Judaism

PITTSFIELD – On Sunday, July 14 at 5:00 p.m., Temple Anshe Amunim will host an evening with Dr. Joyce Antler, Samuel J. Lurie Professor Emerita of Jewish Literature and Culture and Professor Emerita of Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies at Brandeis University. 

Dr. Antler is a renowned scholar of Jewish Radical Feminism, polymer of women’s activism at the center of feminist and Jewish narratives. Hear Dr. Antler and Professor Emerita of Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Dr. Liz Hirsch titled “The God You Don’t Believe in Doesn’t Exist.” 

Dr. Antler’s book, “Jewish Radical Feminism: Two Figures in Post-Emancipation German Judaism,” appeared in 2014. She is an expert on Jewish communal attitudes and conversion to reflect on the role of God from the Bible today, with special emphasis on the role of God in our lives today. Whatever your relationship and understanding of God, this class is for you.

Jewish study and meditation series with Rabbi Liz Hirsch

PITTSFIELD – On Wednesdays, July 10, 17, and 24 at 11:30 a.m. Temple Anshe Amunim will host a lunch and learn series with Rabbi Liz Hirsch titled “The God You Don’t Believe in Doesn’t Exist.”

The program is part of Temple Anshe Amunim’s “Lunch and Learn” series. Guests are invited to bring their own lunch; beverages and dessert will be provided. Admission is free for Temple members and $10 for non-members. Registration for the event is encouraged, but not required.

Jewish Spiritual Physical Fitness

PITTSFIELD – Rabbi Liz Hirsch at Temple Anshe Amunim for open meditation on Thursday, July 27, July 11, 18, 25, August 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 at 11:30 p.m. Rabbi Liz leads a guided meditation and light yoga for all ages and abilities. No prior experience or athletic emphasis on the role of God from the Bible today, with special emphasis on the role of God in our lives today. Whatever your relationship and understanding of God, this class is for you.

The God You Don’t Believe in Doesn’t Exist.”

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The program is part of Temple Anshe Amunim’s “Lunch and Learn” series. Guests are invited to bring their own lunch; beverages and dessert will be provided. Admission is free for Temple members and $10 for non-members. Registration for the event is encouraged, but not required.

Open Meditation

Join Rabbi Liz Hirsch at Temple Anshe Amunim for open meditation on Thursdays, July 27, July 11, 18, 25, August 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 at 11:30 a.m. Rabbi Liz leads a guided meditation and light yoga for all ages and abilities. No prior experience or athletic background is necessary.

Mindfulness

On Saturdays, June 29, July 27, and August 17 at 10:30 a.m. it’s S.P.F. Learn. Building on TAA’s popular Torah Plus study group, Rabbi Liz will lead a Shabbat morning experience focused on deepening our understanding of Shabbat, prayer, and more.

Mindfulness!

On Saturdays, June 29, July 27, and August 17 at 10:30 a.m. it’s S.P.F. Learn. Building on TAA’s popular Torah Plus study group, Rabbi Liz will lead a Shabbat morning experience focused on deepening our understanding of Shabbat, prayer, and more.

Aging with Joy and Wisdom

PITTSFIELD – How do we create a roadmap for our transition into an older age that is rich and fulfilling? “Aging with Joy and Wisdom” is a six-part experience led by two facilitators, Cynthia Mann and Jody Rosenbloom, trained by the Institute of Jewish Spirituality in New York. It will be offered this summer for the first time in the Berkshires for 12 participants between the ages of 55 and 75. The group will meet at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, on consecutive Saturdays from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. beginning on July 11 and continuing through August 18.

The two-hour sessions will explore – with sensitivity, compassion and humor – topics that include: creating a new and post-retirement mindset, managing loss, cultivating nourishing relationships, finding meaning that is not work-centered, and shaping our legacy. The group will draw on the book, Wise Aging: Living with Joy, Resilience and Spirit, by Rabbi Rachel Cowan, Z.T., and Dr. Linda Thal.

Check you're free for the course. Checks can be made out to Cynthia Mann and mailed to her at Knesset Israel. If you have questions and/or would like to discuss registering for the class, please email Cindy or Jody: cloumann@comcast.net or jody.kabloom@gmail.com.

Tanglewood Shabbat with Hevreh

On Friday, July 12, Hevreh will be at Tanglewood for an evening service preceding the evening’s concert. Look for the blue and white balloons in the middle of the lawn to set up your picnic dinner, and bring a dessert to share. Participants will gather for Rabbi Shalbat Shabbat at the back of the lawn at approximately 7 p.m. The show for this evening is the Boston Symphony Orchestra with Andrés Neuols conducting Copland and Grieg, featuring pianist Jan Lisiecki.

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

Spiritual Physical Fitness, with Rabbi Liz Hirsch

Learn! On Saturdays, June 29, July 27, and August 17 at 10:30 a.m. it’s S.P.F. Learn. Building on TAA’s popular Torah Plus study group, Rabbi Liz will lead a Shabbat morning experience focused on deepening our understanding of Shabbat, prayer, and more.

About the Speaker

Dr. David Ellenson, Jewish Theological Seminary of America’s presidential search committee chair, has written or edited seven books and over 300 articles and reviews in a wide variety of academic and popular journals and newspapers. His book, After Emancipation: Jewish Religious Responses to Modernity, won the National Jewish Book Council’s award as outstanding book in Jewish thought in 2005. Dr. Ellenson’s book, Judaism in Germany during the 19th Century: Orthodox Legal Writings on Conversion in Israel, North America, and Europe during the modern era; the relationship between religion and state in Israel; the history of modern Jewish religious movements; and American Jewish life. He is also currently serving as emeritus President of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, and served as president of HUC-JIR from 2001-2013. For two decades Ellenson served as head of the Lashonah School of Judaic Studies, the undergraduate program in Jewish Studies at the University of Southern California; a faculty member of the aegis of HUC-JIR. He has also served as a visiting professor at both UCLA and the Lashonah School of Judaic Studies, the undergraduate program in Jewish Studies at the University of Southern California; a faculty member of the aegis of HUC-JIR. He has also served as a visiting professor at both UCLA and the Hebrew Theological Seminary of America. Ellenson has written or edited seven books and over 300 articles and reviews in a wide variety of academic and popular journals and newspapers. His book, After Emancipation: Jewish Religious Responses to Modernity, won the National Jewish Book Council’s award as outstanding book in Jewish thought in 2005. Dr. Ellenson’s book, Judaism in Germany during the 19th Century: Orthodox Legal Writings on Conversion in Israel, North America, and Europe during the modern era; the relationship between religion and state in Israel; the history of modern Jewish religious movements; and American Jewish life. He is also currently serving as emeritus President of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, and served as president of HUC-JIR from 2001-2013. For two decades Ellenson served as head of the Lashonah School of Judaic Studies, the undergraduate program in Jewish Studies at the University of Southern California; a faculty member of the aegis of HUC-JIR. He has also served as a visiting professor at both UCLA and the Temple Anshe Amunim office at (413) 442-5910, email templeoffice@ansheamunim.org or visit www.ansheamunim.org.
JTS in the Berkshires Lecture Series Returns to Lenox

LENOX – This summer’s JTS in the Berkshires series will have a few new twists when it returns to the Hernstein Theater at Shakespeare & Company in 2019. There will only be three, not four sessions, on alternate Fridays from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., with admission reduced to $15 per session; $45 for the series. Also, there will be acting and musical presentations inter-twined with the scholarship shared by Jewish Theological Seminary professors.

