

Berkshire JEWISH VOICE

A publication of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, serving the Berkshires and surrounding NY, CT and VT

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jewishberkshires.org

Super Sunday 2019 – Kicking Off Federation’s Best Year Ever!

Co-chairs Larry Frankel and Elisa Schindler-Frankel intend to make it happen

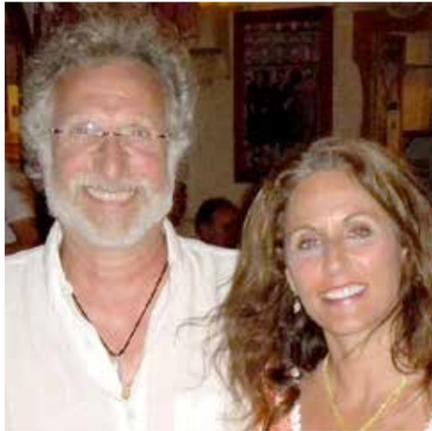
Looking for a meaningful way to bring more goodness into our world? How about making a difference in the lives of seniors, young people, and vulnerable Jews all over the world?

On May 19, the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires will launch its 2019 campaign with a Super Sunday phone-a-thon, an opportunity to give back to our community in so many ways. From 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., volunteers from across Berkshire County will be “making the call” at call centers in Pittsfield and Great Barrington, asking for support from every community member for the Federation’s 2019 Annual Campaign for Jewish needs.

Funds raised will help feed the hungry, comfort the elderly, build Jewish identity, and inspire Jewish life and learning across the Berkshires and all over the world.

\$36,000 Matching Grant!

What makes this Super Sunday even more exciting is that several generous donors have stepped up to create a dollar-for-dollar match opportunity for new donors and those increasing their gifts. For every increased gift, the



Larry Frankel and Elisa Schindler-Frankel

amount above the previous year’s contribution will be matched, while every first-time donor’s gift will be matched in its entirety.

Thank you and *yasher koach* to Penny and Claudio Pincus, Anne Schnesel, Judy and Mark Usow, Amy Lindner-Lesser, and one anonymous donor for making this possible!

Our 2019 Super Sunday Co-Chairs

Super Sunday co-chairs Larry Frankel and Elisa Schindler-Frankel are emphatic: They want the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires to have its best year ever in 2019.

“The needs here in the Berkshires are greater than ever,” says Larry, “and so the community needs to be invested in Federation’s good work more than ever.”

SUPER SUNDAY, continued on page 5

Signs of Our Past

Glimpse a bygone Jewish-American world at a special event this June



On June 2, major donors to the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires will have the opportunity to take a private tour of Rabbi Michael Strassfeld’s unique collection of historic Jewish signs (such as the one above), advertising, children’s books, and memorabilia. (Major donors have made a commitment of \$1,000 or more to Federation’s annual campaign.) For more about this special event – and Rabbi Strassfeld’s fascinating collection – please see the story on page 28.

Inside

Making Jewish Day Camp Happen Here.	2
Annual Meeting, June 18	4
Your Federation Presents	5-9
Volunteers are Vital	9
Local News	10-15
Culture & Arts	22-28

WE ARE ONCE AGAIN outraged and heartbroken.

Six months to the day since the Tree of Life synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh, we were again confronted with a vicious act of anti-Semitic violence – this time at Chabad of Poway, California, north of San Diego. The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires condemns this horrible act of violence fueled by bigotry and hate, and we stand in solidarity with the Jewish communities of Poway and San Diego.

We pray for the families of the victims. We mourn the loss of Lori Gilbert-Kaye, who bravely protected her rabbi, and pray for a *refuah shlemah*, a speedy and complete recovery, for Rabbi Yisroel Goldstein, Almog Peretz, and 8-year-old Noya Dahan.

Recent attacks of hate have targeted churches in Sri Lanka; a mosque and Islamic center in Christchurch, New Zealand; African American churches in Louisiana; and a synagogue in Pittsburgh. How many incidents must we cite before we declare that enough is enough?

We take communal security seriously and over the past year the Federation and our partner institutions have been working with each other, the Secure Communities Network (SCN), and local law enforcement to review and update security plans and protocols.

We will maintain a vigilant eye, but we will not be deterred. We will mourn once again, but we will continue to attend services and celebrate our Jewish holidays. We will speak out against hate, but we will continue to spread the light of love, learning, and kindness.

We will find strength in community and be proud of who we are.






SUPER SUNDAY

May 19, 2019

One Day - One Call - One Jewish Community!

See page 14 and learn how your gift can save lives and transform Jewish life across the Berkshires and beyond!

See paper insert to learn how you can volunteer to make calls and make a difference in our community!

Look Inside:

- JFB ANNUAL MEETING •
- SHABBAT ACROSS THE BERKSHIRES •
- BERKSHIRE JEWISH SUMMER •

In My View

Maximizing the Impact of Your Donations to Federation

Recognizing needs, identifying resources, building partnerships

By Dara Kaufman



Just a few weeks ago, I had the wonderful opportunity to gather with folks from across the Berkshires for the Federation's annual Community Seder. It was a warm and wonderful evening as we celebrated and gave thanks for our freedom from Egypt.

This exodus from Egypt and the journey through the desert, a trek that lasted 40 years, would eventually result in the emergence of a new generation of Israelites with a new perspective formed free from the bonds of slavery. It may not have always been clear to Moses and the Israelites, but God had a plan and it was this new generation that was to become the foundation for a new Jewish nation.

Creating the foundation for the next generation has always been a priority for the Jewish people and for our Federation. We have found that focusing on the big picture and being strategic with our limited resources is the best way to move the Jewish continuity needle forward.

This Federation has long invested in Jewish overnight camp experiences for our teens. As research has shown, Jewish camping is one of the best tools we have for ensuring Jewish engagement in the future. However, the notion of sending your child to Jewish overnight camp can be quite intimidating for families, both financially and theoretically.

Intermarried families in particular find the idea of sending a child off to a month of Jewish camp a bit foreign and overwhelming. More than 60 percent of the young families in our Jewish community have one parent who is not Jewish. If we want families to connect and engage in Jewish life and be part of Jewish community in the future, we need to find ways to help them overcome this barrier.

One of the ways Federation is working to do that is by planting the seed of Jewish camping early and leveraging a wonderful resource we have right here in the Berkshires – URJ Eisner Camp in Great Barrington. In addition to their overnight camp, Eisner has a robust Jewish day camp program complete with traditional summer fun and joyous Jewish learning.

When we first approached them last winter to discuss ways to encourage more local families to choose Jewish day camp as a feeder to an overnight experience, we were surprised to learn that only 20 percent of their day campers were full-time Berkshire residents. Cost was identified as the major barrier.

Those discussions turned into a simple and effective partnership. Eisner

would offer a \$100 weekly discount for full-time Berkshires residents and Federation would match that by providing scholarship support up to an additional \$100 per week. This brought the cost of Jewish day camp in line with other local programs.

The results have been excellent. *This past summer, enrollment from full-time Berkshire residents rose by 60 percent.* This spring, we incorporated a personal outreach to all families with day camp-age children, and *we have already doubled the number of scholarship requests.*

We will continue to work with Eisner throughout the summer to educate these families on the joys and benefits of overnight camp and the resources available – scholarships funded by your contributions to Federation's annual campaign and through the Jewish Women's Foundation of Berkshire County – to make that experience possible when they and their children are ready for it.

Day camp scholarships demonstrate just one way that this Federation has recognized a need within our Jewish community; identified resources available in the Berkshires; formed a mutually-beneficial partnership with another organization that shares our goals and values; and cost-efficiently applied the generous contributions of our donors to implement a successful solution.

