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The Berkshires is Home

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In My View

“Friendly Visitors” – A New Program to Extend a Hand of Companionship to Our Elders

By Dara Kaufman

The morning my grandmother was scheduled to move out of the house she had shared with my grandfather since moving to the Berkshires many years earlier, she received a call from the hospital notifying her that her husband, my beloved grandpa Philip, had passed away. We were heartbroken. I remember later thinking that despite the incredibly emotional and difficult transition it must have been, she was probably better off in an assisted living facility.

When my husband and I moved back to the Berkshires, picking up Grandma Betty (“Bubbe,” as my son Yonaton called her), and bringing her for dinner at our house or to TJ Maxx (her favorite place) or just visiting with her were regular activities in our weekly schedule. During our time in Israel, we had made similar weekly visits to my husband’s Ofer’s grandmother, Shoshana.

As I hear from many of our program attendees, it is hard to get old – and some use harsher language to describe it. I have come to understand just how true that is. Many older residents, especially those who have lived here for many years, are not as lucky as my grandmother was. There are many individuals aging in their homes, all too often without local family support. For some, it is because that is what they want to do. But for many it is a financial issue. They simply do not have the resources to move into an assisted living facility or to go south to escape the bitter Berkshire winter.

The Berkshires has long seen a graying of its population. It was an inevitable result of years of job and population loss, coupled with aging baby boomers and younger people who have gravitated to the urban centers. With a median age of 44, the Berkshires is already older, on average, than any other area of the state, younger people who have gravitated to the urban centers.

With Community kosher lunch program, Kosher Meals on Wheels, and the community social worker are all vital links in helping hundreds of community members age in place with dignity. Joe’s Project, which brings holiday care packages and visits to hundreds of seniors twice a year, is a favorite among seniors and our volunteers. But we can do more.

As our local population continues to age, we have seen isolation and loneliness become an increasing problem. Many community members can no longer get out of the house as easily as they used to. They miss the regular companionship of family and friends. We know that something as simple as a weekly friendly visit would make all the difference in bringing joy and connection to their lives.

To this end, the Federation is launching a new “Friendly Visitors” program. Working in partnership with Elder Services of Berkshire County, volunteers for our Jewish community will be matched with at-home seniors from our community. Together, they will plan their visiting schedule and choose how to spend their time.

Volunteer qualifications are simple – if you are reliable, compassionate, a good listener, and sensitive to the needs of older adults, you will make a great visitor!

Volunteer qualifications are simple – if you are reliable, compassionate, a good listener, and sensitive to the needs of older adults, you will make a great visitor! Training and support will be provided in conjunction with Elder Services and the Federation’s social worker, Marie Tiffany. More details on this new program can be found in the ad on page 14 – and feel free to call the Federation and speak to Susan Frisch Lehrer, our volunteer coordinator.

I think about my grandmother and I recognize the struggles she faced aging alone in her later years. I am grateful that my family and I were close by, and that she had easy access to activities and a community of people. I am also grateful that we have an organization like Federation, as well as caring supporters and volunteers who will be able to bring the community and the activities to those who can no longer easily access it.

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

Letters to the Editor

Heartfelt Thanks for Our Volunteers’ Tremendous Goodwill

Dear Wonderful Volunteers:

On Good Deeds Day in April, you all gave the residents of Pine Hill at Kimball Farms such a wonderful afternoon, with music, a therapy dog, flowers, artistic fund, and singing – and hamentashen!

People are still speaking about it, and said: “You should definitely have them come back!” and “Book them again!”

We are so grateful for your overflowing generosity. You inspire all of us with your kindness and tremendous goodwill.

Loving thanks from the residents and staff of Pine Hill. Your warmth made our day and then some.

You did good!

Sharon Lazerson
Community Outreach Coordinator for Kimball Farms

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

CORRECTION: In the last issue of the BJV, artist Tanya Fredman’s name was misspelled. Her website is www.tanyafredman.com.
Having served as rabbi of Temple Anshe Amunin for almost a decade, I realize that part of my heart is always going to be in the Berkshires.

When I first arrived in Pittsfield, I hadn’t expected that this city would be my home for the next nine years. Up until that point, my life had largely been defined by my studies and work in Providence and Boston. When I was ordained in 2009 at the age of 33, I was a little daunted by the prospect of leaving home to start a new chapter in the Berkshires.

Stephanie and I were initially drawn to Western Massachusetts by the promise of a vibrant arts community and the allure of its natural beauty. Even in our first weeks here, we were delighted to find both of these in abundance. I began to relax — maybe there was more to life than convenient access to Trader Joe’s!

While I had expected to find job satisfaction in my first pulpit, I hadn’t expected to fall deeply in love with the congregation, the broader community, and the region as a whole. Although I was an active participant in the Jewish life of both Providence and the greater Boston area, I found unique blessings in the Jewish community of the Berkshires that have been enduring sources of inspiration.

The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires is one of the jewels of our community. Its commitment to nurturing and supporting young and old alike is a profound gift. From camperships to scholarships, from the kosher hot lunch program to community events, the Federation enriches us all.

More than just an institution, the Federation impressed me with its focus on community-building. At Shabbat Across the Berkshires and havdallah events, we sang and prayed together, learning to appreciate the many ways in which Judaism can be celebrated. In (thankfully) rare moments of anti-Semitism and loss of all that we have shared together. This is where I first learned to be a rabbi.

The uniqueness of my time in the Berkshires was rooted in my sense that I was deeply connected to the Jewish community as a whole. This is a rare gift: few rabbis are afforded the opportunity to grow with and respect and into neighboring congregations. Here, I have always felt welcome in every aspect of Jewish life — it is a tribute to the strength of our community and its commitment to kedusha Yisrael (the holiness of the Jewish people).

But the greatest blessing that I have found in the Berkshires has been with my beloved congregation: Temple Anshe Amunin. From my first days here, I was guided by my teacher and friend, Rabbi Harold Salmann. He helped me come to appreciate the unique legacy of a community about to celebrate its 150th anniversary — a superb milestone.

Anshe has been my spiritual home for almost a decade. I found a loving, responsive, and appreciative community that offered me great blessings. Together, we explored new rituals and engaged with Jewish texts (from the most ancient to the most modern). We grew closer in times of joy, such as when my children were born. And as honored members of our temple family passed away, we held each other in times of grief. My love for my temple family is both profound and enduring.

The decision to move on from Anshe and from the Jewish community of the Berkshires was one of the most difficult choices that I have ever made. I knew that leaving would be painful for our members and for my family and me. Although these were important considerations, I ultimately decided to accept the offer to serve as the next rabbi for Congregation Beth El (Sudbury, MA).

There were many factors that led me to the decision to return to Boston’s MetroWest region. First, I was excited at the opportunity to be close to friends and extended family in Providence, Boston, and Portland. Moreover, I was intrigued by the ability to connect with the community and scholarly initiatives at Hebrew College (my alma mater) and the Boston region as a whole. Lastly, I knew that joining the professional team at Beth El would give me the opportunity to grow in new ways; having served in my first pulpit for these many years, I realized that this was an opportunity to gain new skills as a rabbi.

While I am looking forward to this next chapter in my career, the past few months have been painful. Although I do not regret my choice, I still mourn the loss of all that we have shared together. This is where I first learned to be a rabbi. This is where Stephanie and I learned to be parents. And this is where I learned the true value of a vibrant Jewish community.

As I shared with you at the start of this letter, I know that part of my heart is always going to be in the Berkshires. I will always treasure the lessons that I learned with you in this beautiful place. My rabbinate – and my heart – have been enriched by your trust and care.

My dear friends, I pray that our paths will cross in the future. I pray that we will come together, in times to come, to celebrate in health and with joy. And I pray that the memories of all that we have shared together will be an enduring source of blessing in the years to come.

L’shalom,
Rabbi Josh Breindel

The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires wishes Rabbi Josh, Stephanie, Elanna, and Elijah nothing but happiness in the future.
AFFILIATE WITH A CONGREGATION

You, the congregation, and the Jewish community benefit when you do:

• YOU GET the Jewish enrichment and spiritual nourishment you are seeking.
• YOU GET the rabbinical support you need in times of joy and sorrow.
• YOU RECONNECT with your community and your Jewish roots.
• YOU CAN PARTICIPATE in a variety of services, classes, and programs that keep Judaism alive and flourishing in Berkshire County.
• THE CONGREGATION IS THE INSTITUTION that has sustained the Jewish people for two millennia throughout the world. Orthodox, Conservative, Reconstructionist, or Reform, the Jewish community wins when you join the congregation of your choice.

The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires encourages you to affiliate.

YOUR FEDERATION PRESENTS

The Art and Science of Medical Music

On Thursday, May 31 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires hosts Andrew Schulman, author of Waking The Spirit: A Musician’s Journey Healing Body, Mind, and Soul and a professional musician since 1975. His topic is “The Art and Science of Medical Music.” This free program at Knesset Israel, 10 Colt Road, in Pittsfield, is part of the Federation’s Connecting With Community programs.

In 2009, when Andrew Schulman was 57 years old and a professional musician in New York City for 35 years, he underwent major surgery at Beth Israel Hospital. Complications ensued and he had a near death experience. Miraculously, his life was saved because his wife played his favorite music for him when he was in a coma. The experience led to his partnership with Dr. Marvin McMillen (who is now a senior physician at Berkshire Medical Center) in developing the specialty called Medical Musician. That is the story told in his book and what he will talk about in his appearance here.

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community

Date & Time: Thursday, May 31 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 20).

LENOX – Starting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, June 19, the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires will celebrate its 78th annual meeting at the Seven Hills Inn, 40 Plant Street in Lenox, hosted by owners Robin Gerson Wong and Dennis Wong. The meeting is free and open to the entire Berkshire Jewish community. A celebratory reception on the patio will precede a short business meeting and featured program, “From the Plains of Africa to the Hub of Hi-Tech,” with graduates of the Ethiopian National Project.

Federation President Judy Uziel presented the current state of the Federation, while Mara Kaufman will deliver the Executive Director’s Report. During the meeting, outgoing members of the Federation board will be recognized for their contributions, a new board will be elected, and the Sanken Solomon College Scholarship will be presented.

“From the Plains of Africa to the Hub of Hi-Tech”

Special guests from the Ethiopian National Project (ENP) will share how the Berkshire Jewish community has helped to bridge the social, economic, and cultural gaps that exist for the next generation of Ethiopian Jews in Israel. Attendees will hear the inspiring, yet challenging, story of a modern-day exodus, and find out more about how our local dollars work to change lives with this long-time Federation partner.

Today, of the nearly 140,000 Ethiopian Jews living in Israel, two-thirds of them were born in Ethiopia, where most lived in huts and worked as shepherds or farmers. The community as a whole has struggled to integrate into Israel’s modern hi-tech society over the years since the first covert airlift brought 8,000 Ethiopian Jews to Israel during Operation Moses in 1984. The vast cultural, social, and economic gaps created many challenges in their absorption, especially for the younger generation.

Over the past 12 years, ENP, with its focus on education and empowerment, has changed the face of scholastic performance of Ethiopian Israeli schoolchildren, giving them the basic foundation they need for success. Today, ENP participants are matriculating at rates higher than the country average and are becoming a driving force in helping their families and communities thrive.