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

“Verdi in Terezin: A Composer’s Inspiration”

Dr. Gerald Cohen, assistant professor, H.L. Miller Cantorial School, will present a talk about the Terezin concentration camp, located in what is now the Czech Republic. In the late 1930s and early 1940s, Nazis allowed some art and education to take place in Terezin, both as a way of occupying the prisoners and of deceiving the world about the Terezin concentration camp. Composer/cantor Gerald Cohen will tell how a performance of Verdi’s Requiem under the direction of a dynamic conductor, Rafael Schachter, took place in Terezin. Cohen will explore the thematic significance of Verdi’s work and discuss his own string quartet. “Playing For Our Lives,” written as a tribute to the Terezin effort. Alla Zernitskaya, inspiring teacher of the Pittsfield High School orchestra and chamber music program guides advanced young string players in the art of string quartet playing. The following gifted students, new graduates of PHS, will perform Dr. Cohen’s work: Chenyang Lin, Isabelle Smith, Johan Serrano, and Joseph Cracolici. “What Can The Bible Teach Us About Wagner? Jewish Views on the Imperfect Messenger,” on July 26

Dr. David Kraemer, Joseph J. and Dore Abraham Lubin Professor of Talmud and Rabbinics, will speak about Richard Wagner who, like T.S. Eliot and Shakespeare, was a highly imperfect messenger of important, even sublime, messages. Imperfect messengers exist in the Jewish tradition, as well as in the works of Dante and Soren Kierkegaard. Does Judaism allow one to separate the “message” from the “message?” Can the handwritten artistry of the sinner, if not the sinner himself, be allowed into the community? Dr. Kraemer will explore this troubling and very current question.

“Matchmaking and Midrash: A Hebrew Comedy From The Time Of Shakespeare,” on August 9

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

Helping Dr. Siegmund will be two talented Knesset Israel members who will deliver dramatic readings of key scenes which will encourage interactive discussion.

Steve Rosenfeld is a theater artist who moved to the Berkshires from New York City 17 years ago. Trained at NYU’s Experimental Theater Wing, she performed, wrote, and directed professionally on stages in NYC for 25 years. Currently, she is the owner of The Foundry, a new performing arts venue in West Stockbridge producing relevant theater for diverse audiences. Amy Brentano is a co-artistic director for the venue’s resident theater company, Bazaar Productions/Berkshire Fringe and a teaching artist with WAM Theater.

Two Lunch and Learn Opportunities at Knesset Israel

PITTSFIELD – Knesset Israel will have “Lunch and Learn” sessions after Shabbat services on two weekends in July with provocative speakers after buffet lunches provided by generous donors to the Kiddush fund. [Please be sure to register for lunch, (413) 445-4872 by the previous Monday of each program.]

Rabbi Richard Agler on July 13

Rabbi Richard Agler’s memoir The Tragedy Of A Journey: Making Sense of Life-Changing Loss—A Rabbi’s Journey was written in the wake of the sudden, accidental death of his twenty-six year old daughter, Tali. In it, the rabbi explores timeless questions of faith, belief, and resilience, such as: How could this have happened? Why did it happen, and to me of all people? Where is life’s justice and fairness? Using clear and compelling language, with reference to both ancient and modern sources of wisdom, the author has earned endorsements from Harold S. Kushner, author of Why Bad Things Happen to Good People and received favorable reviews by scholars and lay readers alike. Copies of the book will be available for purchase at KI before and after the talk. Each copy of the book purchased will be personally signed by the author and a portion of the proceeds will be contributed to The Tali Fund.

Elisa and Robert Bildner on July 27

Elisa and Robert Bildner will preview their book due to be published in 2020 titled The Berkshires Farm Table Cookbook. They will choose a few of the fascinating stories of 42 regional local farmers and farm table chefs they visited while compiling the book. One part of the work will feature 135 delicious recipes inspired by the products these farmers grow and the dishes these chefs create. In their adventure into “authorship,” Robert and Elisa have collaborated with Brian Alberg, former executive chef of the Red Lion Inn and currently executive chef/vice president of Culinary Development for Main Street Hospitality, to put this work together.

Who knows? This may well become “the” cookbook designed for Berkshire folks who prefer to eat locally-produced ingredients prepared with love and artistry.
NEFESH MOUNTAIN, continued from page 1

About Nefesh Mountain

Nefesh Mountain is the place where American bluegrass and old-time music meet with Jewish heritage and tradition. Band leaders, genre-pioneers, and husband and wife Dori Zasloff and Eric Lindberg are the heart of this eclectic offering, and share their love for American music, their own cultural heritage, and each other with audiences throughout the world. Some of our younger community members and their parents may remember them from the time they performed for us two years ago as Mama Doni, their band’s Jewish children’s music incarnation.

The result of this unexpected and beautiful mix is replete with the kind of adept string virtuosity and composed arrangements one would hope for from a newgrass band with influences from bluegrass, old-time, Celtic, and jazz traditions. Nefesh Mountain plays and sings songs of the heart, creating music with a sense of diversity, oneness, and purpose for today’s world.

Both native New Yorkers, Lindberg and Zasloff have long and strong ties to bluegrass. “I grew up in Brooklyn,” says Lindberg, “but my dad’s side of the family, which was not Jewish—he converted when he married my mother—lived in rural Georgia. I would go down and hang out with my uncles, who were great guitar players. We’d hike the Appalachian Trail and listen to old-time music. Something in my soul responded to those feelings I had when I was down South.” Zasloff says her musical preferences were the same. “I’ve always felt like a bit of a cowgirl. I’ve always been a free spirit—always musical and always drawn to country, bluegrass and folk. I feel it’s so pure and truthful and real. When I met Eric, it was like a match made in heaven.”

“When we sing in Hebrew,” Lindberg adds, “it’s us celebrating our heritage and history.”

Their newest and most adventurous recording is the 2018 release “Beneath The Open Sky.” a tour de force for the band featuring friends and bluegrass luminaries San Bush, Jerry Douglas, Tony Trischka, and David Grier, along with their own band members Alan Grubner and Tim Kiah. The album’s 11 songs collectively weave together a groundbreaking and beautiful patchwork of new American music, being called “refreshingly eclectic” by Rolling Stone, and “One of the finest, wholly bluegrass records one will hear in not only 2018 but as a touchstone moving forward” by No Depression magazine.

Currently the Nefesh Mountain touring band quintet plays over 150 dates worldwide with performances throughout the US, Canada, Israel, England, and Australia.