May 19 – Super Sunday – marks the kickoff of our annual campaign, our community's drive to mobilize the resources necessary to fund camp scholarships and so many other programs that benefit the Jewish community.

Please see our community's 2019 campaign overview on pages 14 – 15 of this paper for more about all that the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires accomplishes in helping those in need, building community, and strengthening Jewish life in the Berkshires and beyond.

Your gift to Federation saves lives, empowers our youth, and sustains our Jewish community. It is an expression of our shared values to create a more compassionate and just world – where everyone counts and we are there for one another.

I hope you will answer the call of our community and join us in this effort. Thank you!

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

Focusing on the big picture and being strategic with our limited resources is the best way to move the Jewish continuity needle forward

Letters to the Editor

Jerusalem's Yad LaKashish Artisans and Staff Thank You for Your Ongoing Support

Dear Jewish Federation of the Berkshires,

On behalf of all the elderly artisans, staff, and volunteers at Yad LaKashish, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks for reconfirming your partnership and renewing your generous support.

Since 1962, Yad LaKashish has been serving one of Jerusalem's most underserved populations – elderly persons who live below the poverty line. Thanks to your ongoing support, we are able to continue offering some of the Israeli capital's neediest residents creative work opportunities, a comprehensive package of financial benefits, and, perhaps most importantly, a renewed sense of belonging, purpose and self-worth in a warm, community environment.

Among the benefits our elderly artisans receive in exchange for participation in the Yad LaKashish program is an unlimited monthly travel pass, valid on the public buses and light rail system in and around Jerusalem. We will be using the \$3,250 grant from

the Federation to pay for 108 of these passes.

The importance of this benefit cannot be overemphasized. Many poverty-stricken seniors in Jerusalem experience inactivity, social isolation, and disempowerment. The free monthly travel pass we provide to our elderly artisans covers the daily transportation to and from Yad LaKashish, and beyond that affords them easier access to essential services such as medical treatment and trips to the grocery store, as well as visiting friends and family and engaging in various cultural and enrichment activities around the city.

Thank you again for your loyal support. We look forward to continuing our fruitful partnership for many years to come.

Sincerely yours,
Ariela Schwartz-Zur
Executive Director / Yad LaKashish



Arcadi Z., 91, one of the most veteran artisans at Yad LaKashish

Thank you volunteers Ellen Rosenblatt and the BJV delivery team, Michael Albert, Mitch Greenwald, Gayle Rotenberg, Roman Rozenblyum, and Ron Turbin

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Berkshire
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Rabbi Reflections

Shavuot Teaches Us Not to Waste Opportunities

By Rabbi Seth Wax



As we move into the end of spring semester and toward the summer months at the college campus I work at, students have begun to talk excitedly about their plans for after classes end. One of the joys of interacting with them means that I get to hear about the faraway places that they will travel to, the research they'll do, and the career paths they'll explore through an internship, work, and play.

For many students, however, the question of what to do during the summer can be fraught and confusing – what should they do? What is the best way to spend their short summer break? How should they decide which opportunity to take advantage of? How do they channel their energy and leverage their growing intellectual and practical skill sets into an enriching experience?

The truth is, the question of how we take advantage of opportunities is one that remains with all of us throughout our lives. When we discover the chance to do or see something special – to potentially be transformed – how do we respond? When we notice an impulse stirring within us, how do we ensure it leads us to action?

This, in part, is what Shavuot comes to teach us. In his teachings on this holiday, Levi Yitzchak of Berdichev (1740-1810), an early Hasidic rebbe, looks to the experiences of the Israelites at Mount Sinai and directs our attention to what they did in preparation for the giving of the Torah.

After the people approach at the foot of Mount Sinai and set up camp, God instructs Moses to tell the people to prepare themselves by washing their clothes and by setting a border around the mountain, preventing the people from

ascending or even touching it (Exodus 19:10-13). The people comply. Why is this act so significant? After all, the Israelites observe lots of God's commandments in the Torah. What is the meaning of this seemingly minor action?

Levi Yitzchak argues that in the moments leading up to the giving of the Torah, the Israelites recognized the significance of what was about to take place for them. Seeing the clouds and lightening envelop the mountain and hearing the thunder all around, they yearned deeply to find a way to connect with that experience. So what did they do? They fulfilled God's commandment of setting limits around the mountain, which according to Levi Yitzchak, provided a container for the mind-altering experience that would follow.

It's not enough, he suggests, that we simply stumble onto an opportunity. We need to create a vessel to enable us to have an experience. We need to channel our spiritual energies when we sense them arising (see Art Green's *Speaking Torah*, vol. 2, p. 220). And further, we need to act decisively to ensure that the opportunities that come to us can actually come to fruition.

Sometimes when students have come to me, trying to make a decision about their plans for the summer or life after college, I ask them to reflect on the opportunities they are being given, and to attend to the movement of their soul. What excites or energizes them? What do they feel a special tug toward? And if they can notice that, I encourage them to act decisively and concretely. To follow through and take advantage.

After all, it's what the Israelites did when they sensed a great opportunity before them.

Rabbi Seth Wax is Jewish Chaplain at Williams College in Williamstown

Letters to the Editor

Your Dollars Provide Meals, Dignity, and Companionship in Jerusalem

Dear Jewish Federation of the Berkshires:

Thank you and the entire community for the generous grant toward the operation of Meir Panim's Jerusalem Restaurant-Style Soup Kitchen. Your support this year and in years past enables Meir Panim to maintain its food and social services to Jerusalem's neediest citizens.

Your generous grant of \$3,250 will make an enormous impact by providing over 1,000 of 5,000 life-saving meals served monthly at our Jerusalem restaurant-style soup kitchen. From this location, we also provide Meals-on-Wheels to Jerusalem's homebound, disabled, and elderly citizens, including Holocaust survivors.

Meir Panim serves nutritious meals in a comfortable atmosphere that is designed to look and feel like a restaurant, preserving the self-esteem of our clients. No one is turned away, and no questions are asked. The food is served daily by volunteers of all ages and backgrounds from Israel and from abroad, who provide more than just a hot meal – they offer our clients heart-felt caring and individualized attention. For many, the friendly faces of our volunteers might be their only social interaction of the day. In addition to providing hot meals to those who need it most, our restaurant and delivery

volunteers form close relationships with our clients, inquiring into their welfare and overall state of health, and referring them to additional social services as needed. For many of our clients, the caring and friendly faces of our volunteers are their only social interaction of their day.

Due to the popularity of the Jerusalem restaurant and its heavy foot traffic each day over a period of over 20 years, the building recently underwent extensive renovations. This included major structural changes, remodeling, and aesthetic improvements that have enhanced our diners' overall experience. We are pleased to report that now the newly-renovated and welcoming environment of the branch is cozy, relaxing, cheerful, and filled with warmth.

Your community's kind-heartedness and compassion for those less fortunate in Israel is exemplary. With your help, those Israeli citizens who are struggling to survive will be fed and cared for and will not go to bed hungry.

With deep gratitude,
Lorraine Braun, Director of
Development
American Friends of Meir Panim
Brooklyn, NY



Diners line up at the newly-renovated Meir Panim restaurant-style soup kitchen in Jerusalem

Waiting to Be There His Entire Life

Dear Jewish Federation of the Berkshires:

On behalf of my classmates and the parent chaperones that accompanied us, I would like to thank you and your donors for your incredibly generous financial support of our recent trip to Israel. Our group of eleven (six teens and five adults) traveled all around the country in a powerful seven-day trip.

We learned about the history of the land and of the Jews from thousands of years ago to the founding of the State of Israel in modern times.

Being in a place where I shared

so much in common with the people around me made me feel like I had been waiting to be there my entire life. Everyone is truly grateful for the experience and the Federation made it happen. Thanks again!