Approximately 3,500 residents of Afula/Gilboa – the region in northern Israel where our Federation maintains a Partnership2Gether relationship – are of Ethiopian heritage. The ENP Scholastic Assistance Program (SPACE) in Afula serves 213 children and works to increase the number of students that take the bagrut (matriculation) exams through small tutoring workshops. SPACE Youth Coordinators offer social and emotional support in attempts to reduce high school dropout rates, strengthen students’ motivations to study, and foster a sense of community by organizing cultural and social activities.

In addition, ENP’s Youth Outreach Center in Afula provides a home away from home for more than 150 Ethiopian-Israeli youth, providing them with a safe space and leadership activities that allow them to become active participants in their community. ENP’s empowerment programs provide leadership training and other essential skills to ensure that parents and leaders within Afula’s Ethiopian Israeli community are fully involved in the future of their community and in their local municipality.

ENP is a partnership between the Jewish Federations of North America, the Government of Israel, representatives of Ethiopian Jewish community organizations, the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee in Israel (JDC-Israel), and Keren Hayesod USA.

For more information about our annual meeting, please call (413) 442-4360, ext. 10.

DONATE

• Volunteer

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

An Ongoing Partnership to Combat Bias

Dear Jewish Federation of the Berkshires:

On behalf of ADL New England, we write to express our utmost gratitude to the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires for its 2018 grant of $5,000, as well as for its continued generosity and support throughout the years.

With this generous funding, ADL will work with members of the Berkshires’ Roundtable to facilitate implementation of outreach programs and develop education training for K-12 educators and anti-bias peer training for middle and high school students.

ADL also looks forward to participating in Berkshire community initiatives, such as the “Courageous Conversations” forum in Pittsfield, to provide families with resources and strategies to foster a bias-free home environment and empower their children to recognize and report anti-Semitic and all forms of prejudice and actively promote respect for religious, racial, cultural, and other human differences.

ADL stands ready to assist Berkshire County schools and communities in responding to acts of anti-Semitism and any other form of hate, and helping prevent future such incidents. In keeping with our mission to “stop the defamation of the Jewish people and secure justice and fair treatment for all,” we are incredibly proud to have the Federation as a partner in providing anti-bias education programs to the public, educating our civil rights, and advocating on behalf of those whose civil rights are violated.

With great appreciation for your ongoing support,

Robert O. Trestan
Regional Director
Phil Fogelman
Education Director

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With great appreciation for your ongoing support,

Robert O. Trestan
Regional Director
Phil Fogelman
Education Director

Just in Time for Passover

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 came right on time – before Passover. We used half of it ($1,000) to celebrate Passover by buying special food for holi- day meals. The remainder of your donation will be used to celebrate Rosh Ha’Shanah and Sukkot in the Shelter during the fall.

The holidays are times when all of us, including the Shelter’s residents, miss their families and homes. Your dona- tion enables us to celebrate the holiday times, and by that support their decisions to leave their abusive homes.

This year, 71 women and 93 children were treated at the Shelter. In addition, four women and their children resided at the transitional dwelling we operate. 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.

Best regards,
Dina Hevlin Dahan
Executive Director
Haifa Women’s Crisis Shelter
Connecting With Community Programs / Kosher Hot Lunch

Programs in the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires' Connecting With Community series open with a Kosher hot lunch at 10:45 a.m., followed by free and start at 11 a.m. on most Mondays and Thursdays at Knesset Israel (16 Colt Road, Pittsfield). Programs are followed by a kosher hot lunch. Lunch is a $5 suggested donation for adults over 60 years of age or $7 for all others. Advance reservations are required for lunch and can be made by calling (413) 442-2200 before 9 a.m. on the day of the program.

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 20.

Note that lunch menus are subject to change. Also note that beginning on June 1 and continuing through the summer months, the Tuesday kosher lunch program will be on hiatus. Tuesday lunches will resume in the fall.

Current Affairs: Contemporary American and International Politics

On Thursday, June 14 and Thursday, June 28 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: The Rise and Demise of the Brooklyn Dodgers” was broadcast live on National Public Radio in December 2017 and can be currently heard online.

IF YOU GO
Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community
Venue: Knesset Israel
Date & Time: Thursday, June 14 and Thursday, June 28 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 20).

The Process of Aging, with Maggie Bittman

On Monday, June 18 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires presents “The Process of Aging” with therapist Maggie Bittman. This free program at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield, is part of the Federation’s Connecting With Community series.

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

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

IF YOU GO
Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community
Venue: Knesset Israel
Date & Time: Monday, June 18 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 20).

“Breaking the Silence in Gyumri, Armenia,” on June 7

On Thursday, June 7 at 10:45 a.m., join Suzi Banks Baum, a writer and artist who will talk about her experiences in Armenia leading an art and writing workshop called New Illuminations, which works to empower local women through the creation of handbound books. This free program at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield is part of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires’ Connecting With Community series.

This program, originally slated for March, was rescheduled due to a snow storm.

“In a culture that silences women,” writes Suzi Banks Baum, “that neither values their work nor sees their stories as essential, we are reconnecting Armenian women artists with indigenous practices of handbound books. Building books with them redirects a cultural trend of silence, providing them with vessels for connection.”

With a slideshow of vibrant images that tell the story of her residencies in Armenia, she will discuss the power of art in making social change and the ways of cultural diplomacy. Banks Baum will provide a vision for the future of New Illuminations, illustrated with brand new images from her recent residency.

Suzi Banks Baum is a writer, artist, actress, teacher, community organizer, and mom who lives in Great Barrington. Her first published book, An Anthology of Babes, celebrates the writing of women artists. “Deeply curious about the thresholds we cross in to creative practice, I write personal narrative with an ear for transformation though engagement with the ordinary,” she says. She has an ongoing artist residency in Gyumri, Armenia with New Illuminations, while also interviewing women artists there about their daily lives. She says she inspires women to live from the space of creative spirit and to value their contributions to the world and one another through workshops steeped in book arts, ritual, and writing. Find her work on Essay Street, The Mid, Literary Mama, Moth Writer Mentor, Rebelle Society, Mothers Always Write and her blog www.suzibanksbaum.com.

IF YOU GO
Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community
Venue: Knesset Israel
Date & Time: Thursday, June 7 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 20).


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On my desk were the last two issues of the BJV – the March/April cover story was about the parents of Sonia Beker, whose book Symphony on Fire recounts how her parents, in a post-WWII displaced persons camp, played in a concert by Leonard Bernstein. In the April/May issue of the paper, we reproduced a program from the 1954 summer concert to benefit the Jewish community of Pittsburgh, and one of the event’s honorary co-chairs was… Leonard Bernstein. The back page had a story about clarinetist Paul Green, who at age 13 was selected by Leonard Bernstein to play with the New York Philharmonic for the Young People’s Concert television season.

Finally, I remembered that a few days earlier, I’d sent a friend of mine a haftarah selection to see if he might consider writing a Leonard Bernstein. In the April/May issue of the BJV, the essay “The Jewish Leonard Bernstein” is by Emily Friedner. She wrote, “I have often wondered about the connection between Bernstein’s music and Jewish texts.”

In its 54th year, the Berkshire Jewish Voice, published by JewishBerkshires.org, has provided a range of content, including news stories, opinion pieces, and reviews. Among the highlights:

- **Mazel Tov**
  - **Rose Tannenbaum** on having a painting accepted into the Berkshire Museum’s show, “Art of the Hills”
  - **Seth Rogovoy** and **Linda Friedner** on their marriage; Linda is the daughter of Audrey and Ralph Friedner of Stockbridge and Delray Beach, FL.
  - **Adam Kronenberg** on his bar mitzvah at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire
  - **Sam Drucker** on his bar mitzvah at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire
  - **Elie Hammerling** on receiving the 2018 Robert K. Quatrocchi Award as Downtown Pittsfield Inc.’s Person of the Year for his work on Berkshire Lightscapes
  - **Liam Zuskin** on his bar mitzvah at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire
  - **Peter Stolzer** on the birth of his grandson, Easton Scott, to parents Tara and Sam Stolzer
  - **Helice and Steve Pichensky** on the engagement of their daughter, Alexis, to Eric Orenz
  - **Liz Baer and Hank Maimin** on their recent marriage
  - **Linda Halpern** on her bat mitzvah at Temple Anshe Aminim
  - **Ari Drayman and Pauley Peakes** on their confirmations at Temple Anshe Aminim

- **BOOKSPAN**
  - **Steve Bookspan**, speaking by phone from his winter home in Florida. Bookspan explained that his bar mitzvah portion is Pastrsh Vatatinach, which is read on Shabbat Nachamu, the Shabbat after Tisha B’Av, and on which the first haftarah of consolation (of seven leading up to the High Holy Days) is chanted. Bernstein seems to have remembered his bar mitzvah portion as occurring around Tisha B’Av, when the Book of Lamentations (in Hebrew ‘Achvi’, its composition traditionally attributed to the prophet Jeremiah) is read. “The opening of Achvi,” said Bookspan – “how desolate the city…” was something he carried with him for the rest of his life. It had one of the most important messages and was always with him.

- **Bernstein incorporated passages from Achvi into the final movement of his first symphony and, as noted by Rodney Greenberg in his essay The Jewish Leonard Bernstein, ‘Jeremiah’ – the prophet who rallies God and made him accountable for human suffering – is a biblical Bernstein counterpart, and addressing a personal crisis in faith was a subject to which he returned.”

- **Bernstein incorporated passages from Achvi into the finale of his first symphony and, as noted by Rodney Greenberg in his essay ‘The Jewish Leonard Bernstein,’ ‘Jeremiah’ – the prophet who rallied God and made him accountable for human suffering – is a biblical Bernstein counterpart, and addressing a personal crisis in faith was a subject to which he returned.”

- **Bookspan** quoted Bernstein from “a press conference during the recording of the symphony in 1977,” when he said: “If I suppose I am always writing the same piece. The work I have been writing all my life is about the struggle that is born of the crisis of our century, a crisis of faith. Even way back, when I wrote Jeremiah, I was wrestling with that problem. The faith or peace at the end of Jeremiah is really more of a kind of comfort, not a solution.”

- **Bookspan shared that when confronted with adversity, ‘no matter what the impediment, [Bernstein] said he also remembered his bar mitzvah portion from Shabbat Nachamu – ‘be comforted’ – and said there was something mystical about that connection. And talk about way back – the teenaged Bookspan was at the premiere of the ‘Jeremiah’ symphony in 1943, conducted by Serge Koussevitzky. He remembers going backstage and talking to Bernstein in the conductor’s dressing room that night, an encounter that cemented their friendship.**

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- **BOOKSPAN** on having a painting accepted into the Berkshire Museum’s show, “Art of the Hills”

- **BOOKSPAN** on receiving the 2018 Robert K. Quatrocchi Award as Downtown Pittsfield Inc.’s Person of the Year for his work on Berkshire Lightscapes

- **BOOKSPAN** on his bar mitzvah at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire

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- **BOOKSPAN** on the birth of his grandson, Easton Scott, to parents Tara and Sam Stolzer

- **BOOKSPAN** on the engagement of their daughter, Alexis, to Eric Orenz

- **BOOKSPAN** on their recent marriage

- **BOOKSPAN** on her bat mitzvah at Temple Anshe Aminim

- **BOOKSPAN** on their confirmations at Temple Anshe Aminim

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- **BOOKSPAN** on their confirmations at Temple Anshe Aminim
The Unexpected Adventures of America’s PJ Library® Book-Gifting Program – In Israel

On Monday, June 25 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires welcomes Galina Vromen, executive director of Grin- span Israel Foundation, the Israeli entity of the Massachu- setts-based Harold Grinspoon Foundation. Her topic: “The Unexpected Adventures of America’s PJ Library Book-Gifting Program – In Israel.” This free program at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, in Pitts- field, is part of the Federation’s Connecting With Community series.