Their mission whether at a concert hall, festival, workshop, school, camp, or synagogue, is to spread the joy and magic of American roots music and help to champion and reinforce the powerful messages of diversity, wholeness, and harmony for our ever changing times.

A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

The A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE® Institute Peer Training Program empowers student leaders and their peers with the knowledge, courage and commitment to stand up and speak out against bullying, prejudice and discrimination while actively promoting respect for racial, cultural, and other human differences in their schools and in their communities.

The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires partnered with the ADL, the Berkshire County Superintendents Roundtable, and local donors to underwrite the program in Berkshire County during the 2018-2019 school year, offering it to middle and high school students at seven schools. During the next school year, the program will be offered at eight additional schools.

IF YOU GO

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. All tickets will be admitted free of charge.

For more information, please call the Federation at (413) 442-4360, ext. 10. Information is also being offered at seven schools.

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NO DEPRESSION

CURRENT ISSUE: 160

JONI MITCHELL

SUN AUG 4 | 7:30 PM | DUFFIN THEATER, LENOX HIGH SCHOOL

General Admission $25, Under 30, $20, kids under 10 free
Tickets at jewisberkshires.org or (413) 442-4360, ext 10

To benefit the ADL World of Difference Program in Berkshire County Schools
The Jewish Federation is all of us – the members of our Jewish community – working together to repair the world, and keep Jewish life strong and thriving in the Berkshires, in Israel and around the world.

Please answer the call of our community and give generously to the 2019 Campaign – Thank You!

It all adds up. You make the difference.

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

Your acts of caring join with thousands of others.

Your generosity extends comfort, care, and connection to those who need it most.
Superb Super Sunday Showing

More than 55 volunteers, with cell phones in hand and pledge cards in front of them, worked diligently last May 19 to reach out to hundreds of potential donors to ask for their support. By mid-afternoon, callers in Pittsfield and Great Barrington had reached 196 donors and successfully raised more than $57,000 for the 2019 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 Larry Frankel and Elisa Schindler-Frankel, our Super Sunday campaign chairs.

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.

Thank you to the Mahaiwe and United Way.
A powerful tale of a Jewish-American family and a culture at odds with itself. Three siblings reunite to celebrate their father’s 75th birthday. As long-held secrets bubble to the surface, they negotiate — with biting humor and razor-sharp insight — how much of the past they’re willing to sacrifice for a chance at a new beginning.

“PASSIONATE AND PROVOKING! BRAINY IN ITS ARGUMENTS AND VISCERAL IN ITS EMOTIONS!”
—The New York Times

Your Federation Presents

An Evening of Unity, Prayer, and a Call to Action

The Berkshires’ faith and civic communities joined together in Pittsfield on May 2 in an interfaith vigil organized by the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires marking the April 27 shooting at Chabad of Poway (CA) that claimed the life of Lori Gilbert-Kaye and injured three others. Speakers included Rabbi Levi and Sara Volovik, co-directors of Chabad of the Berkshires; State Representative Tricia Farley-Bouvier; and Reverend Brent Damrow of the First Congregational Church of Stockbridge. Rabbi Neil Hirsch, Rabbi Barbara Cohen, Rabbi David Weiner, and Rabbi Liz Hirsch shared words, readings, and prayers, as the community also honored the memories of recent victims of terrorism in Sri Lanka and New Zealand.

July 11-14, 2019

Live at the Yiddish Book Center
Rain or Shine

Daniel Kahn • Frank London • Hankus Netsky •
Eleanor Reissa • Vira Lozinsky • Aviva Chernick •
Sarah Mina Gordon • Nigunim Trio •
The Klezmatics • and More

Museum and Visitors Center hours: Sunday–Friday, 10–4
Amherst, Massachusetts
For more information: yiddishbookcenter.org
On Sunday, May 5, families and college students joined our Challah Bake program co-sponsored by our local PJ Library program and the Williams College Jewish Association.

We started by learning how to braid the bread, as the dough was made much earlier. Everyone had fun braiding and decorating the finished loaves (some with chocolate chips and sprinkles). While they were baking, we read several PJ Library books talking about the mitzvot of giving tzedakah and food to others – Bagels for Benny by Aubrey Davis was a favorite one. Emma Lezberg talked about food insecurity and how the monies raised from the sale of the 60 challot will be going to Mazon and to the Berkshire Food Project in North Adams. After we baked, the kids made a sign “Challah for Hunger” to be placed when the challot were sold later. And, of course, there were samples for the kids to eat.

Challah for Hunger at Williams College is one of 80+ programs at campuses across the country. Emma Lezberg is the Tzedek Director of the Williams College Jewish Association at the Jewish Religious Center and organized our program (as well as making most of the dough!). Our thanks to Emma, Rabbi Seth Wax (Williams College Jewish Chaplain), and all of the students who partnered with us for this wonderful program. Our PJ Library families had a fun morning!
On June 2, our major donors enjoyed their special tour of Rabbi Michael Strassfeld’s collection of vintage Jewish signs, advertising, and children’s books in the basement gallery at his home in Richmond. Attendees had the chance to view the rare and unusual memorabilia, and listen to Rabbi Strassfeld’s stories of how he accumulated the material from synagogues and other Jewish institutions that usually didn’t know what they were going to do with it.

This was the first outing that Federation has organized for our major donors,” says Development Officer Leslie Kozupsky, “and it was a smashing success. It was a rare opportunity to have a close look at some amazing artifacts that provide fascinating insights into popular Jewish culture in the 20th century — the world of our fathers and mothers. Thank you again to Rabbi Strassfeld and Rabbi Joy Levitt for hosting us!”

Leslie adds that she’s open to suggestions about other special events and outings that might be of interest — please let her know at the Major Donors Celebration on Sunday, July 14.

Rabbi Michael Strassfeld

Your Federation Presents

Signs of the Past

Rock On @ Berkshire Music School
July 8-19
12-5pm
$250/week

Rock On @ The Guthrie Center
Songwriting Workshop
Aug 5-9
1-4pm
With guest Seth Glier

Register: rockonworkshop.org
413-329-2280 • rockonworkshopma@gmail.com

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Rabbi Michael Strassfeld
Bard Academy at Simon’s Rock is the nation’s first two-year high school for boarding and day students.

We’ve created a curriculum taught by college faculty that sets our students on a path to college, early. After 10th grade, Academy students are admitted directly into Bard College at Simon’s Rock. We haven’t condensed the high school experience—we’ve reimagined it.
OBITUARIES

Evelyn Meyers, 97, enjoyed reading and Hebrew classes.

GREAT BARRINGTON – Evelyn Meyers, 97, died Monday, May 6 at Berkshire Medical Center in Pittsfield.

Evelyn was born in Manhattan, daughter of Samuel and Molly (Zimmer) Friedlander. Years after graduating from high school, Evelyn attained an associate’s degree in 1979 from Queensborough Community College. She worked for many years as a bookkeeper and then had her own business with her husband L. Mark.