Sincerely,
Adam Kronenberg (on behalf of
the Hevreh Pre-Confirmation Class
2018-2019)
Great Barrington



Adam Kronenberg (far right) in Israel with Hevreh's confirmation class

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To have the *BJV* mailed to your home, please send a minimum donation of \$18

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Your Federation Presents

Celebrate Our Work Together

Federation's Annual Meeting Welcomes Reps from ORT Russia and The Jewish Agency for Israel

LENOX – Starting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, June 18, the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires will celebrate its 79th annual meeting at the Seven Hills Inn, 40 Plunkett Street in Lenox.

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, "Youth Impact 2019: Russia, Israel, and USA."

Federation President Judy Usow will speak about the current state of the Federation, while Dara 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 Simkin Schiller College Scholarships will be presented.

"Youth Impact 2019: Russia, Israel, and USA"

Youth engagement both in the Berkshires and overseas is a priority of this Federation, and at our annual meeting, we will welcome representatives of two of our major partners in this outreach.

Misha Libkin is director of ORT Russia and Freda Baram is delegation director (Northeast Region) for The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), and they will share the

impact of our local support on youth and young adults in Russia, Israel, and the USA.

Misha and Freda will share their stories, and then take audience questions in a discussion moderated by Albert Stern, editor of the *Berkshire Jewish Voice*.

About Our Speakers

Mikhail (Misha) Libkin is the National Director of ORT Russia. He came to this role in July 2018, but his involvement with ORT began in high school. Misha graduated from the ORT High School in Moscow in 2000, and has been an employee of ORT's operation in the former Soviet Union since college (Moscow State University and Moscow State Institute of Electronics and Mathematics).

Misha's leadership in Jewish life in the former Soviet Union extends far beyond ORT. He is a founder and currently serves as co-chair of Limmud Moscow, the largest Limmud program outside of the United Kingdom (where it was founded); he has also led groups of young Russian Jews on missions to Holocaust sites in the region and on numerous Birthright Israel trips; and he has participated in leadership programs such ROI Community, a Schusterman Initiative and JDC's Knafaim Program. Most recently, he

has been asked to serve on the board of Hillel in Moscow. In these roles, he has worked with Russian Jews on all levels of engagement and has become a key leader of the community and of ORT.

Freda Baram is the director of the Northeast Region of North America at JAFI. Freda made aliyah with her family from Istanbul when she was a young girl. She grew up speaking Turkish and Hebrew as a new immigrant in Israel.

Freda came to the US in 2018 with her husband and three children to direct the Northeast Emissaries program (*Shlichut* and *Shinshinim*). Earlier Jewish Agency experiences in Israel included leading a unit that develops experiential education programs for visiting students and serving Masa Israel Journey in a variety of senior leadership capacities.



Misha Libkin of ORT Russia



Freda Baram of The Jewish Agency for Israel

Before working at JAFI, Freda was with the Israeli Security Agency and completed a master's degree in Conflict Resolution and Mediation from Tel Aviv University. She has been a *shalicha* (emissary) in St. Johns, Newfoundland and

was the first Israel Fellow at the University of Florida. She has also worked with youth attending JAFI's summer camp in the Former Soviet Union.

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

Helping Women and Children Survive in the Toughest Places: A Doctors Without Borders Midwife Reports

On Monday, May 20 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires hosts Liza Ramlow, midwife with Médecins Sans Frontières/ Doctors Without Borders, who will speak about helping women and children survive in parts of the world suffering natural disasters, armed conflict, and lack of access to health care. This free program at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield is part of the Federation's Connecting With Community series.

In May 1968, a group of young doctors decided to go and help victims of wars and major disasters. This new brand of humanitarianism would reinvent the concept of emergency aid. They were to become Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), known internationally in English as Doctors Without Borders. MSF was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1999. The judges chose MSF "in recognition of the organization's pioneering humanitarian work on several continents" and to honor the medical staff working in more than 80 countries and treating tens of millions of people. But they are known for more than

their medical work—they also speak out on behalf of the people they treat and act to expose injustice. The Nobel Prize offered a platform for MSF to speak out, and they took it.

Liza Ramlow, MSF midwife, grew up in La Crosse, WI, and graduated from Oberlin College and Ohio State University. Liza received her degree in Maternal and Child Health and Nurse Midwifery from Columbia University in New York City. She then did her integration at the Gundersen Clinic in La Crosse and took her first job there as staff midwife.

Most of her career was spent building "The Birthplace" at Franklin Medical Center in Greenfield, MA – a full-scope, collaborative midwifery-based OB/GYN practice. Liza "retired" in 2010 to fulfill a longtime desire to work as a midwife in international settings. She has completed ten assignments with MSF in Bangladesh, Italy (where she worked on MSF's search and rescue boat in the Mediterranean), South Sudan, Central African Republic, Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Zambia, and Nigeria.

Join us as Liza shares her story.

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community

Venue: Knesset Israel

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

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Liza Ramlow (center) with midwives in the Balukhali Maternity, Bangladesh, 2018

Your Federation Presents

SUPER SUNDAY, *continued from page 1*

The Frankels are relatively new residents of the Berkshires, having moved to Great Barrington in 2016 from the New York area. They brought with them their extensive experience in national and regional leadership positions with major Jewish institutions, most notably Jewish National Fund (JNF).

Elisa's posts included service as JNF's National Director of Women's Campaigns and Special Campaigns and Chief Project Manager of its Land of Promise Foundation, along with stints as JNF's director of affinity groups supporting Israel and the organization's liaison to Hadassah. At Hebrew Union College, she worked as senior development officer for the Schools of Education. Elisa shares that throughout her life, she has been "devoted to sustaining and enriching the values and ideals of *klal Israel*, Judaism, and *tikkun olam*, and to stimulating the American Jewish community to be an effective voice for Israel and all Jews around the world."

Larry, whose Berkshires connection goes back to his days attending Camp Greylock, served as president of JNF's Westchester/Fairfield/Rockland counties region and went to Israel numerous times on JNF's Makor and President's Council missions; he's served on the boards of synagogues in Westchester and New York City, as well. He's also a photographer whose conceptual work is in the permanent collections of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion Museum and the Jewish Theological Seminary. (His work was featured on the cover of the *Berkshire*

We're year-round residents, and I have to say that not a week goes by that we don't notice something positive that Federation sponsors.

– Elisa Schindler-Frankel

Jewish Voice in January 2017, and you may have seen his dioramas of children's toys in fantastical sylvan settings last autumn at No. 6 Depot Roastery & Café in West Stockbridge.)

"Larry and I are the type of people who get involved in volunteering in any community we live in," says Elisa. "We search out what's going on, and prioritize what we want to participate in."

Federation's good work in the Berkshires vaulted toward the top of their list of priorities after they attended the Major Donors event in 2016.

"We read and heard stories about anti-Semitism and racism in the local schools," says Larry, "and how Federation leveraged its resources and partnered with the ADL, area superintendents, and some private donors to get anti-bias programs into the local middle and high schools." Larry added that bias and racism is not simply a Jewish issue, but rather one that he – having "grown up a hippie in the 1960s" – cares about as a civil rights issue affecting society at large. And so what impressed him is that "this Federation is having a huge impact on the entire community. It is a local leader in recognizing problems relating to bias, identifying the underlying issues, and finding ways to address them on a long-term basis through collaboration with the wider community."

He adds: "This is an organization that doesn't shy away from dealing with the difficult issues."

Says Elisa: "We loved the idea that the majority of the money raised locally stays here, and that donors can see the ways our dollars tangibly touch lives right here at home. What this Federation is consistently able to do with what is, compared to what we've experienced in other places, a limited amount of money, floors us."