Did you know that the award-winning PJ Library program has been adapted to Israel? Did you know that it serves more than 500,000 children and their families each year? And that it exists not only in Hebrew but also in a culturally-adapted version in Arabic?

Galina Vromen will chart the remarkable story of creating Sifriyat Pijama (Hebrew for Pajama Library) and Maktabat al-Fanoos (Arabic for Lantern Library) to become Israel’s leading book programs, encouraging shared adult-child reading in class and at home. She will detail the impact of the programs on reading read- iness and ethnic identity among both Jewish and Arab families – and the challenges the programs face in Israel’s complex society.

Galina Vromen directs the foundation’s Hebrew and Arabic book-gifting programs. Before joining the founda- tion in 2002, she worked in publishing and in journalism, mostly as a correspondent for Reuters News Agency in Israel, the Netherlands, and in England. Born in Israel and raised on the US East Coast, she is a long-time summer resident of the Berkshires, where her family has owned a home for almost 30 years. She has a BA in anthropology and media commu- nications from Hampshire College and an MA in English literature from Bar Ilan Uni- versity in Israel.

IF YOU GO

Date & Time: Monday, June 25 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 20).

PITTSFIELD – On Wednesday, May 30 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Reid Middle School, the Jewish Federation of the Berk- shires will be one of the lead sponsors of a panel discussion “Courageous Conversations: Social Media, Aggression and Our Youth – What Families Need to Know.” This program is primarily intended for middle school and high school students, their families and caregivers, and teachers and adminis- trators. It will offer insights to help families recognize different forms of aggression in social media — such as cyberbullying, harassment, bias, and microaggressions — and strategies to encour- age children to speak up and speak out when they and their friends encounter any form of aggression.

Mayor Linda M. Tyler, City of Pittsfield, will welcome the audience and provide opening remarks. Keynote speaker will be Phil Fogelman, education director, Anti-Defamation League New England Region and the director of ADL’s A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE® Institute. Moderating will be Massachusetts State Repre- sentative Tricia Farley Bouvier (D-Pittsfield). Panelists are:

• Meg Bossong, Director of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response, Williams College
• Makailey M. Cookis, Class of 2018, Pittsfield High School

Cost: This program is free of charge, with no RSVP required. Bring your lunch or purchase one at Tanglewood.

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

Courageous Conversations – A Forum for Families on Social Media Aggression

IF YOU GO

Venue: Knesset Israel

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community
**Cellist Yehuda Hanani to Perform for Our Major Donors**

Hanani has appeared with major orchestras and taught at universities throughout the globe and, in addition to playing his cello (accompanied by his late Detroit teammate at the major donors’ event, Hanani will talk about his experience playing throughout the world as an Israeli performer.

Hanani says that he has found, “It’s like there is a magnet that draws you to other Jewish people. You have an inner need to find out — are there Jews here? What are they doing?”

Hanani was born in Jerusalem and lived in Tel Aviv until age 18. His father was a music professor and his mother a computer scientist, giving Hanani an appreciation of music and technology from an early age. Hanani studied cello performance at the Jerusalem Conservatory and in New York, where he earned his Bachelor of Music degree. He has performed with major orchestras and taught at universities throughout the world.

Hanani will talk about his experience playing throughout the world as an Israeli performer. He will also discuss his recent performance with the Berlin Philharmonic under the direction of Daniel Barenboim, as well as his upcoming concert with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra.

Hanani believes that music has the power to bring people together and to promote understanding and peace. He envisions a world where music is used as a tool for reconciliation and collaboration.

Hanani’s performance will be held in the Berkshires on May 29th at 8:00 pm. Tickets are available through the Jewish Federations of Western Massachusetts Event Calendar at www.jewishberkshires.org.
Your Federation Presents

Listening to the Still Small Voice: An Illustrated Presentation of Shaker History

Sharon Duane Koombler

On Monday, June 11 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires welcomes Sharon Duane Koombler for a talk about the Shaker community once so prominent in this part of the country. Her presentation is titled “Listening to the Still Small Voice: An Illustrated Presentation of Shaker History.” This free program at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, in Pittsfield, is part of the Federation’s Connecting With Community series.

With this illustrated presentation, Sharon Duane Koombler shares highlights of the last 25 years of her experiences in learning Shaker history and synthesizing that knowledge into presentations, publications, and exhibitions. Highlights include biographical views of individual Shakers and certain work attributed to them; thematic interpretations of categories of Shaker material culture; in-depth inquiries into personal individual Shaker’s spiritual journeys and missionary efforts; and broad-brush interpretation of Shaker life.

IF YOU GO
Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community
Venue: Knesset Israel
Date & Time: Monday, June 11 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 20).

The Life and Legacy of Dr. Janusz Korczak

Dr. Janusz Korczak

Newspaper, trained teachers in what is now called moral education, and worked in juvenile courts defending children's rights. He was a strong advocate of the need for a declaration of children’s rights long before such documents were drawn up by the Geneva Convention (1924), the United Nations General Assembly (1959), and the Convention of the Rights of the Child (1989).

His books, *How to Love a Child* and *The Child’s Right for Respect*, gave parents and teachers new insights into child psychology. His classics, *King Matt the First* and *King Matt on the Deserted Island*, enchanted children around the world. The Israelis revere Janusz Korczak as one of the Thirty-six Just Men whose pure souls, according to the ancient Jewish tradition, make the world’s salvation possible.

UNESCO declared 1978-79 the Year of Korczak to coincide with the Year of the Child and the centenary of his birth.

Dr. Janusz Korczak

On Monday, June 4 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires welcomes Mariola Strahlberg, founder and executive director of the Janusz Korczak Association of the USA. This free program at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, in Pittsfield, is part of the Federation’s Connecting With Community series. Mariola Strahlberg will present an informative and timely talk on the life and work of Dr. Janusz Korczak (Henryk Goldszmit 1879-1942), a pediatrician, writer, educator, and humanitarian who was well known all over the world for his innovative work with Polish and Jewish orphans at two orphanages in Warsaw from 1912 to 1942. On August 5, 1942, Dr. Korczak was taken to the Treblinka death camp, together with 192 orphans and his staff of nine, and disappeared into its bowels, never to be seen again.

Janusz Korczak, an assimilated Polish Jew, practiced universal humanism. He is credited in Europe with the introduction of progressive orphanages designed as democratic republics; he founded the first national children’s newspaper, trained teachers in what is now called moral education, and worked in juvenile courts defending children’s rights. He was a strong advocate of the need for a declaration of children’s rights long before such documents were drawn up by the Geneva Convention (1924), the United Nations General Assembly (1959), and the Convention of the Rights of the Child (1989). His books, *How to Love a Child* and *The Child’s Right for Respect*, gave parents and teachers new insights into child psychology. His classics, *King Matt the First* and *King Matt on the Deserted Island*, enchanted children around the world. The Israelis revere Janusz Korczak as one of the Thirty-six Just Men whose pure souls, according to the ancient Jewish tradition, make the world’s salvation possible.

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IF YOU GO
Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community
Venue: Knesset Israel
Date & Time: Monday, June 4 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 20).

SAVE THE DATE

Jewish Women’s Foundation of the Berkshires
Annual Brunch & Meeting

Friday, June 29
10:30 a.m.
The Lenox Club
111 Yokun Ave, Lenox, MA

Special Guest: Linda Hirshman
Author of Sisters In Law: How Sandra Day O’Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg Went to the Supreme Court and Changed the World

IF YOU GO
Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community
Venue: Knesset Israel
Date & Time: Monday, June 11 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 20).

The Jewish Transportation Network
Discount Taxi Vouchers
for Jewish residents aged 65 years and older

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

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

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

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

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

editing style, chival material, and a vibrant making, this decades-
Handwerker. Thirty years in maker’s grandfather, Nathan of the iconic Brooklyn eatery the personal and public history visually dynamic documentary portrait of the life and times of the world-renowned hot dog stand that is still thriving along the Brooklyn shore.

This Jewish Federation of the Berkshires program will take place at Hevreh of South- ern Berkshire at 10:45 a.m., and will be followed by lunch. Famous Nathan chronicles the personal and public history of the iconic Brooklyn eatery created in 1916 by the film-maker’s grandfather, Nathan Handwerker. Thirty years in the making, this decades-spanning, Coney Island-inspired rollercoaster ride interweaves a kaleidoscopic blend of home movies, archival footage, family photos, never-before-heard audio recording of Nathan, and intimate, sometimes hilarious interviews with family, friends and workers.

Take a look back at the immigrant experience and 100 years of family and New York history with this personal documentary gem. Featuring a strong score, colorful and endearing characters, rare archival material, and a vibrant editing style, Famous Nathan will not disappoint New York history enthusiasts.

Lloyd Handwerker was born in Brooklyn and grew up on Long Island, NY. He gradu- ated from Oberlin College with a major in Political Science then moved to Rochester, where he studied photography and video at the Visual Stud- ies Workshop. After traveling extensively in Southeast Asia, he went on to study film at NYU, where he received his MFA. He worked for over 20 years in the film industry as both an assistant cameraman and cinematographer on both narrative and documentary features, as well as short films and music videos. His lifelong passion has been researching and creating the documentary film he’ll be sharing, as well as the book that ties in to the documentary.

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires

Date & Time: Friday, June 15 at 10:45 a.m.

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

Cost: $11 with fresh buffet lunch. Program only, $5. Advance lunch reservations required for this event.

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

At the Berkshire Museum…

On April 8, more than 225 people joined Federation to commemorate Holocaust Remembrance Day and honor the forgotten Italian heroes who helped save thousands of Jews during World War II. Remembered were the brave efforts of Tour de France bicycl- ing champ Gino Bartali, who on May 2, 2018, was posthu- mously bestowed Commemo- rative Citizenship of the State of Israel. Bartali was already honored by Yad Vashem in 2013 as being among the Righteous Among the Na- tions. This latest recognition was part of events leading up to the Giro d’Italia Big Start, a bicycling competition that debuted in May in Israel, which included a memorial ride. Yad Vashem Chairman Aner Shalev presented the certificate of Commemorative Citizenship to Gioia Bartali, granddaughter of Gino Bartali, in the presence of the Italian Ambassador to Israel.

… and in Jerusalem, where cyclists participated in the memorial ride through Yad Vashem by the Cattle Car – Memorial to the Deportees monument

At the Berkshire Museum...

On April 8, more than 225 people joined Federation to commemorate Holocaust Remembrance Day and honor the forgotten Italian heroes who helped save thousands of Jews during World War II. Remembered were the brave efforts of Tour de France bicycling champ Gino Bartali, who on May 2, 2018, was posthumously bestowed Commemorative Citizenship of the State of Israel. Bartali was already honored by Yad Vashem in 2013 as being among the Righteous Among the Nations. This latest recognition was part of events leading up to the Giro d’Italia Big Start, a bicycling competition that debuted in May in Israel, which included a memorial ride. Yad Vashem Chairman Aner Shalev presented the certificate of Commemorative Citizenship to Gioia Bartali, granddaughter of Gino Bartali, in the presence of the Italian Ambassador to Israel.