Evelyn was an active member of Hebrew of Southern Berkshire since moving to Great Barrington in 1949. She enjoyed reading and having Hebrew classes. She studied for and had her bat mitzvah in October, 2001 at Hevreh. Evelyn is survived by her husband, Lester Meyers; chil-
dren, Joel and wife Gail, Alan and wife Deborah; grand-
children, Harry, Ralph, Bernie, Sandi, Harrison, Amber, Alex, and Joey. She is also survived by her brother Bert, and by two sisters, Sondra and Vilma.

Evelyn is predeceased by sister Flora and broth-
ers, Harry, Ralph, Bernie, Sandi, Harrison, Amber, Alex, and Joey. She is also survived by her brother Sid, and by two sisters, Sondra and Vilma. Evelyn was predeceased by sister Flora and broth-
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Traveling with Jewish Taste

**Shaya: An Odyssey of Food, My Journey Back to Israel**

By Carol Goodman Kaufman

Although his eponymously named book purportedly brings chef Alon Shaya back to his roots in Israel, most of the recipes in it come from every place else he has worked. And Shaya doesn’t set up his cookbook in the usual manner, starting with appetizers and proceeding through soups, salads, entrees, and desserts. No, he takes us along with him as he has traveled the world, cooking in places as diverse as Italy and New Orleans. It’s only in the last chapters that he finally comes home to Israel.

Be forewarned: There’s a lot of treyf in this book (e.g., Kugel in Crisis, made with 10 ounces of bacon). Luckily, there were enough recipes to sample in order to do a decent review.

Despite the unusual plan of the book, I started with appetizers, and chose one that Shaya says reminds him of his grandmother. Lutenitsa is a Bulgarian relish made of tomatoes and roasted eggplants and peppers. Often served as part of a mezze platter, this recipe calls for only eight ingredients, but the eggplant and peppers all need to be charred to within an inch of their lives. Shaya instructs the home cook to hold the vegetables over a gas flame for about 45 minutes. Who has time for that? I roasted them under a high broiler flame and rotated every 10 minutes. It took a lot less time and the results were identical. The lutenitsa was delicious served with pita, hummus, and falafel.

You may recall that in the last issue I mentioned that one of the latest food fads in Middle Eastern and Mediterranean restaurants is a roasted whole head of cauliflower, and I recommended Yotam Ottolenghi’s. He was both simple to make, as befits a cookbook entitled *SIMPLE*, and delicious. Shaya’s Whole Roasted Cauliflower with Whipped Feta involves many more ingredients, but then he doesn’t present his cookbook as being easy. His cauliflower head isn’t just boiled in water; it bakes in broth of water, wine, herbs, lemon juice, olive oil, and butter. And it’s served not with a simple green tahini, but with a sauce that includes feta cheese, goat cheese, and cream cheese. However, the proof of this pudding is that Joel (who actually cringes at the word “cauliflower”) is on record as having uttered the following words: “This is surprisingly good.” What higher praise could there be?

Heads-up: The sauce recipe makes enough for four or five heads of cauliflower, so you may want to cut it down — or host twelve people for dinner with this as the appetizer. Just tell me what time to be there.

Another classic Israeli dish is labneh, but because I like to try different chefs’ recipes, I figured I’d give this one a go. Shaya’s is rather bland, but after adding chopped scallions, the flavor began to pop.

A clever twist on a classic bread and egg recipe, Za’atar Toad in the Hole is an easy dish to prepare. It is also so good that it can serve as the star at Sunday brunch. A mixture of mayonnaise and za’atar infuses the toast, providing a lovely little nest for fried eggs. A tomato-scallion relish adds a tangy topping.

Charring Cabbage with Olive Oil is a very nice side. Oh, and fairly easy to prepare, although it does require steps. Like the cauliflower, a whole head of cabbage is first boiled in a broth, then it is cut into wedges and broiled until charred.

For a main dish, I tried the Curried Sweet Potato and Leek Pie. The yogurt in this savory pie made it a much lighter quiche than one would get using heavy cream, and the combination of leek, sweet potatoes, ginger, and Romano cheese was delicious. The addition of hawaij, a Middle Eastern spice mix, gave it a decidely Levantine vibe. Fair warning: there is significant variance in the hawaij recipes found among chefs, but all make large quantities, so I advise you to prepare them in small batches to find one you like, before going big.

And of course, we need dessert. I chose to bake Cherry and Pistachio Cookies, mainly because I happened to have all the ingredients in the house that day. But, for all the flavorful ingredients called for (cinnamon, pistachios, dried cherries), I found these biscotti-like cookies surprisingly lacking in flavor. Perhaps the addition of almond extract would provide the much-needed punch.

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Carol Goodman Kaufman is a psychologist and author with a passion for travel and food. She currently at work on a food history/cookbook, tracing the paths chefs found among chefs, but all make large quantities, so I advise you to prepare them in small batches to find one you like, before going big.

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**ZA’ATAR TOAD IN THE HOLE**

**Serves 4**

It’s summertime and living should be easy in the kitchen. Try this twist on the classic breakfast dish. It would even be great for a light dinner, served with salad.

**Ingredients:**
- 1 small tomato, cored and chopped
- 2 scallions, sliced
- 1 Tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
- 1 Tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon Morton kosher salt
- ¼ cup mayonnaise

**Directions:**
Combine the tomato, scallions, olive oil, lemon juice, and kosher salt in a bowl. Set aside.

2 Tablespoons za’atar
4 thick slices wheat or rye bread
1 Tablespoon unsalted butter
4 eggs
Maldon or other flaky sea salt, to finish

In a separate bowl, combine the mayonnaise and za’atar, and spread evenly over both sides of each slice of bread. Use a cookie cutter or a knife to cut a 2-to-3-inch hole in the middle of each slice. Discard the rounds, or keep them to fry with everything else.

Melt the butter in a large cast-iron or nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Once the foam subsides, add the bread.

Crack each egg into a bowl, then carefully tip each into the center of a bread slice. Do this in batches if you need to — leave plenty of space between the slices of bread so that you can flip them. Leave alone for 2 or 3 minutes, until the bottom of the bread is nicely browned. Use a thin spatula to loosen any stuck-on edges, then flip, and cook for another minute, just until the egg white is set. Once the bread is out, if you like, fry the removed rounds, about 1 minute per side, and keep them to serve atop the toast.

Spoon the tomatoes and scallions over each piece of bread, draining off any excess juice. Sprinkle a bit of flaky sea salt over the top, and eat right away.

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**THE JEWISH TRANSPORTATION NETWORK**

**Discount Taxi Vouchers**

**for Jewish residents aged 65 years and older**

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**Sivan / Tammuz 5779 Berkshire Jewish Voice   •   jewishberkshires.org Page 21**
Recent Adults, Young Jews

Hevreh Hipsters creating community for the Berkshires’ 20-something Jews

By Jodie Friedman / Special to the BJV

I moved to Great Barrington in August 2017 feeling good about my new career as a Jewish professional with Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, and, I must say, fairly lucky that in rural, expansive Berkshire County, my peer group of 20-somethings had things wasn’t centralized either geographically or within any of our established institutions.