While large federations in major cities support a network of Jewish social service agencies, in the Berkshires, notes Larry, "We are very different. Federation provides so many of those services directly itself."

"We are ever amazed," says Elisa, "that a small staff with such a small budget is able to accomplish so much. We're year-round residents, and I have to say that not a week goes by that we don't notice *something* positive that Federation sponsors." She cites some of the many roles this Federation plays in serving this community: compelling programming such as Connecting With Community and Knosh & Knowledge; providing PJ Library books and family-themed events for children and parents' delivering meals to seniors; publishing the *Berkshire Jewish Voice* and *Berkshire Jewish Summer*; hosting concerts and lectures;



Dwarf's Treasure by Larry Frankel

facilitating outreach by the Jewish Women's Foundation (Elisa is a member); and making sure that everyone who wishes to attend a Passover Seder is able to do so.

Particularly worth noting are the close partnerships the Federation maintains with its affiliates. "Never lose sight that our local congregations thrive when the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires thrives," says Elisa.

Elisa grew up in the Reform Movement, attended its day and overnight camps, and was a teen member of NFTY and WEFTY. Not surprisingly, she enthusiastically supports the ways Federation supports the Jewish development of our young people through scholarships for Hebrew school, summer camp, and Israel experiences. "I'm a big proponent of camping," Elisa says. "It's a natural way to experience Judaism and form a lasting bond to it, through music, encounters with the natural world, and meeting other young Jews."

As a member of Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, she was impressed by Federation's co-sponsorship of the congregation's confirmation class trip to Israel, where the group traveled to the Afula-Gilboa region and met up with their Israeli peers, connected through the Partnership2gether program. "Israel is our homeland,"

says Elisa, "and forging people-to-people connections is so important. We have to understand that Israel is not just a place on a map, not just about political issues – Israel is about people."

As a visual artist, Larry appreciates the way that Federation also brings Israel to the Berkshires through art projects like "Women and Their Olive Trees" in 2016 and Project Zug in 2018. He volunteered to host Israeli Jewish and Muslim photographers from Afula-Gilboa when they visited the Berkshires for their "Dialogue through the Lens" exhibit in 2017, making new friends and talking shop while driving them around the region to take pictures.

"I feel that it's important that people give of their time, not just their money," says Larry. "And there is a place for everyone to pursue their interests through something the Federation is doing. This Federation is all about inclusivity, not exclusivity."

"On Super Sunday, answer that call," says Elisa. "It's a chance to have all your questions answered about what Federation does for this Jewish community and our neighbors. You'll be able to find out ways to get involved, and the many reasons there are for you to give to this worthy organization."

The Trustees in the Berkshires – Yesterday and Today

On Thursday, May 23 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires welcomes Brian Cruet, director for the Southern Berkshires for The Trustees of Reservations, a non-profit land conservation and historic preservation organization dedicated to preserving natural and historical places in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This free program at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield is part of the Federation's Connecting With Community series.

The Trustees have an incredibly rich history in the Berkshires with a wide variety of properties consisting of conservation lands, recreational sites, historic homes, public gardens, and a series of trail networks. Properties include Naumkeag (Lenox), Monument Mountain (Great Barrington), Bartholomew's Cobble (Sheffield), and Field Farm (Williamstown).

Learn about the history of the Trustees in the Berkshires, how its sites have evolved, and the new strategies the organization is using to get the next generation outdoors.

Brian Cruet has been with



The view at Bartholomew's Cobble, a Trustees property in Sheffield

the Trustees as director for the Southern Berkshires for over 4 years and has lived in the Berkshires for almost ten years. Previously, he was director of marketing for the Berkshire Botanical Garden. Originally from Kentucky, Brian spent 15 years in NY working and pursuing his education. It was there he met his husband Matt, with whom he lives in Otis. Together, they pursue a passion for gardening and the outdoors.

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community

Venue: Knesset Israel

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

See You On Super Sunday, May 19!

Just a friendly reminder – please make a call or answer a call on May 19, when the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires kicks off its annual campaign!

Join us during this important day of community building at either of two calling centers:

- Federation office, 196 South Street in Pittsfield (8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)
- Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center Administrative Office, 244 Main Street, Ste. 3, (*not the theater*) Great Barrington (8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)

When our community needs us, we are there. We think you'll get a lot out of being there for us on Super Sunday.

Volunteers Wanted for Follow-Up Calls!

Tuesday May 28, 3-5 p.m. or 6-7:30 p.m. at Federation
Monday, June 3, 3-6 p.m. at Hevreh
Thursday, June 13, 3-5 p.m. or 6-8 p.m. at Federation

**Sign up to volunteer: (413) 442-4360, ext. 10
or federation@jewishberkshires.org**

Your Federation Presents

Connecting With Community Programs/ Kosher Hot Lunch

Programs in the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires' Connecting With Community series are free and start at 10:45 a.m. most Mondays and Thursdays at Knesset Israel (16 Colt Road, Pittsfield). Programs are followed by a kosher hot lunch. Lunch is a \$2 suggested donation for adults over 60 years of age or \$7 for all others. Advance reservations are required for lunch and can be made by calling (413) 442-2200 before 9 a.m. on the day of the program. Lunch alone is also served Tuesday.

Beginning on June 3 and continuing through the summer months, the Tuesday kosher lunch will be on hiatus. Tuesday lunches will resume in the fall.

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

For further information on all programs, please call Nancy Maurice Rogers, program director, at (413) 442-4360, ext. 15. **For lunch menus and a chronological list of all scheduled programs, please see page 20.** Note that lunch menus are subject to change.

On-Site Tour Through Blue Q's Pop Culture

PITTSFIELD – In the past 30 years, Pittsfield-based Blue Q has put its spin on everything from soap to socks to lip balm to recycled bags and much more. On Monday, June 17 at 10:30 a.m., join Federation's Connecting With Community for a tour through the company's key departments with co-owners Seth and Mitch Nash.

Meet up at 10:30 a.m. at Blue Q located at 103 Hawthorne Avenue, Pittsfield.

The tour begins at the company's headquarters, a former piano factory on Hawthorne Avenue. Seth and Mitch will discuss how the company marches to its own beat and works to stay relevant, kind, and interesting. This visit will include an overview of the company's role in the gift business, its unique culture,



Seth and Mitch Nash

employment of individuals with disabilities, affiliation with Doctors Without Borders, and a peek at the New Product Development Department.

A tour through Blue Q's

warehouse 5 minutes away on West Housatonic Street will follow. There, art projects, the company garden, and frolicking sheep help form Blue Q's unique environment.

Current Affairs: Contemporary American and International Politics

On Thursday, June 20 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



Professor Steven J. Rubin

"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 20 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 20).

Familiar Songs and Their Unfamiliar Stories

On Monday, June 3 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires welcomes author and storyteller Sandy Schuman who, in a talk titled "Familiar Songs and Their Unfamiliar Stories," will share tales about songwriters, historical sagas, and folk tales in the Jewish storytelling tradition.

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

Learn how some of the best-known American songs came to be written and discover their Jewish roots. This program features songs from the Great American Songbook and stories about the Jews who wrote them – Harold Arlen, Irving Berlin, George and Ira Gershwin, Jay Gorney, E. Y. Harburg ... Sing along, if you like!

Sandy Schuman is a storyteller, musician, and educator. He tells stories about songs and song-writers, personal adventures, historical sagas, folk tales, and stories in the Jewish storytelling tradition.



Sandy Schuman

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community

Venue: Knesset Israel

Date & Time: Monday, June 3 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 20).