Addressing ‘The Fear of the Other’ in the Berkshires

On Thursday, June 21 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires hosts Drew Herzig, who serves on the City of Pittsfield’s Human Rights Commission and with Invisible Pittsfield, and will speak on “Addressing ‘The Fear of the Other’ in the Berkshires.” This free program at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, in Pitts- field, is part of the Federation’s Con- necting With Community series.

The Human Rights Commission of Pittsfield is developing and raising consciousness around issues such as anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, LGBTQ issues, Asian-Americans in the Berkshires, and stigmas associated with mental illnesses. Drew Herzig will discuss what forms xenophobia, how
New! LIMITED EDITION – RESERVE YOUR COPY TODAY

250 pages of original definitive research tell this fascinating and important story which will be valued by anyone with family ties to the area, local history enthusiasts and students of the Jewish experience in the Berkshires. Includes family histories, many delightful anecdotes and over 100 rare photos.

To order or for more information go to sandisfieldartscenter.org and click on “Gift Shop”
Genealogist to Share Immigrant Family Love Story at CAS Lecture

GREAT BARRINGTON – On Thursday, June 7 at 7 p.m., “Genealogy Research Uncovers Love Stories in a Family of Jewish Immigrants,” a presentation by Keren Weiner, will be the second of Congregation Ahavath Sholom’s series of lectures.

What do we know of our ancestors’ deepest commitments beyond the names and the date?

Follow one immigrant family from New Orleans during the Civil War era through their move to New York City. Weiner will show how research methods from the internet to the telephone revealed how they survived war, epidemic, fire, and who knows what else – to leave loving legacies that inspire.

Japanese Relocation Camps: Yellow Bowl Project with Setsuko and Simon Winchester

GREAT BARRINGTON – On Sunday, June 3 at 7 p.m., Hevreh of Southern Berkshire hosts Setsuko and Simon Winchester for a presentation about World War II-era Japanese internment camps.

At the beginning of World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an executive order giving the military power to remove anyone from any area the government declared a “military zone.” This order was used to revoke the liberty of anyone with “1/16th Japanese blood.”

In 2015 and 2016 Setsuko Winchester, an American of Japanese ethnicity, and her husband Simon, a bestselling author, traveled to each of the ten US “relocation” camps where Americans of Japanese ancestry were held during World War II. Setsuko, a ceramic artist and a journalist, created 120 yellow tea bowls and photographed them at each of these sites. The “Yellow Bowl Project” tells a cautionary tale of what may happen to freedom when fear rules the day.

Setsuko and Simon Winchester reside in the Berkshires. They have presented this sensitive subject, including on public radio, to enthusiastic audiences.

Suggested contribution: $15. Hevreh is at 270 State Road, Great Barrington.

TAA Educator Rachel Alemany Cited for Outstanding History Curriculum

HARTFORD, CT – Temple Anshe Amunim has announced that Rachel Alemany and NFTY colleague Jeannette Lazer were selected to receive the 2018 Joseph Korzenik Memorial Educator Award for developing the NFTY program, “Shtetl: Jewish Community Life Before the Holocaust.”

The two educators received notification of the honor in April by Dr. Avinoam Patt, Philip D. Feltman Professor of Modern Jewish History, University of Hartford, and director of the Museum of Jewish Civilization.

Leah King Kaufman, senior regional director of Youth Engagement for NFTY Northeast, had nominated them for their “highest caliber as Jewish educators and youth professionals in New England.” She says she has seen the Shtetl curriculum in action for many years as a two-day activity within NFTY’s annual five-day gathering, and it has proved so popular that it is often waitlisted. She adds, “One of my favorite things about the Shtetl curriculum is how accessible the learning is... Students explore picture books and written materials, view videos and discuss what they learn, and work independently and in groups. They each build their own Shtetl, finding their way into this world with various tactile materials including edible candy. Experimenting with the objects and learning through ‘play’ gives students more excitement to engage with the project.

“I know both educators are passionate about Holocaust education, and have shown the teens how important it is to remember the shtetl way of life and the culture and values that supported it.”

On May 7, Rachel and Jeannette received their award, and celebrated their achievement at the Maurice Greenberg Center at the University of Hartford College of Arts and Sciences.
In Performance – “The Bintel Brief”

FITTSFIELD – In the early 1900s, Jews fled Eastern European oppression by the hundreds of thousands. Once on these shores, adapting to life in the Goldeneh Medina (“Golden Land”) posed great challenges!

The Yiddish newspaper Der Forverts, was the secular “bible” for these immigrants, and its editor, Abraham Cahan, became something of a “rebbe” to many who wrote in to the paper seeking advice on life in America. The Bintel Brief, A Selection of Sixty Years of Letters from the Lower East Side to the Jewish Daily Forward is a book that records these letters to the editor, translated into English, and the advice he professed.

On Sunday, June 3 at 7 p.m., Knesset Israel will present “A Bintel Brief, A Staged and Rehearsed Reading.” Featuring a cast of local volunteers and vocalists who will share the poignant, tragic, bittersweet, and humorous experiences that motivated that “Letters to the Editor” column.

This event is being co-sponsored by a generous grant from the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires.

Directing is Carol Rusoff, resident of Columbia County and veteran of a long and diverse career of directing, teaching, chairing of departments, and serving as resident teaching artist in venues from Europe to California. She will lead the cast in this theatrical experience in the KI sanctuary.

Israel Events at Hevreh

Israel related programming at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire this summer will include these events.

Israel Update

On Thursday, June 14 from 4 to 5:30 p.m., Hevreh member Steve Schreier and Rabbi Neil Hirsch will share their thoughts in a moderated panel discussion about the recent past and possible future of Israel and the entire volatile Middle East. In a talk last year, Schreier, a frequent and knowledgeable visitor to Israel, made several predictions regarding the political and economic conditions in Israel, as well as the Middle East in general. He looked back at events since the last war with an eye toward understanding their implications, and projecting forward through 2018. How did those predictions turn out and what will the next six months look like? Come and find out.

Film – Wrestling Jerusalem

On Sunday, June 24 at 10:30 a.m., Hevreh goes to the movies with a screening of Wrestling Jerusalem at The Triplex in downtown Great Barrington. Based on a critically-acclaimed one-man stage show by writer-actor Aaron Davidman. The film conjures a host of different characters while seeking answers to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Davidman takes a multi-dimensional journey into the heart of the Middle East, and the intersection of politics, identity, and spiritual yearning. He gives voice to 17 different characters on all sides of the existential divide – moving between male and female, Jewish and Muslim, Israeli and Arab – modeling what it takes truly to bear witness through the eyes of the other. Challenging long-held beliefs with sharp and unblinking observation, Davidman finds both entrenched isolation and shared humanity in the shifting moral compasses and competing narratives of all his characters. Cost: $10, tickets available at Hevreh or at the door. Limited seating.
Discussion Communities at Hevreh

GREAT BARRINGTON – On Thursday, June 28 from 4 to 5:30 p.m., watch a recorded ELI Talk from Dr. Alyssa Gray, professor of Jewish law at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, her topic “Jewish Law as Great Literature.” After hearing her opening argument, unpack it with Rabbi Neil Hirsch in order to explore the role of Jewish law in the progressive context of Reform Jewish living.

Managing Your Financial Outlook

On Monday, June 18 (and continuing for two additional Mondays, July 16 and July 30) from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m., join the discussion community “Investment Approaches for Today’s Economy and Markets.” Back for a fourth consecutive summer, these discussions will focus on personal investment topics, including the outlook for the economy and markets, asset allocation, taxes and investment strategy. Hevreh member Stu Schweitzer will be the program facilitator this year. Each of the season’s three sessions will have a clear, differentiated focus. The June 18, July 16, and July 30 discussions will be led by Stu Schweitzer, Jon Budish, and Larry Brotman, respectively. This event is free and open to the public. Hevreh is at 270 State Road, Great Barrington.

Jewish Life Yesterday and Today

GREAT BARRINGTON – This summer, Hevreh of Southern Berkshire presents two opportunities to learn about Jewish life and literature, both ancient and contemporary.

Book of Amos

On four consecutive Wednesdays starting June 6 (continuing June 13, 20, and 27), join Rabbi Neal Borovitz for “Speak Truth to Power! A Message from the 8th Century BCE,” an exploration of the biblical Book of Amos. Writes Rabbi Borovitz: “The short, but powerful, Book of Amos is a combination of biographical and auto-biographical narratives that convey the message that ordinary people can do extraordinary things when inspired to choose the ethical over the expedient.

In this four-session text study, we will seek to understand the timeless and universal challenge of holding leaders accountable for their actions and creating a society ruled by laws rather than potentates.”

The 75-minute classes are free and will begin at 11:45 a.m. Rabbi Neal Borovitz, a member of Hevreh and The Berkshire Minyan, is rabbi emeritus at Temple Avodat Shalom in River Edge, NJ and national vice chair of The Jewish Council for Public Affairs.

New Book Club

“Travel the Jewish World,” with Cantor Shani Cohen, kicks off Saturday, June 2 from 3-6 p.m. Writes Cantor Cohen: “Do you enjoy reading new and exciting books? Are you interested in learning more about Jewish communities all over the world? We are starting a new book club focusing on Jewish communities through literature. In June, we will be discussing Ruth Behar’s An Island Called Home, a fascinating story of the Jewish community of Cuba.”

Cantor Cohen will also present on her travels to the Jewish communities of Hungary, Lithuania, and Belarus last year. Email Cantor Cohen at scohen@hevreh.org for more information.

Seeking Compassionate Volunteers for NEW FRIENDLY VISITORS PROGRAM

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

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

Volunteer qualifications:

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

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

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

The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires’ Tikun Olam Volunteer Network (TOV) network connects community members of all ages with Vitelev opportunities to make a difference in our community.

Shabbat Across the Berkshires – Israeli Style!

Join with friends from across the Berkshire Jewish Community for a musical, family-friendly Shabbat service, led by rabbis, spiritual leaders and musicians from across the county, followed by a festive Mediterranean meal and birthday cake to celebrate Israel’s 70th birthday.

Friday, June 1 | 6:15 p.m.

Hosted by
Hevreh of Southern Berkshire & the Berkshire Minyan
270 State Road, Great Barrington, MA

Sponsored by:
Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, Berkshire Minyan,
Congregation Ahavath Sholom, Congregation Beth Israel, Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, Knesset Israel, Temple Anshe Amunim, and Berkshire Hills Hadassah

Shabbat

Across

The Berkshires

The Berkshires

May 29 to July 1, 2018
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 2018 Campaign – Thank You!

It all adds up. You make the difference.

$1,000 Jewish overnight Camp Scholarship for a local child

$54 Three kosher meals for a homeless senior in the Berkshires

$100 Jewish Day Camp Scholarship for a local child for a week

$150 An educational lecture in our Connecting with Community programs series

$40 1 hour of case management from the federation social worker

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

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

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

$36 Blankets and toileting aid for a Holocaust survivor in the Ukraine

Your acts of caring join with thousands of others.