Over my first six months here, I grew into the culture of the Berkshires and started getting to know the various demographics of the area. I soon discovered that people want to sit still once I started recognizing opportunities for connection. It took me a while to talk myself up for big talk when I mentioned that I work at a synagogue, and people can be very reserved about their Jewish identity. Yet I don’t think there are many Jews in the Berkshires who feel like there is no barrier to entry. Even joining a “free synagogue,” which is helpful as it is reminiscent of what I grew up with, I wasn’t sure how to bring up my own religious background and feel comfortable doing so. When discussing this conversation, I wasn’t surprised to learn that a few of my peers are in the same boat as I am. There is no obligation to be Jewish in the Berkshires, and people are tasked with making the decision to be. I’ve been invested in community organizing in college and we’ve been encouraging our friends beforehand and working to introduce them to potential participants so they will feel Judaism through a practice – even it’s simply coming to a Passover Seder once a year – that feels additive and not burdensome.

There is no obligation to be a Hevreh. As young people are tasked with making choices everywhere, all we can do is set up options that don’t feel obligatory. We hope our Jewish peers inherently want to connect to a community with which they share thousands of years of peoplehood, and not a Jewish guilt.

Born and raised in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Jodie Friedman got her Jewish communal education starting in kindergarten. Jodie enjoys yoga, modifying recipes, and seltzer. Reach her at jf@hevreh.org.

Boston area rallies after Chabad rabbis are targeted

BOSTON LJTN — More than 350 people gathered for a rally against anti-Semitism and hate in Peabody, a city on Boston’s North Shore, after motorists shouted anti-Semitic slurs at two Chabad rabbis out walking on Shabbat. The June 5 rally was called by Mayor Ted Bettencourt to support Rabbi Nechama Schusterman and Rabbi Shani Brotman. The Jewish community organized a call for people to stand up to hatred and violence.

The reported incident follows three cases of suspected arson earlier in May at two Boston-area Chabad centers that are also the homes to their rabbis and their families. The acts of arson are under investigation by state and federal authorities.

The large turnout in Peabody “sent a powerful message that acts of hate would not be tolerated,” Mayor Bettencourt said, according to the Salem News.

The rabbis were joined by interfaith religious leaders, city and state officials and representatives of the North Shore and Boston’s Jewish communal organizations and the deputy consul general of Israel to New England. Schusterman acknowledged the outpouring of support she has received.

“Thank you for showing up today and being counted and standing by the local Jewish community as I know you would do for any faith that was attacked or maligned,” he said. “The real solution is to root out the hate. It needs to be uncool, unforeseeable.”
A Yid Drinkt Nisht Aleyn

Hadasah Men's Scotch whisky tasting to benefit initiative to combat Alzheimer's Disease

By Alex Rosenblum / Special to the BJV

The much-anticipated Berkshire Hills Hadasah Men’s Association’s Scotch whisky tasting fundraiser featuring premium 18-year-old single malts and the introduc-
tion of the very first single malt whisky distilled in Israel is just around the corner — July 28 at 5 p.m. at the Harbor Gate Inn in Lenox. Speaking will be Charles Toczer (“Old Man Whisky”), ambassador, and speaker for over 30 years.

The event will benefit the National Associates’ Men’s Health Initiative for Alzheimer’s Disease and will feature com-
parative tastings of five dif-
ferent 18-year-old single malts, and the introduction to the Berkshires of the first single malt whisky prepared
and distilled in Israel, Milk and Honey Single Malt Whisky. The cost is $180, though contributions at the follow-
ing levels will be appreciated: Underwriter ($108), Benefactor ($360), admission included.

One of the organizers of the event, Alex Rosenblum, a year-round second-home resident of the Berkshires for over 30 years, reflected on his personal scotch odyssey and prepared for the next court appearance.

My first memory of whisky involves my father, a survivor of Kristallnacht, raising a glass of “brønnf” at my bat mitzvah party held in our apartment in Montreal almost six decades ago. Waving his glass in the middle of the small, tight-knit survivor community, my father pointed to me, standing at the periphery with the other chil-
dren, and said loudly, “Bør ger-helvede (Survived!),” paused for a brief moment and shouted “L’chayim” (Survived!).

Yet every Friday, Moish would close the office a bit early and drag me down to a beautiful old bar called Suikeran in lower Manhattan. Moish would order two Chivas Regal scotch and “encour-
aged” me in joining him in slowly sipping and savoring a good whisky while he celebrated his survival of another week in a law practice. When I asked him why we had to celebrate with a scotch, he was informed in no uncertain terms, “Kid, a lawyer drinks scotch!”

As a result of these early hilarious (or perhaps traum-
atic) early experiences, for the last 40 years I have been guided by these two lessons — a Jew should not drink alone and a lawyer must drink scotch.

The much anticipated event on July 28 at 5 p.m. at the Harbor Gate Inn in Lenox will be the spotlight for Scotch whisky drinking and should not be missed.

For the last 40 years, I have been guided by these two lessons — a Jew should not drink alone and a lawyer must drink scotch.

Questions and concerns can be directed to Alex Rosenblum at 413-358-0199 • vbando@msn.com • www.carlhawaii.com
From Christian Sect to Orthodox Judaism

A River Could Be A Tree traces Angela Himsel’s unusual journey

By Avi Dresner / Special to the BJV

Angela Himsel’s writing has appeared in The New York Times, The Jewish Week, Forward, Lilith and elsewhere. Her column “Angelettes” on Zikkurat.net was named two American Jewish Press Association Awards. Angela holds a BA from Brown University, which included two years at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and an MFA from The City College of New York.

Avi Dresner: Angela, if I had a dollar for every memoir written by a former member of a pro-apocalyptic, doomsday Christian sect who became an Orthodox Jew… So, I guess what I’m asking is what makes yours different from all the others?

Angela Himsel: [Laughter]

What I think makes mine different in general from someone who came from some kind of fringe extreme faith… is that I didn’t lose contact with my family and that my family was very supportive of my decision. And that just because I made a decision that I had to abandon them, or that they would abandon me, I didn’t think that I found myself in a position where I had to make a decision in order. It was possible to hold on to both.

AD: I alluded to some of the more mainstream Jewish Biblical practices and your family and your observance as members of the Worldwide Church of God, but there were a number of other church practices and beliefs that were far more mainstream. For example, the church’s founder, Herbert Armstrong believed that at the end times there would be a rapture of the faithful to the Place of Safety located in the city of Petra in modern Arabia. And he also preached a version of British Israelism which, according to Shoshana, was a direct link to your book, is a doctrine that claims that the ten lost tribes of the ancient Jewish kingdom in Great Britain… So, all of this by way of asking you what’s the difference really between “regular” religion – whatever that means – and a cult, like the one you grew up in? Is it just a question of degree and who’s getting rich off of it?