**Jewish Women's Foundation of the Berkshires
Celebrating 10 years!**

**Annual Meeting & Lunch
Friday, June 21, 2019
11:30 a.m.**

Crissey Farm
426 Stockbridge Road, Great Barrington, MA

Special Honoree:
Jane Glaser, Foundation Founder

Couvert: \$60
Advanced Registration required by June 11
Please call (413) 442-4360, ext. 10

Please bring canned food items for donation to local pantries



In the spirit of *tikkun olam*, the Jewish Women's Foundation of Berkshire County is dedicated to sharing Jewish values by meeting unmet needs in the community and supporting social action. Membership is \$500 each year to the Foundation.

You may request that the
Berkshire Jewish Voice
be mailed to your home.

Just email us at
federation@jewishberkshires.org
for information.

Your Federation Presents

“Holy Ground: Woody Guthrie’s Yiddish Connection”

Nora Guthrie on her musical family’s Jewish influences at the May 31 Knosh & Knowledge

GREAT BARRINGTON – On Friday, May 31 at 10:45 a.m., Knosh & Knowledge welcomes Nora Guthrie, whose topic will be “Holy Ground: Woody Guthrie’s Yiddish Connection.” In this program, Nora Guthrie discusses the artistic implications of her father Woody’s relationship with his Jewish mother-in-law, Yiddish poet, Aliza Greenblatt. The program includes a presentation of photographs, music excerpts, writings, and artwork that illuminate their personal and creative relationship.

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

One of Nora’s particular focuses involves creating projects which bring Woody Guthrie’s vast cultural and creative legacy to the public. She once told an interviewer that her father “was a poet and lyricist who wrote about everything. I don’t want to see him turned into a freeze-dried, Dust Bowl icon representing a narrow version of what

somebody thinks he was. [His Jewish-themed] songs are just one more facet of his work that will add to a fuller picture of him as a songwriter.”

Nora is president of Woody Guthrie Publications, Inc. and, from 1994-2012, the director of the Woody Guthrie Archives. Nora worked with the George Kaiser Family Foundation and the Grammy Museum Foundation to create the Woody Guthrie Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma, an educational museum and new home of the Woody Guthrie Archives.

She was executive producer of Billy Bragg & Wilco’s Grammy-nominated recordings *Mermaid Avenue Vol’s I, II, and III* and the Klezmatics’ *Wonder Wheel* and *Happy Joyous Hanuka*, which both created new music for previously unknown Guthrie lyrics. Other recording projects include the Grammy-winning historical project *The Live Wire: Woody Guthrie in Performance 1949*. Her newest CD, *Del and Woody* with bluegrass master Del McCoury, was released in 2016.



Nora Guthrie

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires

Date & Time: Friday, May 31 at 10:45 a.m.

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

Cost: \$11 with fresh buffet lunch. Free admission to program only.

Advance lunch reservations required for this event.

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

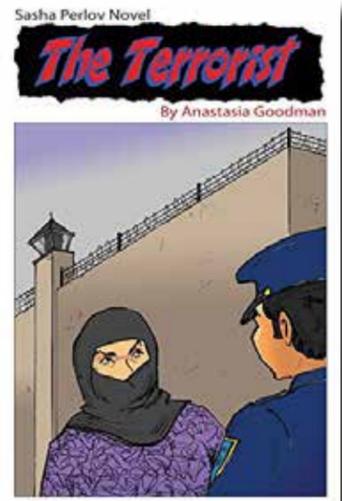
“Mystery Writer Seeking Truth,” with Novelist Anastasia Goodman

On Monday, May 13 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires welcomes Anastasia Goodman, who will read from and discuss her latest novel featuring investigator Sasha Perlov, *The Terrorist*. This free program at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield is part of the Federation’s Connecting With Community series.

The Terrorist (2018) is set in 2004, three years after the 9/11 terrorist attacks on New York City and Washington, DC. Protesters against the Iraq War line the streets of major cities. Sasha Perlov is requested by the US Attorney’s New York office to interrogate a potential terrorist in a CIA-run prison in Eastern Europe. Is a Muslim woman picked up by US Immigration Service in Long Island a terrorist? Why is she in the company of members of the infamous Central American gang MS-13, experts at drug and human smuggling? Is a Latin gang creating an alliance with a foreign terror group?

History, intrigue, and political turmoil converge to challenge Sasha as he attempts to seek the truth. One of the key themes in *The Terrorist*, as well as other mysteries by Anastasia Goodman (*Loose Ends* and *Death and Diamonds*), is whether Jews should re-populate Eastern Europe and Germany. A second theme is whether torture is every justified. Did the CIA in their extraordinary rendition prisons have the right to conduct enhanced interrogations?

All of Anastasia Goodman’s novels are available for purchase through Amazon.com or www.oceanbreezypress.net.



IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community

Venue: Knesset Israel

Date & Time: Monday, May 13 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 20).

Working at the Intersection of Arts and Activism

On Thursday, May 16 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires welcomes Kristen van Ginhoven, artistic director of WAM Theatre, whose topic will be “Working at the Intersection of Arts and Activism.” This free program at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield is part of the Federation’s Connecting With Community series.

The more Kristen van Ginhoven works at the intersection of arts and activism, she says, “the more I recognize how if we truly want to be change-makers and contribute to a community of empathy, equity, and belonging, the more we must learn how to tolerate our discomfort.” Listen as Kristen shares her uncomfortable and unexpected journey towards a personal and professional awakening in her first decade as artistic director of WAM Theatre.

Kristen van Ginhoven is the artistic director of WAM Theatre, which she co-founded in 2010. Based in Berkshire County, WAM Theatre is “Where Arts and Activism Meet.” WAM’s vision is to create opportunity for women and girls through a mission of theatre as philanthropy. In nine years, WAM has produced 14 main stage productions, provided paid work for over 400 theatre professionals, and



A scene from *ANN*, a WAM Theatre co-production directed by Kristen van Ginhoven

donated over \$56,500 to local and global organizations taking action for women and girls in areas such as girls education, women’s leadership, teen pregnancy prevention, sexual trafficking awareness, midwife training and more.

In addition to the main stage productions and special events, WAM Theatre’s activities include a comprehensive educational outreach program and the Fresh Takes Play Reading Series. Kristen is a member of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers and Canadian Actors Equity Association, and is a theatre artist for the International Schools Theatre Association. She has a BA from Dalhousie

University, BEd from Queen’s University and an MA from Emerson College, where she received the Presidential Fellowship. Upcoming: a new co-production of *ANN* starring Jayne Atkinson at Arena Stage in Washington, DC in July and Dallas Theatre Center in October.

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community

Venue: Knesset Israel

Date & Time: Thursday, May 16 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 20).

Moving Towards Health, with Thea Basis

On Thursday, June 6 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires welcomes Thea Basis, a certified senior fitness specialist for “Moving Towards Health.” This free program at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield is part of the Federation’s Connecting With Community series.

In this class you will learn and practice specific exercises to improve your strength, flexibility, balance, posture and cardiovascular function. Topics are especially designed to address issues such as arthritis, post-rehab from surgery, fatigue, fall prevention, and more, all while having fun and reducing stress!

Thea Basis earned an ACE Group Fitness Instructor Certification in 1988. She specializes in the conditions that make exercising more challenging, including arthritis, fragility, balance and gait issues, respiratory disease, diabetes, and lack of motivation. She is also an orthopedic



Thea Basis

exercise specialist serving groups and individuals in promoting healthy, independent lifestyles, while addressing the unique challenges of aging.

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community

Venue: Knesset Israel

Date & Time: Thursday, June 6 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 20).

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

Your Federation Presents

Jewish Community Comes Together for Shabbat Across the Berkshires, June 14

PITTSFIELD – On Friday, June 14, at 6 p.m., Shabbat Across the Berkshires will bring together members of the Jewish community from throughout the county for a joyous, musical, and family-friendly Kabbalat Shabbat service hosted by Temple Anshe Amunim.