Your generosity extends comfort, care, and connection to those who need it most.
The Yiddish Book Center
The world’s first Yiddish museum

Permanent & Visiting Exhibits • Talks • Films

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The Gateways Inn
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Don’t miss a thing this summer!
See a complete calendar of Jewish programs and events in “Berkshire Jewish Summer”
published with this issue of the BJV.
Also available at many locations throughout the Berkshires.
Life is a Cabaret!

BARRINGTON STAGE COMPANY'S
CABARET SERIES
AT MR. FINN'S!

Leslie Kritzer
Half Jew, All Guilt
July 8 & 9
@ 8 PM

Kritzer returns to Barrington Stage with another hilariously unapologetic evening of stories and songs about her life. She already feels guilty about it.

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Close Encounters with Music
Saturday, June 9, 6PM
The Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center
Great Barrington, MA

Gala: Lenny at 100
Bernstein & Friends

Michael Chertock & Michael Baranoff, piano;
Danielle Talamantes, soprano;
Kerry Wulkerson, baritone;
Yeruba Nakan, cello

Tickets: $50/27 | mahaiwe.org | 413.528.0100
Patron's Preferred Package: $160
Info: cewm.org | 800.843.0778

Celebrate life and all your "mazel tovs" at Winvian Farm, a storied and picturesque Connecticut estate with unique venues, five-star dining, and the experienced staff to make all your celebrations extraordinary. L'chaim!

WWW.WINVIAN.COM

To purchase tickets: www.americanfriendsofbatsheva.org
or email batshevafriends@batsheva.co.il

All activities take place at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival
358 George Carter Rd, Becket, MA

Bar and Bat Mitzvahs come but once in a lifetime. Make them memorable at Winvian Farm.

Celebrate life and all your "mazel tovs" at Winvian Farm, a storied and picturesque Connecticut estate with unique venues, five-star dining, and the experienced staff to make all your celebrations extraordinary. L'chaim!

WWW.WINVIAN.COM
Summertime JTS Lectures Returns to the Berkshires

LENOX – Once again this summer, the renowned Jewish and New York’s Jewish Theological Seminary will be partners for a four-half partners for the Jewish Lecture Series at the Bernstein Theater on the campus of Shakespeare & Company, running July 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, and 18. The series will be held on alternating Friday mornings in July from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. To ensure a seat, please register early. Through a series is presented in cooperation with the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, and is supported by a grant from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

As in years past, an overall broad theme will be interpreted by four different distinguished professors from their respective and diverse academic perspectives. The 2018 theme is “Back to Nature: Jewish Encounters with the Natural World.” Judaism’s complex relationship to nature begins in Eden, where humans are commanded to subdue and guard the earth. The visiting scholars will reveal the diverse perspectives of Jewish nature and the sacred realm. How do our sources—literary, legal, and liturgical—conceive of the world around us and our relationship to other creatures?

On July 13, Rabbi Daniel Nevins, the Pearl Hucknick Dean of the Rabbinical School has chosen the topic, “Biotekh and the Bible: Jewish Perspectives on Genetic Engineering.” Hu-

mans have been tinkering with life forms since the beginning of history, breeding plants and animals to suit their needs. Recent rapid developments in genetic engineering have allowed researchers and industry to improve crop yields, invent new medicines and therapies, and increase the quality of life. Yet the blending of DNA from different species also presents risks both physical and ethical. Rabbi Nevins will explore Jewish sources dealing with this brave new world.

On July 27, Rabbi Mychal Springer, Director of the Center for Pastoral Education, will speak about “Watering the Soul: Rain, Dew, and Spiritual Care.” Says Rabbi Springer: “Rain comes – or does not come – from heaven. The rhythms of wet and dry seasons attune us to our vulnerability and call on us to be ever mindful of our humility and open hearts. We will explore these themes through liturgical, biblical and rabbinic sources.”

On August 10, Dr. Alan Mittleman, Aaron Rabinowitz and Simhon H. Rifkind Professor of Jewish Philosophy, will present “Is Nature Sacred? Reassessing the Value of Nature in Judaism.” If the world is the product of a supernatural Creator who gave the world to humans, must the humans be reverent toward nature? For some, some ecologically-minded critics, this move was catastrophic. Is this behind the inclination to dominate nature, rather than co-exist responsibly suppos- edly found in non-biblical cultures? Dr. Mittleman will explore biblical sources and propose a contemporary Jewish- theory in light of Judaism’s sense of the sacred.

Where Are They Now?

Local Genealogist Yefim Kogan to Present at First Jewish Genealogy Conference in Eastern Europe

WARSAW, POLAND – In January of 2018, this article on Jewish genealogy featured Yefim Kogan, the founder and head of the Bessarabian Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston. These groups work under the umbrella of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS), an organization of more than 75 Jewish genealogical organizations worldwide.

This August 5-10, Kogan will be in Warsaw, Poland, the venue for the 38th annual International Conference on Jewish Genealogy – the first time the conference has been held in Eastern Europe. The conference features presentations, and activities at all levels, from beginners to experienced genealogists. The location affords people doing genealogical work a great opportunity, according to Kogan, “because it offers easy access to archives for research and for visits to ancestral towns in Poland and neighboring countries.”

The official language of the conference will be English. Speakers from at least 24 countries on five continents have been selected to give presentations. Kogan will be presenting a talk entitled “Moldova: Archives: What Information We Can Find in Additional to Vital Records and Repositories.” He will be giving two more talks with a guest speaker from Moldova: “Jewish Shtetl in Moldova Without Jews” and “Jewish Cemeteries in Bessarabia/Moldova.”

More than 30 Massachusetts residents plan to attend the Warsaw conference, and several of them have significant roles in organizing the conference.

Among the features of the conference will be:

- More than 150 lectures, panel discussions, and workshops focusing on genealogical methodology, archival resources, and the history of Jewish communities
- In-depth DNA workshops
- An innovative “Resource Village” combining a traditional vendor exhibit hall and a resource room with genealogy experts, mentors, archivists, local NGOs, and craftspersons
- Opportunities for one-on-one conversations with archives from European countries
- Networking via a popular Special Interest Group meetings and luncheons
- Special “Welcome to War-
saw” activities including tours of the city and introductory lectures
- Availability before and after the conference of tours featuring Poland’s rich Jewish history and visits to Holocaust memorial sites
- The conference is co-hosted by the new POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews and the Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute, both in Warsaw. The conference is also planned in close cooperation with the Polish State Archives, whose resources include vital records.

Registration for the Warsaw Conference is now open with 600 people already registered. Visit the conference website at www.iajgs2018.org for more information and to register for the conference.

On August 24, Dr. Raymond Scheindlin, Professor Emeritus of Medieval Hebrew Literature, tackles “Gardens of the Golden Age: The Pleasures and Perils of Medieval Hebrew Literature.” For Medieval Spanish Jewry, the garden was a place that the poet cultivated each other’s company, along with wine, music, and poetry. For medieval Jewish thinkers, the value of the garden provided time for philosophical reflection, and for the religious communities, the gar-
dens diverted people from serious activities to worldly pleasures. Through translations of se-
lected poetry in class, these complementary and conflicting values will be explored.

Register early for the annual summer gala fundraising event.

PTITSDFIELD – On Monday, June 25 at 5:30 p.m., Knesset Rockwell will present musical excerpts from a new production, Rockwell; Life on a Palette, as part of the congregation’s annual summer gala fundraising event.

Rockwell’s work is extraordinary by any measure – universal popularity, enduring longevity, and critical acclaim. This musical will bring his work into a new arena – on stage as musical theater.

Norman Rockwell suffered from the same self doubt that every artist goes through. Branded early on as a mere “illustrator” by both critics and peers, in his lifetime he never felt fully accepted as a fine artist. Ironically, these doubts haunted him deeply, even as he experienced continued financial success as an “illu-
strator.” This production, with a cast of 7 professional performers with extensive New York and Broadway experience, has minimalist sets that are primarily created through projections/videos of NRM, Rockwell’s Saturday Evening Post covers. The story musically recounts 20th century America culture, from ragtime innocence to the roaring 1920s, tap dancing in the 1930s and World War II era big band swing, and the New Broadway songbook plus rousing gospel and contemporary country music.

The unique and special evening will include a catered dinner and one hour of mu-
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ical numbers from Rockwell; Life on a Palette. Book and lyrics are by Eleanor Al- ban (who will be in attendance) and Anthony Barnao, with music by Ron Abel, who will provide accompaniment on piano. Both Alban and Abel will talk and answer questions about their work.

This event will take place at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield. The cost for this fundraising event is $150 per person. For more information, contact the KI office at (413) 445-4872.

Message to the Community from Temple Anshe Amunim

PTITSDFIELD – Temple President Deborah Co-duckey announced that on July 1, 2018, Rabbi Joshua Brender will assume a new pulpit at Congregation Beth El in Springfield, MA. A farewell tribute in Rabbi Josh’s honor will be held on Saturday evening, June 16. Deborah adds, “We will celebrate Rabbi Josh’s nine years as this congregation’s beloved rabbi and teacher to our Jewish and larger community. At 6 p.m., we will hold a special handful service and then from 6:30-9 p.m., we will hold a community reception to honor him with blessings, tributes, musings, good cheer, and our very best wishes. Please RSVP by June 8. There is no cost to attend; however, donations to the Temple’s Mitzvah fund in Rabbi Josh’s honor will be gratefully appreciated. To RSVP, make a donation, or receive further information, please contact the Temple office at (413) 442-5910 or email templeoffice@ansheamunim.org.

LOCAL NEWS
OBITUARIES

Leslie G. Reiche, 70, loved the arts

LENOX – Leslie G. Reiche, 70, died Friday morning, April 20, at her home. Born in Boston, MA on September 5, 1947, the daughter of Edward and Helen Katz Gordon, she attended Boston area schools and earned her BA degree. Mrs. Reiche was a sales representative for many years for her family’s business, Gordon Brothers Jewelers, of Boston. She loved the arts and attending concerts at Tanglewood and was an accomplished painter.

Mrs. Reiche and her husband, H. Juergen Reiche, were married in Hamburg, Germany on November 16, 1976. Besides her husband, of Lenox, she is also survived by her stepson Oliver Reiche and his wife Dagmar of Schuettizen, Austria; one sister Carol Fortune of Florida; and one step-grandson.

The funeral will be held on Friday, April 27 at Trinity Church, Lenox. Burial followed in Mountain View Cemetery. Donations may be made to Berkshire Humane Society in care of the Roche Funeral Home, 120 Main Street, Lenox, MA 01240.

May Dondey, 84, magnificent sense of humor

FITTSFIELD – May Dondey, 84, beloved wife, mother, daughter, sister, and friend, died peacefully on Saturday, April 14, at Berkshire Medical Center surrounded by her family after a long battle with many serious health conditions.

May enjoyed helping people and could light up a room with her smile. She was quick-witted, and had a magnificent sense of humor. Her love and support she gave to her family was never ending.

She was an animal lover, with her cat Blaze and the many pets of her children. She traveled yearly to Florida to see her son Tom, but some believe she really visited to see Tank (Tom and Tracie’s Grand Champion showdog). She loved to read (starting her own novel), bird-watching, and could light up a room with her sense of humor. Her love for her family was never ending.

Harvey Lehrer of Lenox; Rhonda Frisch-Cooker and husband Tom Cooper of Wears, NH; and Cynthia Frisch of Lake Worth, FL. She also leaves her grandsons Kevin and Adam Lehrer and sister Bess Saliman of Jacksonville, FL.