AH: I think that the extreme [forms of religion] tend to be organized around a charismatic leader. They tend to pop up suddenly of nowhere. They’re afraid of individuality, asking questions, people have to conform, and there’s always some sense of shaming. Cults make you feel like you’re outside the world itself. I don’t think mainstream religions have that as much.

AD: [Blinking] members of the Worldwide Church had deadly consequences for one of your younger sisters, Abby, who died as a result of the church’s prohibition against seeking medical attention on the grounds that, according to the church, the medical profession was pagan in origin. Meanwhile, you later found out that Armstrong regretfully saw doctors himself. And, yet, in spite of this, you write that your father was convinced for the rest of his life that it was his lack of rigorously observing the Sabbath that killed your sister.

AH: That’s right. I don’t think he could have handled it if he’d known that there had been another alternative. That had he sought medical care [she] would have been fine.

AD: And, yet, your father’s belief notwithstanding, and strict as your upbringing was, I got the impression from the book that you really did have loving parents, who looked the other way as long enough for you and your siblings to dip into Satan’s world, as you put it, with movies, dance, plays and debates, which were often on the Sabbath, and eventually to leave the church entirely.

AH: They were definitely loving parents [who] would have done anything and did do anything for us, and they believed that they had raised us right. That there was one right way to raise us and that was it, and they did it. And, after that – I think this another Midwestern thing – there’s a sense that you do what you do and when your kids are of age then they make their own choices… I didn’t have Jewish parents micromanaging anything at all. It’s not the same cultural exchange.

AD: So, although your leaving took many years, the decisive moment came when you decided to do your sophomore year of college abroad at Hebrew University of Jerusalem. As I said, you went there in search of the Holy Spirit and the truth of the Bible, but you didn’t find what you were looking for while others seemed to. One of my favorite parts in the book is when you describe how one of your Jewish professors there, at Hebrew U. took you aside and shared two intimate secrets with you about his faith and his religious identity. In doing so, he told you that he had a dream that Jesus came to him and said he loved him and, after that, he became a Jew for Jesus. You sum up that experience by saying “A gay Jewish guy got the Holy Spirit. Not me. Goddammit.”

AH: I was very upset about that.

AD: Your experience in Israel also starts you down the path towards Judaism, but it isn’t until you learn that you’re pregnant with your Jewish boyfriend’s child that you decide to take the plunge officially. That’s right.

AH: I’m not sure it would happen. I wasn’t really keen on signing up with another organized religion – any organized religion. I didn’t want any religion to have control over me. I still don’t, by the way. I was happy kind of being on the periphery of Judaism, not fully committing. But as much as I was avoiding organized religion because

how do you answer that question for yourself?

AR: I ask that question about a lot of people. I even ask it about my kids now and again. Judaism is just so complicated in so many ways. There are so many different ways to be Jewish, and they

“Judaism is just so complicated in so many ways. There are so many different ways to be Jewish, and they are all valid.”

are all valid. I’m not one to say this is the right way or the only way to be Jewish, and I wouldn’t want anybody to tell me the same thing.

Many Jews who don’t believe in God… Coming from a Christian background, that’s weird. You wouldn’t say you’re Jewish if you didn’t believe in Jesus. The fact that Judaism and being Jewish is multi-faceted – the religion, the culture, the history, probably the food a little bit, and it’s a lot, it does make it more complicated and at this point in my life, it’s more appealing. Nobody wants to talk about God all the time.

Angela Himsel

Another excerpt of which appear on these pages. More complete versions of their conversations appear online on the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires’ website, jewishberkshires.org – from the primary navigation bar, select Community & Events-Berkshire Jewish Voice, and then locate the stories under Berkshire Jewish Voice Highlights.

These events are free and open to the public. Signed books will be available for sale prior to services and after- wards for an IOU.

Advance reservations suggested. For more information and to register for this and the other festival author events, visit hevreh.org/books. Email jlee@hevreh.org or call (413) 528-6378. Hevreh of Southern Berkshire is at 270 State Road in Great Barrington.

GREAT BARRINGTON – The Berkshire Jewish Voice Festival of Books will take place at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire from Thursday, July 18 through Sunday, July 21. For a full list of programs, please see the insert in this page or the Berkshire Jewish Summer.

On Friday evening, July 19, after Shabbat evening services that begin at 5:45 p.m., author Angela Himsel will be featured in a discussion moderated by Judith Rosenbaum, executive director of the Jewish Women’s Archive, which is sponsoring the event and the authors’ solo appearance online on the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires’ website, jewishberkshires.org – from the primary navigation bar, select Community & Events-Berkshire Jewish Voice, and then locate the stories under Berkshire Jewish Voice Highlights.

Jewish Festival of Books Hosts Memoirists Angela Himsel and Tova Mirvis

Jewish Voice, Pamphlet Cover, Page 24, Berkshire Jewish Voice • jewishberkshires.org June 24 to July 28, 2019
CULTURE AND ARTS

The emotional process of leaving takes a very long time

Tova Mirvis on moving on and her memoir, The Book of Separation

By Avi Dresner / Special to the BJV

In addition to The Book of Separation, Tova Mirvis is the author of three novels. Visible City, The Outside World, and The Ladies Auxiliary, which she recently released in paperback. Her essays have appeared in various newspapers including The New York Times Book Review, The Boston Globe Magazine, and Poets and Writers, and her fiction has been broadcast on National Public Radio.

Avi Dresner: Tova, the Berkshires have been a part of your life for many years. What was it like for you to come here professionally?

Tova Mirvis: The Berkshires really is a very special place for me. It's not mean by that constant leave taking?

TM: Even if you physically leave something, I think the emotional process of leaving takes a very long time. In the same way that grief maybe doesn't happen once; it happens over a lifetime. To really leave something requires so many different moments of separating. You do something that you've never done before...and each one feels like a new leave taking.

AD: Tova, your book is a memoir in which you've changed everyone's name but your own. Still, I imagine in your tight-knit community, everybody knows who's who. [Did you explicitly check with them either ahead of time or after you had written something - with your kids, with your ex-husband, with your present husband - did you say this is what I've done, or this is what I'm thinking of doing, is that OK with you?]

TM: I'm going to put my kids in a separate category for the moment. Generally, I did not feel that I was going to ask permission. I felt that I was going to adhere to my own sense of what is commensurate and ethical, but to give somebody else the power to veto my writing, that was not something I could do, particularly people who were not interested in seeing me continue to be a writer...and then before I finished the final draft, I gave the book to my parents and my current husband, and, in general, they felt very positive about it...With kids I felt like they would have veto power...they knew every single thing about them that was going to be in the book, and read the parts about them.

AD: For someone named Tova, which means “good” in Hebrew, one of the recurring motifs and fears you express in the book is that you are bad. Towards the beginning of the book, you write that “to observe was to be good, and to be good was to be loved.” And, near the end of the book, you're still struggling with this when you write that “Despite the very meaning of my name, being good is something to which I can no longer lay claim.” Where are you at now on that good-bad continuum, or have you let yourself off the hook?