Rabbis and spiritual leaders from across the Berkshires will lead the service, which will feature local musicians from the various congregations. Services will be followed by a festive oneg.

This always special event is sponsored by the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, the Berkshire Minyan, Congregation Ahavath Sholom, Congregation Beth Israel, Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, Knesset Israel, Temple Anshe Amunim, and Berkshire Hills Hadassah.

Temple Anshe Amunim is located at 26 Broad Street in Pittsfield.

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



The Maggid: Divine Sparks of the Baal Shem Tov



On Thursday, June 13 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires hosts storyteller Richard Stone for “The Maggid: Divine Sparks and Tales of the Baal Shem Tov.” This free program at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield is part of the Federation’s Connecting With Community series.

Nearly 25 years ago, Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, may his memory be a blessing, shared with Richard Stone a tale about a Jewish mystic, the Baal Shem Tov (often referred to as the Besht) and a disciple who went on to become a Maggid—a travelling preacher and storyteller. The Besht lived in the 1700s, and most of what we know about him comes down through oral stories about his many deeds. While his teachings stressed the spirit, more important to him than prayer was a friendly relationship with sinners.

It was also believed that the Besht’s soul had reached such a high level he could “ascend” to heaven and speak with any soul there and intervene between humans and God. In this performance, Richard Stone says he “will share many of the tales of the

Besht with the hope that these stories will spark something in you, deepening your connection with all that is mysterious and holy.”

Richard Stone has been working with stories for nearly 30 years, writing fiction and non-fiction; developing story-based products, games, and training tools; exploring how story can help others illuminate what is most authentic in them; painting; exploring the mysteries of trees through his photography; and telling stories. He is the author of *The Healing Art of Storytelling*, *Stories: The Family Legacy*, and *The Kingdom of Nowt*, and co-created an award-winning board game, *Pitch-A-Story*. He now lives in Decatur, GA and is developing story-based tools for personal transformation for college students and business leaders through his organization StoryWork International.

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community

Venue: Knesset Israel

Date & Time: Thursday, June 13 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 20).

“How Turkish Kurdistan Affected a Life,” with Chris Andersen

On Thursday, May 30 at 10:45 a.m., meet Chris Andersen, who will talk about his childhood adventures in Asia Minor in a program titled “How Turkish Kurdistan Affected a Life.” 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 was postponed from January 31.

Chris Andersen had the rare and transformative opportunity to live in Turkey as a young teen with his family. It was 1954, and Turkish Kurdistan was not embraced by Turkish nationals. He will share about how he found a way to discover the rich and hidden culture of the Kurds and, on the way, experienced self discovery, as well. In this program he shares with us the risks and the adventures that drove him in this direction.

Later in life, Chris Andersen served as a captain in the US Army. In civilian life, he worked in hospital

emergency rooms and operating rooms from Arizona to New Hampshire and with patients at the Northampton State Hospital. In the Berkshires, Chris has opened his home throughout years working with children through specialized foster care, while raising his own family.

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community

Venue: Knesset Israel

Date & Time: Thursday, May 30 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 20).



Kurdish horseback riders

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

Knosh & Knowledge hosts Dr. Louis Levine on June 28

GREAT BARRINGTON – On Friday, June 28 at 10:45 a.m., Knosh & Knowledge welcomes Dr. Louis D. Levine, the founding director of Collections and Exhibitions at the Museum of Jewish Heritage-A Living Memorial to the Holocaust in New York City. Dr. Levine will look at decisions that were made and ways that Jews of Palestine participated in the war against the Axis.

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

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

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

Before joining the museum, he served as assistant commissioner for museums in the New York State Education Department and director of the New York State Museum, and prior to that as director of Exhibits at the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, where he



Soldiers of the Jewish Brigade during WWII (Courtesy of Beit Hagdudim, Israel Defense Ministry Museum)

was also a curator and head of the West Asian Department. While there, he concurrently taught Near Eastern archaeology as professor in the Department of Near Eastern Studies at the University of Toronto.

He also taught at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the University of Copenhagen, held a Fulbright Fellowship in Iran, and was a Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He has written or edited seven books and monographs and dozens of articles and book reviews in the fields of Holocaust studies, museum studies, archaeology, and ancient history.

He is currently preparing a biography of Hannah Senesh.

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires

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

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

Cost: \$11 with fresh buffet lunch. Free admission to program only.

Advance lunch reservations required for this event.

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

Your Federation Presents

Volunteers Are Vital!

Spring into spring by pitching in for your Jewish community

By Susan Frisch Lehrer / Coordinator of Volunteers

Spring has finally arrived in the Berkshires and we are thrilled. It's been a long and cold winter and we welcome the sunshine, flowers, and snowbirds!

I'm writing this column in April, which is National Volunteer Month. On behalf of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, I want to thank the many volunteers who give so much to our community. Our volunteers range in age from toddlers to seniors and are so committed to helping others. *Todah Rabah* – thank you to all!

Our volunteers are involved in numerous programs, including assisting with the thrice-weekly lunch program – Connecting With Community – both at Knesset Israel and in delivering meals to members of the community who are homebound. We also have volunteers visiting folks regularly at their homes as part of the Friendly Visitor Program and several who bring a short Shabbat program to area assisted living and nursing homes once a month. Baking and delivering challot before the High Holy Days and hamantashen before Purim is another important and much-loved program. We know that these and other vital programs help older adults keep their Jewish connections to the community.

Volunteers are involved in every Federation event and program from planning to implementation – from selling tickets to setting up chairs to schlepping boxes to cleaning up after the program. You get the picture.

Other volunteers assist with delivering copies of the *Berkshire Jewish Voice* to selected locations across the county so that more readers may enjoy its contents. This is one of the best ways to communicate the numerous Jewish programs in the Berkshires.

Currently, volunteers are working on mailings in our office, serving as board and committee members, and preparing for our annual phone-a-thon on Super Sunday on May 19. I refer to this as the Super Bowl of donor/volunteer engagement for our Federation. Every volunteer who helps out on Super Sunday and the follow-up dates is helping to sustain our community and Jews around the world. We couldn't do this without everyone's help. See more information on Super Sunday and how you can get involved in this issue.

Look for the TOV (Tikkun Olam Volunteer Network) box in every issue to see where volunteers are needed in our community. When you help others you are truly performing a *mitzvah* – a good deed.

I recently asked one of our dedicated volunteers why he volunteers. His answer was, "One has an obligation to reach out to others. It's part of our heritage of values – it's in our DNA."

If you find something that "calls to you," contact me. I'd love to chat and find a placement for you. We still have a need for several volunteers for our vital programs. Join us – you'll be glad you did!

Thank you!

B'shalom, Susan
Susan Frisch Lehrer, Coordinator of Volunteers
slehrer@jewishberkshires.org
(413) 442-4360, ext. 14



Elaine Shindler in the kitchen at Connecting With Community



Eric Greenberg on his way to deliver kosher meals on wheels to homebound community members



Mariya Zade and Zema Baghirova preparing meals for Federation's kosher lunch program

Families Invited to "Mooove" On In to Summer

LEE – PJ Library and the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires invite families to join together for a "Cool Summer Kickoff" at High Lawn Farm, where we will celebrate Shavuot and the custom of eating dairy food, learn about kindness to animals, and have fun exploring the farm. We'll have a tour to meet the calves, see how milk is processed, and end with a fresh and sweet ice cream treat!

This event takes place on Friday, June 21, from 10 a.m. to noon at High Lawn Farm, 535 Summer Street in Lee. Free, but RSVP required by Friday, June 14 at (413) 442-4360, ext. 10 or federation@jewishberkshires.org. Rain date, if necessary, TBD.