Funeral services were held Thursday, April 12 at Congregation Shirat Hayam, Swampscott, MA. Burial followed in Pride of Lynn Cemetery.

Donations may be made to Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield, MA 01201; Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, 190 South Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201; or Hadassah.

Jeanne Gloria [Gleberman] Cohn, 94, lived a wonderful, full life

LENOX – Jeanne Gloria [Gleberman] Cohn, 94, died peacefully on Sunday, May 6. Jeanne was born in 1923 in New York, NY to May and Samuel Gleberman. She was raised and educated in New York City, graduating from New York University with a degree in business. She later attended the University of Bridgeport, where she received her master’s degree in counseling. Jeanne and husband, Leonard, settled and raised their children in Stamford, CT, becoming part of a lifelong community of dear friends.

She had a wonderful, full life with Leonard, traveling around the world, attending concerts and theater, and entertaining. Jeanne was a gifted hostess and cook, who loved making beautiful parties for friends and family. She was a voracious reader, a passion that she passed on to all her children. Everyone who knew her admired her for the strength of her beliefs and her love for her family.

Jeanne’s last years were spent at Kimmel Farms Life-care Community in Lenox. She is survived by her husband, Daya Singh Ralwa (Sat Nirmal Kaur), and Maggie Cohn (Dean Plummer), and four adored granddaughters, Hari Simran, Leah, Abby, and Nora. Jeanne was preceded to death by her beloved husband of 69 years, Leonard Elias Cohn, and her brother, J. Harvey Gleberman.

A memorial service will take place later this year. Donations in her memory would be welcomed by the Alzheimer’s Foundation of America at www.alzfdn.org. Special thanks to the staff at Kimmel Farms Nursing Care Center for their kindness and compassion.

Create a Jewish Legacy Campaign

Please remember the Jewish Community in your will.

You may request that the Berkshire Jewish Voice be mailed to your home. Just email us at federation@jewishberkshires.org for information.

OBITUARIES

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Mattresses . beds . futons & more

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Rhonda Frisch-Cooper and Harvey Lehrer of Lenox; Rhonda Frisch-Cooker and husband Tom Cooper of Wears, NH; and Cynthia Frisch of Lake Worth, FL. She also leaves her grandsons Kevin and Adam Lehrer and sister Bess Saliman of Jacksonville, FL.

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Create a Jewish Legacy Campaign

Please remember the Jewish Community in your will.

You may request that the Berkshire Jewish Voice be mailed to your home. Just email us at federation@jewishberkshires.org for information.
Connecting with Community
Nourish Your Body, Mind, and Soul!

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

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

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

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

What’s for Lunch?

MAY
Tuesday, 29 ............ 10:45 a.m., "Vegetarian chili, spinach, whole wheat bread, peaches, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.
Thursday, 31 ............ 10:45 a.m., "The Art and Science of Medical Music” with Andrew Schulman. Lunch: Fettuccine with tomato goat cheese sauce, salad, peas, garlic bread, grapes, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.

JUNE
Thursday, 7 ............. 10:45 a.m., "Breaking the Silence in Gyumri, Armenia” with Suzy Banks Baum (rescheduled from snow day, March 8). Lunch: Barbecued chicken, corn, red beans and rice, coleslaw, rolls, margarine and tea.
Thursday, 14 ............ 10:45 a.m., “Current Affairs” with Professor Emeritus, Steven J. Rubin. Lunch: Spaghetti with spicy "seafood" sauce, Italian bread, vegetables, salad, garlic bread, peas, carrots, sauce, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.
Monday, 18 ............ 10:45 a.m., “The Process of Aging” with therapist, Maggie Bittman. Lunch: Turkey piccata**#, zucchini rice soup, salad, oven roasted potatoes, mixed vegetables, potato bread, peaches, and tea.

Monday, 25 ............ 10:45 a.m., “The Unexpected Adventures of America’s PJ Library® Book-Gifting Program In Israel” with Galina Vromen. Lunch: Macaroni and cheese, cran-raspberry juice, stewed tomatoes, salad, Challah, apricots, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.

Monday, 25 ............ 10:45 a.m., “The Unexpected Adventures of America’s PJ Library® Book-Gifting Program In Israel” with Galina Vromen. Lunch: Macaroni and cheese, cran-raspberry juice, stewed tomatoes, salad, Challah, apricots, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.

Friday, 22 ............ 10:45 a.m., "Current Affairs” with Professor Emeritus, Steven J. Rubin. Lunch: Tuna salad and cottage cheese platters**, pineapple juice, farmer’s loaf, brownies, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.

JULY
Monday, 2 ............. 10:45 a.m., Program to be Announced. Lunch: Hot dogs and hamburgers**, tomato juice, coleslaw, potato chips, potato salad, choice of bun, watermelon, and tea.
Thursday, 5 ............ 10:45 a.m., Program to be Announced. Lunch: Barbecued turkey**#, macaroni salad, 3 bean salad, corn cobettes, rolls, pears, and tea.
Monday, 9 ............. 10:45 a.m., Program to be Announced. Lunch: Meat loaf**#, mashed potatoes, peas & carrots, salad, pumpernickel bread, grapes, and tea.
Monday, 12 ............ 10:45 a.m., “The Process of Aging” with therapist, Maggie Bittman. Lunch: Turkey piccata**#, zucchini rice soup, salad, oven roasted potatoes, mixed vegetables, potato bread, peaches, and tea.

Homebound or recovering from an illness or injury? Let us help you arrange for a kosher lunch to be delivered through our Kosher Meals on Wheels Program. Call (413) 442-4360, ext 10.
Traveling with Jewish Taste

Breaking Bread

By Carol Goodman Kaufman

They say that man cannot live by bread alone, but the Jewish culinary treasure chest overflows with such delicious options that following such a maxim may be tolerable. After all, who could say “no” to a buffet of bagels, bialys, rye bread, challah, pita, malawah, and even matzah?

The first Jewish bread to get a lot of press was probably matzah. We are told that when our ancestors fled Egypt, they did so in such a hurry that their bread did not rise, thus giving us the Passover staple. Forgive the heresy, but I suspect that the matzah of 4,000 (give or take) years ago was not perfectly square, with parallel lines of perforation. And there was probably no cream cheese and jam to make it palatable. No, it probably was more like lavash, the Middle Eastern flat bread. And that lavash probably got very hard and dry in the desert heat – sort of like shmurah matzah, but definitely not square.

And while most people today buy their matzah in boxes marked Goodman’s or Streit’s or Manischewitz or Yehudah, saving us from having to make it ourselves, many communities hold annual matzah baking workshops at which participants can try their hand at getting the bread from mixing bowl to oven in less than 18 minutes. It’s a fun way to relive at least part of the exodus experience.

Challah wouldn’t have appeared on the table until after Sinai, once we got Shabbat. My Rubby Fannie, who was a most spectacular cook and baker, made a fabulous, slightly sweet version of the egg-infused bread. An avid consumer of her cooking, I asked her to write down her recipes for posterity. Her response: until I could read, write, and speak Yiddish, no dice. (It didn’t matter that I knew Hebrew. It was Yiddish or nothing.) Unfortunately, she didn’t issue that directive until two months before she died, so I have spent my entire adult life attempting to duplicate her challah. The one rule she did share with me: use unbleached flour only.

Perhaps the bread most associated with immigrant Jews in North America is the bagel. Paired with lox, cream cheese, and the New York Times, the bagel is the ubiquitous Sunday brunch food. Whether New York or Montreal, the roll with a hole is always boiled before baking, just as my otherubby, Sarah Deborah, did, giving it a dense and chewy interior.

The New York bagel differs from its Montreal cousin in that the latter is smaller, thinner, sweeter, denser, with a larger hole, and always baked in a wood-fired oven. Both types of bagel have their proponents, often vocal.

Bagel’s cousin, the bialy, shortened from bialystoker kuchen is harder to find, although I can’t understand why because they are delicious and, frankly, easier to make. The slightly crispier bread roll that originated in Bialystok, Poland is not boiled before baking. And, rather than a hole in the middle, it and has a depression over which are strewn onions and poppy seeds.

Breaking bread fills your home with unbeatable aromas and your belly with sustenance. Breaking it with family and friends is a life-affirming experience.

Baking bread fills your home with unbeatable aromas and your belly with sustenance. Breaking it with family and friends is a life-affirming experience.

Breakfast breadburst onto the American scene in the 1970s, when all things Israeli suddenly became trendy. Students returning from youth group trips and volunteer stints on kibbutzim brought with them a love of falafel, hummus, and the bread so necessary to enjoy both. However, even today, finding pita that doesn’t taste like the cardboard found in most grocery stores requires detective skills worthy of Miss Marple. (I refer you to my recipe for soft, fluffy pita in the April 7, 2014 issue of the Berkshire Jewish Voice.)

Some Jewish communities hold annual matzah baking workshops at which participants can try their hand at getting the bread from mixing bowl to oven in less than 18 minutes. It’s a fun way to relive at least part of the exodus experience.

Malawah

Ingredients:
- 4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 tablespoon kosher salt
- 1½ cups water
- 1 stick butter, melted

Directions:
1. Prepare two baking sheets by lining with lightly buttered parchment paper.
2. Make a well in the center and slowly add the water, stirring with your hands until a dough forms. It may take a few minutes. It’s a fun way to relive at least part of the exodus experience.
3. Transfer the dough to a clean surface and knead until smooth and elastic.
4. Let stand for 45 minutes.
5. Coarsely chop the dough into 8 even pieces. Brush with butter, then cover and let rest another 30 minutes.
6. Roll each ball of dough into a very thin rectangle.
7. Roll out each ball of dough into a very thin rectangle.
8. Starting from long edge of the rectangle, fold over the dough in 1-inch increments until a long rope is created.
9. Coil the rope and place on the baking sheet. Cover with plastic wrap.
10. Let stand for 45 minutes.

Serves 8

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

Around the Community

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

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


Tuesdays, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. – Torah Portion of the Week study group at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield. Facilitator Myrna Hammerling guides the group through the triennial cycle, year-round in the KI Library. Newcomers always welcome. Please check with KI for dates.

Tuesdays at 10:45 a.m. – “The Book of Deuteronomy” at Knesset Israel. Please check with KI for dates. Classes taught by Rabbi David Weiner who is guiding an exploration of the purpose, development and form of mitzvot. This curriculum, developed by the American Jewish University of Los Angeles, introduces participants to some of the most compelling thinkers of the contemporary Conservative movement and guides them towards greater understanding of the role of mitzvot in their lives.

Saturday afternoons – “Exodus Inspirations,” with Rabbi David Weiner. Please check with the KI website for times (which coincide with evening services) and dates. Our people’s central story – our journey from slavery to freedom, from Mitzrayim to the Promised Land – sparks innumerable conversations in every generation. Join in study of passages of Tanhuma Shemot, a creative 5th century commentary on the Book of Exodus, and enjoy the ensuing discussions.

Knesset Israel
16 Colt Road, Pittsfield
ONGOING MINYANS
Sunday 5:45 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Tuesday 7 p.m.
Thursday 7:45 p.m.
Friday 7 a.m. and 5:45 p.m.
Saturday 9:30 a.m. and evenings approximately 30 minutes before sunset

CANDLE-LIGHTING
June 1 .......................... 8:05 p.m.
June 8 .......................... 8:10 p.m.
June 15 .......................... 8:14 p.m.
June 22 .......................... 8:15 p.m.
June 29 .......................... 8:16 p.m.