TM: For me growing up, being good was completely intertwined with being religious, and being observant...there was one way to be...to be good, and so many ways to be bad...I think that word, more than anything else, is what held me in, that urge to be a good girl, a good wife, a good mother...I think one of the things I came to realize in writing the book was...to let go of those words and those definitions, to let go of the idea that there's only one way to be good...because once you open up that word, goodness is so much wider than any of that, and so now what I try to do is to let go of that word good - and bad - and to replace them with other words like kindness, compassion, gentleness, or truthful. Good is a word I'm just going to let go of, of my name notwithstanding.

AD: Sticking with that theme of goodness, it seems to me that much of it has to do with what it means to be a "good" Jew which, in your case, always meant being an observant Orthodox Jew, even if you didn't always believe it. You address this closedly existential head on when you say that "So many years of observing without believing has left my soul, if such a thing exists, calloused." So, how have you redefined what it means to be a good Jew? Which? I guess is another way of saying, have you picked off that scab, and what's grown in its place?

TM: When you leave something, all of a sudden you have to think about it a lot because it's not just what don't I believe in, but what do I believe in.

So many of the stories that I hear from people within the Jewish world are stories of movement. Someone will say "I was born Reform and I got married and I became Conservative, and now one of my daughters is Orthodox and my other daughter is married to someone not Jewish." That is an American story. That is our American Jewish story in so many ways, and I feel like we're all moving places or cities, families, and I think the idea of looking at personal versions of Jewish journey stories tells us a lot not just about the individuals but [about] what our American Jewish community looks like today.

The outside world is a very special place for me. It's not
SCOTCH TASTING, continued from page 23

the proposition that the tiny amount of non-kosher wine previously aged in the same oak barrels then used to age scotch is insignificant and does not render the scotch suspect and not kosher. (See the laws of Rabbenu Shelomoh – a minute amount of traif [1/60th or less] doesn’t render a product non-kosher.)

But many Orthodox beth din in Canada and a majority in the United States, and kashrut authorities such as the Star-K and the CRC Chicago Rabbinical Council, in many cases using their own interpretation of rabbinic responsa, rule that the wine/sherry/port content in some of the aging barrels subsequently used to age whisky, even though very small, does contribute to the taste directly, thus rendering the whisky unacceptable.

I always like to tell the story that after Rav Feinstein had issued his responsa that found scotch to be probably kosher, he then stated that a truly observant Jew should show caution and probably avoid drinking whisky previously aged in wine barrels. He then paused, and admitted that on occasion he drank such a whisky, especially when someone made a L’chayim. After all, he reasoned, one must assume that a L’chayim is for a good thing, and a good thing for the Jewish people carries more weight than some doubt about your good whisky.

The Berkshire Hills Hadassah Men’s Association committee (Dr. Stuart Masters, Michael Albert, Allen Rosenblatt, and myself) are working to make the July 28 whisky tasting a stimulating and enjoyable program. We welcome anyone interested in learning more about Scotch whisky, especially when someone made a L’chayim. After all, he reasoned, one must assume that a L’chayim is for a good thing, and a good thing for the Jewish people carries more weight than some doubt about your good whisky.

For your reservation, please call Dr. Masters at (413) 34 Brookside Drive, Pittsfield, MA 01201 Include your name, email, and telephone. For more information, please call Dr. Masters at (413) 443-4280.

Connecting with Community
Nourish Your Body, Mind, and Soul!

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

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

Advance reservations are required to attend lunch.

Please 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 hot lunch program is offered in collaboration with Elder Services of Berkshire County.

What’s for Lunch?

JUNE
Monday, 24 ...........10:45 a.m., “Exploring Jewish Humor” with Dick Macht. First of three part series. Lunch: Open faced turkey salad sandwiches, coleslaw, potato chips, ciabatta bread, tropical fruit salad, and tea.

Thursday, 27 .........10:45 a.m., “Don’t Die Till You’re Dead: Becoming the Protagonist in Your Third Act” with Sam Bittman, founder and curator of the Third Act Project. Lunch: Greek salad platters, Italian bread, baklava, coffee, tea and milk for coffee.

JULY
Monday, 1 ............10:45 a.m., “Exploring Jewish Humor” with Dick Macht. Second of three part series. Lunch: Open faced turkey salad sandwich on Challah, tomato juice, green salad, potato salad, chips, watermelon and tea.

Thursday, 4 ...........10:45 a.m., “A Hundred Acres of America: Jewish American Literature and the Sense of Place” with author and professor David Grossman. Lunch: Sloppy Joes**, salad, corn, baby carrots, hamburger rolls, applesauce and tea.


August
Thursday, 1 ...........10:45 a.m., “Modern History of Congressional Investigations” with Jeff Robbins. Lunch: Spinach mushroom quiche, gazpacho, hearts of Palm salad, beets, pudding, coffee, tea and milk for coffee.


Thursday, 18 ...........10:45 a.m., “A Hundred Acres of America: Jewish American Literature and the Sense of Place” with author and professor David Grossman. Lunch: Barbecued brisket**, potato salad, coleslaw, sweet potato fries, farmer’s loaf, fruit cobbler and tea.

Monday, 22 ...........10:45 a.m., Dr. Avraham Horowitz discusses the novel, A Horse Walks into a Bar by David Grossman. Lunch: Sloppy Joes**, salad, corn, baby carrots, hamburger rolls, applesauce and tea.

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

AUGUST
Thursday, 1 ...........10:45 a.m., Program to be Announced. Lunch: Tomato basil quiche, mango juice, beets, salad, multi-grain bread, ice cream and cookies, coffee, tea and milk for coffee.

Monday, 5 ............10:45 a.m., Program to be Announced. Lunch: Macaroni and cheese, chef’s choice of juice, salad, Italian beans, oat bread, sorbet, coffee, tea and milk for coffee.
Berkshire Jewish Film Festival Returns for its 33rd Season

LENOX – The Berkshire Jewish Film Festival (BJFF), one of the longest-running film festivals in the United States, is proud to announce its 33rd season. Held on six Mondays from July 8 through August 12 in the Dudkins Theater, Lenox Memorial High School, 197 East Street, Lenox, the festival will present fourteen films from a variety of sources including the United States, Israel, Germany, and Latin America.

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

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

July 8

The festival opens at 4 p.m. with two films. Benoît the Ink is inspired by current events. An Appalachian tattoo artist donates his services to erase symbols of hate from those seeking to reverse past, bigoted mistakes. The Barn is a captivating and honest film of a Holocaust survivor and his granddaughter who travel from Tel Aviv to Ashkelon.

July 15

At 4 p.m., BJFF presents Joseph Pulitzer: Voice of the People, an inspiring American success story recounting the life and times of modern journalism’s founding father, relevant to the ‘fake news’ era. This superbly crafted biography heralds freedom of the press at a time when First Amendment rights are challenged.

At 8 p.m., Rescue Bus 300 is a powerful and tense docudrama telling the story of the 1984 hijacking and daring rescue of Bus 300 on its way from Tel Aviv to Ashkelon.