Matzo Bake Was Flat-Out Fun

PJ Library families and Federation supporters joined together with the Hebrew school families at Congregation Beth Israel in North Adams on March 31 for a hands-on pre-Passover demonstration of how matzo is made. Nearly 50 intrepid bakers of all ages relived the experience their forefathers had while fleeing Egypt, creating matzo from raw wheat through grinding, mixing, rolling, and then baking on a blistering, wood-fired heating element behind the synagogue – all within the 18-minute window required by *halacha* (Jewish law).

Thanks to the staff of Abundance Farm from Northampton who guided our bakers through every step of the process.



LOCAL NEWS

Pittsfield Emergency Recovery Committee Announces Opportunities to Volunteer

PITTSFIELD – The Pittsfield Emergency Recovery Committee coordinates and deepens the way the people of Pittsfield take care of neighbors when a fire or flood displaces them from their home. Its intention is to offer the compassionate, coordinated, sustainable support that strengthens the bonds of community at a pivotal moment in people's lives.

The Committee operates under the umbrella of the Christian Center of Pittsfield. Its work thus far represents grassroots collaboration among volunteers from 20 local community organizations, congregations, government agencies, and offices of elected officials. Gina Armstrong, director of the Pittsfield City Health Department, and Rabbi David Weiner, spiritual leader of Kneset Israel, chair the Committee.

Currently, emergency assistance for a residential-scale disaster in Pittsfield provided by the fire department, the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army tapers off for people displaced by fire or flood after about two days. However, the consequences of the destruction of a home persist for months. The Committee aims to extend and broaden the support neighbors offer neighbors. *To the best of the Committee's knowledge, this is the only program of this sort in the State of Massachusetts.* Regrettably these events are frequent. Housing stock in Pittsfield is old, and one misplaced candle or frayed wire can cause a lot of heartache.

The Committee has compiled a handbook for fire/flood survivors, "Now That the Fire is Out, What Do I Do?" that is distributed by the Pittsfield Fire Department and the Salvation Army. The handbook covers many themes, including securing property, restoration, insurance claims, replacing necessary documents and addressing mental health concerns around trauma.

Ways to Participate

The Committee invites prospective volunteers to sign up for its navigator



Recovery kits collected by Hevreh of Southern Berkshire in collaboration with the Zion Lutheran Church of Pittsfield



Recovery kits collected at Kneset Israel – yasher koach to Joe Weiner (top row, center) who organized this undertaking as his bar mitzvah project

training – please contact Rabbi David Weiner at rabiweiner@outlook.com for information on when the next sessions might be offered. Navigators will help neighbors who have been displaced from their homes due to fire or flood with emotional support, compassionate presence and important information to help them take the next steps towards healing.

Alternatively, individuals, businesses, congregations, and organizations are invited to collect kits that will be delivered to the 'next home' of a displaced household. These kits will take the pressure off those first days after relocation and help neighbors in need feel supported. The Committee expresses its gratitude to Hevreh of Southern Berkshire and Kneset Israel for their donations of hygiene kits and kitchen kits, respectively.

For a list of needed items, please contact Rabbi Weiner.

Kits should include *only new and unused* items and should be packed in plastic bins with lids, clearly labeled and delivered during business hours to the Salvation Army,

298 West Street, Pittsfield.

The Committee also welcomes donations in support of its work to the Pittsfield Christian Center. Please write 'Pittsfield Emergency Recovery' on the memo line.

Future projects for the committee – all in need of leadership – include providing new, basic mobile phones to people who lost their phone when their home was destroyed; building a network of mental health professionals to support the work of the Committee and provide care for survivors; and many more.

For more information, please contact Rabbi David Weiner at rabiweiner@outlook.com.

Aging with Joy and Wisdom

PITTSFIELD – How do we create a roadmap for our transition into an older age that is rich and fulfilling?

"Aging with Joy and Wisdom" is a six-part experience led by two facilitators trained by the Institute of Jewish Spirituality in New York. It will be offered this summer for the first time in the Berkshires for 12 participants between the ages of 55 and 75.

The group will meet at Kneset Israel, 16 Colt Road, in Pittsfield.

The two-hour sessions will explore – with sensitivity, compassion and humor – topics that include: creating a new and positive model of aging, managing loss, cultivating nourishing relationships, finding meaning that is not work-centered, and shaping our legacy.

The group will draw on the book, *Wise Aging: Living with Joy, Resilience and Spirit*, by Rabbi Rachel Cowan, z"l, and Dr. Linda Thal.

Cynthia Mann, one of the facilitators, is a writer who graduated from Brown University with a degree in Jewish Studies and who holds

Chai Tea in High Summer

LEE – On Tuesday, July 9 at noon, Berkshire Hills Hadassah once again hosts "Chai Tea," an annual high summer event that helps support scholarships for young people to attend Young Judaea summer camps in the United States, summer camps in Israel, or yearlong programs in Israel.

Chai Tea is a dairy/parve pot luck luncheon with no cover charge. A minimum annual donation of \$18 to Hadassah is requested. The event will be held at a private home in Lee, location to be determined.

Max Rubin, a recipient of a Young Judaea scholarship, will share some of the experiences he had during a life-changing year in Israel.

Special guest speaker is Galina Vroman, who directs the Harold Grinspoon Foundation's operations in Israel. Her topic will be "Gained in Translation: What Happened When the PJ

Library Book-Gifting Program Made Aliyah."

Vroman 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, serving more than 500,000 Israeli children and their families.

The program also encourages shared adult-child reading in class and at home. She will also detail the impact of the programs on ethnic identity among both Jewish and Arab families – and the challenges the programs face in Israel's complex society.

Berkshire Hills Hadassah members will receive invitations in the mail. If you want more information about BHH or Chai Tea, please contact chapter president, Ros Kopfstein, at rosalindkopfstein@gmail.com or (413) 553-5522.



Early Summer Events at Hevreh

GREAT BARRINGTON – Hevreh of Southern Berkshire dives into summer with several special programs.

"Shabbat Shalom: Summer Begins"

On Friday, May 17 at 5:45 p.m., Hevreh hosts a festive oneg following services to welcome home everyone who has been away from Hevreh for any length of time. The congregation will also honor everyone who has given freely in any way to help Hevreh. Finally, the congregation installs next year's board of trustees.

A potluck dinner will follow. For more information, please call (413) 528-6378.

Other Events

Tot Shabbat on May 18 and June 8 at 9 a.m.



Cantor Shani Cohen

"L'Hitraot and Toda Raba to Student Cantor Shani Cohen"

– On Saturday, June 7 at 5:45 p.m., the congregation celebrates and thanks Cantor Shani Cohen, who for 2 years served as student cantor at Hevreh. "As we say *l'hitraot*, we celebrate and thank her," says Hevreh's invitation to the community. "Join us for a special musical Shabbat, a beautiful tribute, and a festive oneg."

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LOCAL NEWS

Backyard Bounty of the Berkshires Merges with Berkshires Bounty

Editor's Note: In November 2017, the Berkshire Jewish Voice featured a story about Backyard Bounty of the Berkshires, started by two members of Hevreh of Southern Berkshire. It was a model tik-kun olam project that helped feed the needy in Berkshire County, and now is expanding its reach by merging with Berkshires Bounty. Here are the latest developments, shared by Backyard Bounty's co-founders.

One out of four people in Berkshire County, and in all of Western Massachusetts, suffer from food insecurity. They are hungry or at risk of being hungry. In addition, one child in five isn't getting enough food. The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts feeds 235,000 people each year.