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

TEANECK, N.J (Jewish Standard via JTA) – Perhaps because he has spent so many years working to restore abandoned Jewish cemeteries in Eastern Europe, Michael Lozman has come to believe that the lessons of the Holocaust must be disseminated as widely as possible.

That has meant erecting a memorial in Grosovo, Belarus, where almost 300 Jews were killed and buried; bringing students to Eastern Europe to stay with village families and learn more about the Shoah; and now heading efforts to build an ambitious Holocaust memorial near his home in a suburb of Albany.

“It all comes together,” he said. “I spent the past 16 years doing research on Jewish history. I met with people; I went to Eastern Europe, and when I came back home, I realized that this was a project I wanted to do. Albany does not have an appropriate Holocaust memorial near his home in a suburb of Albany.

Lozman, an orthodontist from Latham, NY, whose father came from a small village in Eastern Europe, and when I came back home, I realized that this was a project I wanted to do. Albany does not have an appropriate Holocaust memorial near his home in a suburb of Albany.

Lozman didn’t coordinate his proposal on April 10, but hasn’t reached a decision.

“Niskayuna is an excellent location,” he said. “The town has a great school system, high employment, and is a model community. In years to come, this memorial will become an important landmark that the community will be proud of because it will be an expression of people caring enough to help educate against hatred and express hope for a better tomorrow.”

The proposal for the memorial is to be shocking, but by symbolism, to portray a shocking truth of what they are seeing. It is not designed to be shocking, but by symbolism, to portray a shocking history.

The proposed memorial will be in Niskayuna, a suburb that is both close to Albany and on a major highway. The memorial will be buffered by trees and have its own entrance onto the highway. The town Planning Board unanimously recommended that the town allow the memorial, and Niskayuna Town Board held a public hearing about the proposal on April 10, but hasn’t reached a decision.

“We are going to have kiosks along the pathway with signage explaining the symbolism of the items used in the memorial. It will also provide a historical perspective of what the Holocaust was all about and information on how many others were killed in the Shoah as well,”

Lozman said he anticipates that students who visit the memorial will have learned about the Holocaust in their schools, and that teachers will accompany them to the site to offer further instruction. He hopes that school buses will make their first stop at the Jewish federation building in Albany, where they will receive additional information about the Shoah.

Lozman’s interest in Holocaust commemoration began when he visited his father’s village and saw the deplorable condition of the cemeteries. With the Jews killed and most synagogues burned, without an effort to fence in and restore the cemeteries, “there would be no physical evidence that the Jews were there,” he said.

“This is a way to preserve Jewish history,” he added. Lozman has worked hard to spread his message, but, he said, “If there was no Holocaust, none of this would be necessary. I’m doing it for the victims of the Holocaust.

Lozman noted that this might be the first time in the United States that a Catholic diocese has joined with the Jewish community to develop a Holocaust memorial. Bishop Edward Scharfenberger, who heads the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany, offered to provide a newly acquired piece of church property next to the Catholic cemetery.

“Since it had not yet been consecrated, he could deed this to our foundation.”

Lozman said:

“It’s an extremely important step forward,” he added. “It shows a great deal of sensitivity to the effects of the Holocaust. The bishop is to be commended for his willingness and enthusiasm.”

The memorial, which will cost an estimated $1.4 million, will consist of an estimated 250,000 stone blocks. The memorial will be in Niskayuna, a suburb of Albany.

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“This is a way to preserve Jewish history,” he added. Lozman has worked hard to spread his message, but, he said, “If there was no Holocaust, none of this would be necessary. I’m doing it for the victims of the Holocaust. What else can you do for them? They deserve to have their family cemeteries preserved and their family names preserved.

“It’s for the victims, but it’s also preserving our Jewish heritage.”
A Book About Jewish Jokes – And It’s Actually Funny!

By Albert Stern / BJV Editor

The Jewish Joke is the most astute and artful exploration of Jewish humor I’ve ever come across – and maybe the only truly funny book of its sort

The groove mostly fall away, and those few that remain begin to play uselessly in the pulse of the funk, which is no longer being expressed instrumentally, yet somehow continues to seem present despite its actual absence. Even when the funk seems to be missing, it remains underpinned by a fundamental bottom line – you’re dealing with something pretty deep.

Which may seem like a strange way to begin a review of a book about Jewish humor, but bear with me. Let me say right out that Devorah Baum’s The Jewish Joke is the most astute and artful exploration of Jewish humor I’ve ever come across – and maybe the only truly funny book of its sort that I have ever read over the decades. Baum, a lecturer in English Literature and Critical Theory at the University of Southampton in England, uses jokes to illustrate insights about the (predominantly Ashkenazi) Jewish sensibility better than any writer since Leo Bosten in The Joy of Yiddish. While Rosenberg’s dictionary uses jokes to explain the meanings – social and cosmic – of Yiddish words, Baum’s considerable achievement is to use the jokes themselves to explain how Jewish humor works.

Explanation is where most books exploring Jewish humor bog down. Baum, in contrast, doesn’t much try to explain what’s going on in a joke – in a manner akin to the Sabbath-fueled playfulness of a subterranean groove. Baum is a minimalist who weaves her narrative around the fundamental Jewish worldview underpinning the jokes, and then uses the jokes to connect to that worldview in a hallucinatory and meaningful way. As brevity is the soul of wit [in both senses of the word, humor and wisdom], it helps that The Jewish Joke is compact, actually an extended essay. The first indication that Baum fully appreciates the need to stick to business is the table of contents, which divides her text into a brief expository introduction, the main section called “Less Essay, More Examples,” and a brief summary chapter. I laughed out loud from beginning to end even though I’ve elsewhere encountered at least 90 percent of the jokes – in part because Baum positions the jokes in just the right places within her narrative, in part because she reworks them with such a comic precision that they are revealed as the parables about human nature and cosmic design that they are in essence. The Jewish comedian who best figured out how to connect to a worldview and work economically within it was Jacob Roy, aka Rodney Dangerfield, whose iconic line “I don’t get no respect” conjured an entire comic landscape in which his absurd rapid fire punchlines made absolute logical sense. Baum shows how Jewish humor covers far more of life’s vicissitudes than mere disrespect. In the introduction, she wonders what explains the “miraculous longevity of the Jewish joke,” and alights on one key reason – the jokes’ connection to enduring, immutable human nature. She writes:

“Does the full pantheon of Jewish comedy with all its paradoxical foils – its shmillaks, shlemiels, shlimazels, shnorrers, shnimmorders, shlumbrothers…ramp up these various differences simply in order to disguise the overarching fact that any and every Jew answering to the name is not only ‘in’ on the joke, but the butt of it?”

Or to put it slightly differently:

Q: How do you tell the difference between a shlemiel and a shlimazel?
A: The shlemiel is the one who slips up and spills his soup over the shlimazel.

This brief excerpt will give you an idea of how Baum works throughout The Jewish Joke. She adds that the jokes in the book fall into two categories, those that illustrate the meanings – social and cosmic – of Yiddish words, and those that are too good to leave out. After positing that Jewish humor revolves around certain universal themes throughout its mother language, Baum writes that “as different as we may well be, there are differences simply in order to distinguish the overarching fact that any and every Jew answering to the name is not only ‘in’ on the joke, but the butt of it.”

It is cruel.

Moses: Oh, Lord, forgive my ignorance! What you are really saying is that we should wait six hours after eating meat to eat milk so that the two are not in our stomachs.

Moses: No, Moses, what I’m saying is, don’t cook a call in its mother’s milk.

Moses: Oh, Lord! Please don’t strike me down for my stupidity! What you mean is we should have a separate set of dishes for milk and a separate set for meat and if we make a mistake we have to bury that dish outside.

God: Ach, do whatever you want…

The Jewish Joke is a hugely funny and deeply insightful exploration of the topic, all the better for being so meticulously written. Baum sees Jewish jokes as emanating from the perspective of a historically shunned outsider people, and that Jewish humor is widely accessible because anyone who may have had the experience of being a shunned outsider – i.e., just about everyone – can relate. And if the Tribe’s brand of humor can seem aggressive at its core, Baum sums up that “given the capacity of the funny to sustain differences, contradictions and uncertainties rather than seeking their obliteration, it’s generally a better way of dealing with aggression than the alternatives.”

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Coming this July — The Second Annual Berkshire Jewish Festival of Books

**Great Barrington** — The Berkshire Jewish Festival of Books will take place at Hevreh of South- ern Berkshire from Thursday, July 26 through Sunday, July 29.

Co-presented by Hevreh and the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, in partnership with the Jewish Book Council and with the generous sup- port of the Harold Grinspoon Founda- tion, the festival will feature free and fee-based lec- tures, teachings, and readings by internationally-recognized authors in genres ranging from adult fiction to children’s books, including Jewish Studies and Director NC, and the Sklut Professor of Jewish History at Temple Beth El in Charlotte, NC, and the Sklut Professor of Jewish Studies and Director of the Stau Greenzoon Center for Peace and Social Justice at Queens University of Charlotte. Then on Saturday, July 28 at 4 p.m., as part of the internationally acclaimed Drag Queen Story Hour, the festival will feature a Spar-

**CULTURE AND ARTS**

**Coming Attractions — Jewish Film Festival Returns This July**

**Lenox** — The Berkshire Jewish Film Festival (BJFF), one of the longest-running film festivals in the United States, has announced its 32nd season. Held on six weekends from July 9 through August 13 in the Lenox Theater, BJFF will present more than 130 films hailing from the United States, Israel, France, Ireland, Germany, and Latin America. The festival opens on July 9 with The Oslo Diaries (4 p.m.), a documentary about a group of Israeli and Palestinians who secretly come together in Oslo for unsanctioned peace talks during the 1990s. Also screening on July 9 is A Bag of Marbles (8 p.m.), the story of the Nazi occupation through the eyes of two young Jewish boys struggling to survive on their own.

For a calendar of festival films, please see the Berkshire Jewish Summer insert in this week’s Jewish Voice. And please check out the upcoming publication of the festival’s selection committee sharing their thoughts on which special films moved them, and why.

**Isreal Wins Eurovision Song Contest**

(JTA) — For the fourth time in its four decades of participat- ing in the Eurovision song contest, Israel has won the international competition. The song “Toy” by Netta Barzilai, 24, secured Israel’s victory at the Eurovision contest this year at the Finals on May 12 in Lisbon, Portugal. The victory means Israel will host the event next year. Barzilai’s song is a waring to a boy not to treat her like a toy.

Israel’s song, which is performed in English, has consis- tently been ranked on betting sites in first place or at least in the top three at the festival, a hugely popular phenome- non in Europe that combines elements of “American Idol”-style song competitions and the Olympic Games. The score is determined by points given by the contest’s official juries and by callers. “Toy” won the match with a combined score of 529 points, giving it a huge lead over Cyprus, which came in second, and a 187 point lead over Austria in third place. The score for “Toy” was the fourth-highest in the contest’s history. The track by Barzilai, whose stage name is Netta, is about female empowerment and reading of Leslea Newman’s Sparkle Boy. Children and parents will have the opportunity to get their sparkles on, and enjoy a hands-on Havdalah and some sweet Shabbat treats. All of the other festival events will also offer refreshments, and The Healthy Jewish Kitchen event will in-

**Blue and White Bagels for Bookfest**

Hevreh of Southern Berkshire and The Great Barrington Bagel Company & Deli are collaborating on a very special fundraiser for the Berkshires’ Jewish Festival of Books in honor of Israel’s 70th Anniversary.