July 22

At 4 p.m.: The Accountant of Auschwitz. More than 40 years after serving as an SS officer at Auschwitz, Oskar Gröning told the world what he had done. His admission led to his trial for complicity in the murder of 300,000 Jews. A new generation is reengaging investigations against the living perpetrators of some of history’s worst crimes.

At 8 p.m.: Holy Lands. James Caan leads an all-star cast as a retired American cardiologist who leaves everything behind to become a pig farmer in Israel. This comedic family drama is a wry and moving tale of a dysfunctional family—with an ex-wife (Rosanna Arquette), an alienated son, and a perennial student daughter—striving for reconciliation and acceptance.

July 29

At 4 p.m.: Ask Dr. Ruth is a documentary portrait chronicling the life of Dr. Ruth Westheimer, a Holocaust survivor who became America’s most famous sex therapist.

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

August 5

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

At 8 p.m.: In The Unorthodox, a disenfranchised Sephardic father, whose daughter is expelled from a prestigious religious school just for her ethnicity, launches the ultra-Orthodox Shas Party, a nascent challenge to the ruling Ashkenazi establishment in this lively, crowd-pleasing drama.

August 12

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

At 8 p.m.: In The Memory of Leona, a powerful and moving story of a Holocaust survivor and his forbidden love. There are no easy choices to be made as she struggles to take the best path. (Mature content).

Amy Herman, a member of the BJFF screening committee, says this about her favorite film of this season!

“If you Google reviews for the film Leona, you will find the words “intimate, genuine, insightful, honest, empowering.” I totally agree! Set within a large extended Jewish family in present-day Mexico City, Leona is a coming-of-age drama told through the experience of a young woman artist. As Ariela discovers love, she must weigh the values and expectations of her family, religion, and community who define her love as forbidden. The acting is exquisite, and the superb direction brings the viewer into each frame, creating an up-close and personal experience. The film also presents a broader, sociological perspective highlighting the complexity for the film’s characters. Leona is one of my favorite films of this season, partly because I am always intrigued to see films about Jewish life in other countries. Come join us – we’ll be discussing this film, and learning more about the film’s protagonist, Leona!” Please note: there is mature content.
Out of the Dark

Susan Miller's latest sculpture series illuminates the human cost of evil deeds

By Albert Stern / BJV Editor

Susan Miller and I hadn't talked since I wrote about her artwork in the December 2016 BJV, and when I arrived at her home in Pittsfield to interview her about her new series of sculptures that she has been working on for the past three years, I greeted her by saying, "I see that you have been very creative since the last time we spoke."

She answered: "Do you think I have a choice?"

My first article about Miller focused on her dreamy oil and pastel Berkshire landscapes and her refined marble sculpture inspired by the Hebrew Bible. She shares that this new series, "Lethal Bloom," comes from a much darker place, born of her response to the 2018 shootings at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL, in which 17 people were murdered.

The work, she says, "is an expression of my astonishment and distress at all the massacres of human beings that have occurred – Parkland was just the latest and, ever since it happened, there has been one massacre after another."

Reflecting the darkness from which it emerged, the new work is mostly black. "My Calvary" (see image on page 1), which is on view this summer as part of The Mount's SculptureNow exhibition, is dramatic and disturbing, managing to all at once evoke the "Winged Victory of Samothrace" in the Louvre, the Columbine killers' black trench coats, a ravaging locust-like creature, and a shape-shifting wraith straight out of your worst nightmare.

Suspended on cables between two trees, "My Calvary" seems to be advancing through the trees in order to consume everything in its path within its darkness. It represents, she says, "disaster that flies into your life, that happens in a second – but its result is permanent. I don't see how it could be anything else but black."

The head and hand of a baby doll protrudes from what appears to be its maw, possibly emerging from it, possibly being consumed. "The child," says Miller, "represents the children of those who were killed that will never be."

"My Calvary" is "a very personal to me. This work came out because I am Jewish in sensibility. She says that because of her connection to Jewish history, she feels that her role as an artist is to serve as a witness to history, to react to the hatred and violence currently taking place throughout the world. Through sculpture, I give voice to the person who cannot speak – I take screams that are in the end is sculpture, but I'm not sculpting."

"Lethal Bloom." Miller is working with fabric and resins, a method she has experimented with for decades. She shapes clothing and material she finds in her closets or thrift shops over an armature such as chicken wire or a found object, and then dips them into a chemical compound that hardens within a few hours. "It's a 'lay-up' process, as opposed to molding," she explains. "I do one layer at a time, and the direction of work comes to me as I go along. What I have in the end is sculpture, but I'm not sculpting."

"Hat and Gloves Required," one of Miller's early works using resin, circa 1975

To a viewer, it’s also "very clear that these works are made of clothing. Females are always concerned with clothing, and if I use my clothing, it has absorbed some of me – I selected it, wore it, washed it, ironed it. And now it's made permanent." She adds that clothing is uniquely human, something in nature that only human beings create, and that by refashioning clothes into something monstrous, she feels that her role as an artist is to serve as a witness to history, to react to the hatred and violence currently taking place throughout the world. Through sculpture, I give voice to the person who cannot speak – I take screams that are not heard and extrapolate them to "My Calvary."

With "Lethal Bloom," Miller is working with fabric and resins, a method she has experimented with for decades. She shapes clothing and material she finds in her closets or thrift shops over an armature such as chicken wire or a found object, and then dips them into a chemical compound that hardens within a few hours. "It's a 'lay-up' process, as opposed to molding," she explains. "I do one layer at a time, and the direction of work comes to me as I go along. What I have in the end is sculpture, but I'm not sculpting."

SculptureNow at The Mount 2019

This summer, SculptureNow and The Mount present SculptureNow at The Mount, 2019 a juried exhibition featuring 30 new, large-scale, outdoor sculptures placed in the landscape of The Mount, Edith Wharton's home. The exhibition is open through October 27, 2019, and is free with admission to The Mount. The show includes regionally, nationally and internationally recognized artists.

For more information please contact: Ann Jon, Executive Director of SculptureNow (annjon@sculpture-now.org or visit www.sculpturenow.org).

The Mount is at 2 Plunkett Street in Lenox.

"Reach," from the "Lethal Bloom" series: "That lethal lethal bloom flowers / unbidden / From holes that some other's / moral imperative has opened"

"Falling Woman," from 1990: "Falling down / Falling sideways / Falling in silent scream / Where there is no handhold / No deceleration / No detours 'til the sound of dirt upon a casket"

"Hat and Gloves Required," one of Miller's early works using resin, circa 1975

Susan Miller has been working with resin for decades, and has collected images of her work in this medium – along with her poetry – in an artbook titled Sounds of Woman Falling. Above are two examples of her earlier sculpture, as well as a second piece from the "Lethal Bloom" series, along with her words.

For more on her work, visit her website: www.susanmillerarts.com. Her books are available through www.blurb.com – search for "Susan Miller."

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