In honor of Francine Klagsbrun’s appearance, Israel’s 70th Anniversary, and Prime Minister Meri Herzl, The Great Barrington Bagel Company & Deli has created a special Golda Lox sandwich on a blue and white bagel, the colors of Israel’s flag. For every sandwich sold between Memorial Day on May 28, and the end of the festival on July 29, Barrington Bagel will donate $1 to the book festival to support its aim of bringing world class authors to the Berkshires each summer.

Barrington Bagel has also generously offered to contribute $1 to the festi- val for each sale of half-pound and one pound prepackaged lox from the cooler. Miniature Golda action figures will also be available for sale at the counter as will Ms. Klagsbrun’s book.

**Singer Netta Barzilai waves to the audience at Altice Arena in Lisbon after Israel’s song “Toy” is announced winner of the 2018 Eurovision Song Contest**

For more information, or to make reservations, call Hevreh at (413) 528-6378, or visit hevreh.org. Hevreh will also have books available for advance purchase in the lobby, which the authors will be happy to sign at the festival.
Well Worth The Weight of Ink
by Avi Dresner

The Berkshires' second annual Jewish Festival of Books will take place at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire in Great Barrington from Thursday, July 26 through Sunday, July 29. (For more information, see the article on page 25.)

Wrapping up the festival will be author Rachel Kadish, discussing her National Jewish Book Award-winning novel The Weight of Ink, which interweaves the story of two remarkable women and scholars—a 17th century Jewish scribe in London, and the 21st century researcher who discovers her. It will be the second recent visit for the bestselling author, who appeared at the Federation’s Knosh & Knowledge program in March.

Kadish is the author of two novels—from a friend in the book world—a successful Kadish and a sense of the Weight of Ink.

Rachel Kadish: Thank you.

AD: No, thank you. That said, though, from your perspective as the author, why do you think readers should take the plunge and make the commitment? Which, I guess, is another way of saying what will they get from being in meaningful relationships through the Weight of Ink?

RK: Well. I'll speak not just for my own work, but for the power of long books in general. I personally like a book to feel like a relationship, or like a seven-course meal. We’re living in an age of Twitter—of shouting and instant reactions—where we’re being asked to channel all of our energy into a single conversation down a very narrow street of 140 characters, and we’re being invited to experience no emotion deeper than outrage—but there are a lot of us out there who, let’s be frank, want to think, who want to feel, who don’t just want art and speak reflexively, and I think that a book invites you to fully understand and experience gives us something as human beings that we all desperately need in this crazy culture we’re living in.

AD: Rachel, now that we know each other a little better, I’d like to take the relationship metaphor I used earlier a bit further, and propose marriage. And what I mean by that is that your novel marries past and present feels very natural to me.

History was never this abstract thing that you read about in books—it was always kind of popping up and smacking you in the head. So, the marriage between past and present feels very natural to me.

But it means even more to you. Making this list is no small feat. First, firms must meet specific requirements, not the least being registered investment advisors. Once they are met, clients, the industry and our integrity. That in and of itself is invaluable to our best interest. That in and of itself is invaluable to our

But in the simplest terms it means that all of us work in your best interest. That in and of itself is invaluable to our clients, the industry and our integrity.

Have a conversation with Gary Schiff, Managing Director, at the number listed below. He’ll fill you in on details that helped us make this year’s Financial Times FT300.

CULTURE AND ARTS

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Standing Seam Metal

Asphalt Shingles

We’ve made all the tough decisions for you.

Weight of Ink, continued on page 27
This interview.

RK: [laughter] It was really cool. My kids were really proud. My parents were so proud. It was very moving to be in that big ballroom full of people who care about books that much, and I really brought home that whole People of the Book thing.

AD: You were here in the Berkshires back in March as part of Federation's Knosh & Knowledge program. How was that experience, and what can attendees expect to be different when you're here for the festival in July?

RK: It was great being there, but every book conversation is different and [this time] I will be able to linger longer and have more of a Q & A.

AD: Let me just say that the Berkshires in March is a bit like guacamole without avocado – sometimes it's surprisingly ok, but it's usually awful.

RK: [laughter] There are at least two other Berkshire connections to the book that I found. In the Acknowledgments. You thank some local luminaries – actually national and international ones, who live locally – Tina Packer, the founder of Shakespeare & Co. and Carol Gilligan, the feminist icon and scholar. What’s their connection to you and the book?

RK: Carol and her family are close friends. I have spent a lot of time out at her house writing. I wrote big sections of this book there...and in the Lenox Library. Tina is a treasured friend also, and I know her through Carol.

AD: You're friends with another incredibily accomplished novelist and memoirist, Tova Mirvis, whose debut novel The Ladies of the Book was a bestseller but, most notably for our present purposes, features a character named Ari Dresner. So, please tell her that one of her characters interviewed you, and that my attorney will be contacting her attorney about my share of the royalties.

RK: [laughter] I will tell her. I'm actually one of Tova's characters in her recent memoir. The Book of Separation, but I got to pick my own name. I'm Ariel.

AD: Rachel, in case you haven’t noticed, I like to find points of connection between me and the authors I interview and, in your case, I’d like to point out that I am also an RK in that I’m a Rabbi’s Kid. And, as that, I have to tell you that one of my favorite passages in the book was when Aaron describes his rabbi father as “a man standing in the middle, in thrall to something larger while others were in thrall to him.” I have never heard a more accurate or succinct description of the rabbinate in my life.

RK: [laughter] That sounds great. Thank you. AD: Rachel, your protagonists, Helen and Aaron don’t want Ester’s papers to end, which mirrors my own feelings—and I’m sure many other readers—reading your book. Alas, Ester’s papers must end, and your book must too, but I’m hoping you’ve got a lot more great writing left in you, so what’s next for you?

RK: I don’t know. I have some ideas, but I haven’t had the time yet with all of the book traveling, but there will be no Avi Dresner in the next book. There’ll be a Ravi Fesner.

AD: [laughing] Rachel, anything I haven’t asked you that you think I should have?

RK: Nothing! I can think of. Besides that should save some stuff to talk about at the festival!

Rachel Kadish will be appearing at the Berkshires’ Jewish Festival of Books, taking place at Hevreh of South-ern Berkshire on Sunday, July 29 at 10 a.m. This event is being co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation of the Berk-shires, and by the Jewish Women’s Archive, whose executive director, Judith Rosenbaum, will interview Rachel at the event before the Q&A with the audience. For tickets, and more information, call Hevreh at (413) 528-6378, or visit hevreh.org. Hevreh is located at 270 State Road, Great Barrington.

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

Thank you to Robin Genon Wong and Denis Wong for hosting.

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CULTURE AND ARTS
Naharin’s Virus
Israel’s Batsheva – The Young Ensemble brings the Gaga to Jacob’s Pillow this July

BECKET – From July 4 through July 8, Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival welcomes Israel’s Batsheva – The Young Ensemble to the Fed Shaw Theatre. The company will perform “Naharin’s Virus,” a full-length work that showcases dancers steeped in choreographer Ohad Naharin’s “Gaga” style of movement.

“Expect to be enveloped,” said Norton Owen, Director of Preservation at Jacob’s Pillow, in an interview with the BJV. “There is a total concept in terms of the sound, score, and visuals of the piece. It’s not something to observe from a distance – it involves all of your senses.” The dancers are members of Batsheva’s development company, what Norton calls a “boot camp for the main company that is every bit the equal of the main company.”

In Mr. Gaga, the 2015 film about Naharin (and also the most successful documentary in Israeli history), a commentator remembers how perplexed audiences rejected what they were seeing when Naharin introduced the Gaga style when he took over leadership of the Batsheva Dance Company in 1990, often leaving the theater in droves. But Naharin remained confident in his approach and, as the commentator says about Gaga: “This is a bomb. This is dynamite.”

The bomb went off, its influence rippling throughout the world of modern dance. But exactly what Gaga is, says Owen, is hard to pin down because “Ohad is cagey about describing it.” Describing the dance language, Owen says, “There is a real focus on the body, and a gritty, earthy, and visceral way that the body moves and the way an audience receives that movement. The effect it has is immediate – people feel it.”

The Batsheva Dance Company was founded by Baroness Batsheva de Rothschild and choreographer Martha Graham in 1964, and in its initial heyday that lasted through the mid-1970s, it attracted the participation of luminaries such as Jose Limon and Jerome Robbins. Israeli dancers like Naharin were grounded in the style of movement. Naharin’s “Gaga” style when he took over leadership of the Batsheva Dance Company in 1990, didn’t follow that road, but was steeped in it.” In the 1970s and 1980s, Naharin also trained at the School of American Ballet and Juilliard, and led his own dance company in New York City.

“He took all that back to Israel,” says Owen.

By 1975, friction between Batsheva’s founders led the Baroness to withdraw funding, and the company experienced a creative lull for fifteen years until Naharin’s arrival in 1990, which coincided with the opening of the Suzanne Dellal Center for Dance and Theater in Tel Aviv. Naharin’s work attracted younger audiences, and he brought the dances of other noted modern choreographers to Israel, putting Israeli back on the dance world map. But it was Gaga that catapulted Israeli dance to the forefront of the modern dance consciousness.

“A lot of what you see in the culture of Israel can’t be extracted from its dance,” says Owen, who cites compulsory military service as one element contributing to the aesthetic pioneered by Naharin and promulgated by his disciples, who have started to form their own Gaga-influenced companies. Communal life on the kibbutz and army are essential motifs in the choreographer’s work, illustrating the tensions between the individual and the collective, the proximity of paradise and hell.

Owen says that Naharin’s dances are “rigorously structured, but that the specifics are left to the dancer, which lets us see the dancers as individuals.” Naharin’s methodology centers around “creating the language of modern dance,” says Owen, “is not for the faint of heart. He works his dancers pretty hard, and that’s something that is carried out by his disciples,” such as choreographer Danielle Agami, whose Los Angeles-based company Ate9 appeared at the Pillow last summer.

Owen says that Naharin keeps a “cloak of secrecy” around Gaga – observers are not permitted at Gaga classes, and Owen says he’d be curious to ask Naharin how some of the style’s idiosyncrasies are imparted to the dancer. He may have a chance to pose that question, as Ohad Naharin will be on hand on July 7 at a PillowTalk event starting at 4 p.m. (Getting there early might not be a bad idea.) There will also be pre-show talks about Gaga before each performance.

More secrets might be revealed at two free Inside/Out programs, one on June 30 and the other on July 7, both starting at 6:15 p.m. Participants at The School at Jacob’s Pillow will conduct an open rehearsal where dancers apply Gaga principles to deeply explore and embody Naharin’s movement vocabulary.

The dancers convey the images that Naharin devises, “but the specifics are left to the dancer, which lets us see the dancers as individuals.” Naharin’s methodology centers around “creating the language of modern dance,” says Owen, “is not for the faint of heart. He works his dancers pretty hard, and that’s something that is carried out by his disciples,” such as choreographer Danielle Agami, whose Los Angeles-based company Ate9 appeared at the Pillow last summer.

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