In April, two of Berkshire County's leading non-profits dedicated to feeding the hungry merged. Mel Greenberg, founder of

Berkshires Bounty, and Mark Lefenfeld and Jay Weintraub, founders of Backyard Bounty of the Berkshires, announced the formation of Berkshire Bounty to maximize their efforts to collect and distribute excess fresh produce, meat, fish and bread to those in need in South County and Pittsfield.

For more than 20 years, Mel Greenberg and Phyllis Weiss collected and distributed donated food from local organizations. In addition, they organized a Thursday evening community meal program at the American Legion Hall in Sheffield.

Greenberg explained the mission of Berkshires Bounty: "For the people we serve it may make the difference between going to bed hungry and having food in the house. It lets them know they are not alone, that there are people who understand and are willing to help. That makes a huge difference for people. For

me, personally, it makes me feel good to know I'm actually making a difference in people's lives."

Lefenfeld and Weintraub started Backyard Bounty of the Berkshires in 2015 to focus on collecting and distributing excess fresh produce in South County and Pittsfield. According to Lefenfeld and Weintraub: "We've been successful beyond our initial expectations, largely due to the generosity of local supermarkets, property owners with fruit trees on their properties and farms, as well as distribution organizations. We're grateful for contributions from many individuals and grants from the Berkshire Taconic Foundation, the Jewish Women's Foundation of Berkshire County, and Berkshires Agricultural Ventures."

Weintraub described the complimentary nature of the two organizations. "Backyard



Fresh apples donated by local property owners feed the needy.

Bounty has been delivering food to many of the same organizations in South County and Pittsfield as Berkshires Bounty. Combining forces makes a lot of sense."

The new organization, to be led by Lefenfeld and Weintraub, expects to soon be collecting and distributing fresh fruit, vegetables, meat, and baked goods to those in need at the rate of 100,000 pounds per year. Growth will be enhanced by the recent purchase of a van to aid in pickups and deliveries.

Organizationally, the Backyard Bounty of the Berkshires Advisory Board, made up of individuals who

have great experience with food insecurity issues, will remain in place, providing continuing guidance to the larger team.

According to Lefenfeld, "Our mission remains unchanged – to gather and distribute quality food to those in need in South County and Pittsfield."

The revised website (www.berkshire-bounty.org) provides more information about Berkshire Bounty's mission, participating food donors, participating food distributing organizations and volunteer opportunities.

Shavuot at Chabad of the Berkshires

Reading of the Ten Commandments, plus dairy lunch and ice cream party

PITTSFIELD – On Sunday, June 9, celebrate the holiday of Shavuot with Chabad of the Berkshires by hearing the Ten Commandments and enjoying a festive luncheon and ice cream party.

Services begin at 10 a.m. and the Ten Commandments will be read at 11:30 a.m., followed by festivities. All are invited regardless of background or affiliation.

"You'll find yourself at a unique crossroads of religion and cuisine," says Sara Volovik, co-director of Chabad of the Berkshires. "The holiday of Shavuot, celebrating the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai some 2300 years ago, has become a celebration of fine dairy cuisine, as well. As the Torah was given and the laws of kosher dining were first received, the Jewish People were not yet capable of properly preparing beef and poultry, and as such ate dairy. The rest is history."

Sara promises "exquisite cheesecakes, pesto pastas, lasagna, and cheese blintzes will take center stage during this ancient celebration. Some suggest that this has contributed to the renewed popularity this holiday has seen."

Says Rabbi Levi Volovik: "When thinking Jewish holidays, Passover, Chanukah, and Yom Kippur come to mind – nevertheless Shavuot is considered one of Judaism's major holidays and was in fact a 'pilgrimage' when all of Israel would travel to Jerusalem to celebrate in the Temple.

"No, it isn't all about the food," he adds. "What is important is that the community is joining together, hearing the Ten Commandments and celebrating the Torah. But the good food certainly helps!"

For more information visit www.jewishberkshires.com or call (413) 499-9899.

Jazz and Jewish Music, with Wanda Houston and Paul Green

Join them for Common Ground

GREAT BARRINGTON – On Sunday, June 9 at 7 p.m., renowned jazz singer Wanda Houston and clarinetist Paul Green will present "Common Ground: A Celebration of Jazz and Jewish Music." The performance takes place at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire.

This program fuses jazz and Jewish music and reflects the longstanding fellowship between the African American and Jewish communities. The concert is a benefit for Clinton Church Restoration, which is restoring and repurposing the historic Clinton A.M.E. Zion

Church in downtown Great Barrington as an African American heritage site, visitor center, and community space. A reception will follow the program.

Tickets are \$25.

Hevreh of Southern Berkshire is located at 270 State Road in Great Barrington.



Singer Wanda Houston



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LOCAL NEWS

B'Shalom Chorale Seeks Singers for Sixth Season



Last season's B'Shalom Chorale concert at Hevreh

GREAT BARRINGTON – B'Shalom Chorale, conducted by Jack Brown, begins 10 weekly rehearsals, on

Wednesday, May 29, from 7-9 p.m. There will be 2 concerts, for this 6th season: Wednesday evening, August 14 at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire in Great Barrington, and a second concert, which will be interfaith, at the First Congregational Church in Stockbridge on Thursday evening, August 15.

The Chorale is open to all men and women, Jewish or not Jewish, who have a

pleasant singing voice and the ability to stay on pitch. Choral experience is preferred, as is a love of singing four-part music. The ability to read music is helpful, though not mandatory. Dues are \$50. Rehearsals are held at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Road. RSVP to the Chorale at (413) 418-1836 or email BShalomChorale@gmail.com.

Donate



Volunteer



Make a Difference

Messiah Madness: The Life and Impact of Shabbatai Tzvi, False Messiah

GREAT BARRINGTON – On Sunday, May 19 at 2 p.m., Rabbi Barbara Cohen will present a program on 17th century false messiah, Shabbatai Tzvi, at Congregation Ahavath Sholom

Rabbi Cohen explains: "The longing for a Messiah has often risen in the fertile soil of troubled times, watered by the blood of our ancestors. Many times throughout the history of the Jews, when circumstances became almost unbearable due to oppression, exile and slaughter, the hope for redemption and deliverance from a Messiah, a God-chosen anointed warrior king, a promised deliverer, emerges from the collective misery of the time.

"Our prophetic writings in the Tanakh, the Hebrew Bible, speak of this individual, announced by the prophet Elijah, who will arise from the line of King David, from the root of Jesse. The anticipation of a Messiah flourishes like a beacon in the darkness of collective Jewish suffering. There have always been individuals, sane or not, who



Shabbatai Tzvi

believe themselves to be the next Messiah, but their influence is usually limited to a small group of adherents in a limited geographic area.

"Our exploration of the false Messiah, Shabbatai Tzvi, a 17th century figure of immense impact on the Jewish world, was unlike other outbreaks of messianic fervor in its appeal, scope, and effect."

Congregation Ahavath Sholom is at 15 North Street in Great Barrington.



Major Donors Celebration

Sunday, July 14, 2019

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Country Club of Pittsfield
639 South Street, Pittsfield, MA

Guest Speaker: Robert Trestan

Executive Director, Anti-Defamation League (ADL), New England

Honorary Chairs: David and Lorna Strassler

Host Committee:

Terry and Mel Drucker	Penny and Claudio Pincus
Lisa Schindler-Frankel and Larry Frankel	Elaine and Bernie Roberts
Alan and Liz Jaffe	Anne Schnesel
Marilyn and Elie Katzman	Carrie and David Schulman
Shirley and Bill Lehman	Zelda Schwebel
Nancy and Norman Lipoff	Sari Scheer and Sam Kopel
Paula Lustbader	Hope and Gene Silverman
Ellen and Stuart Masters	Lauren Spitz
	Judy and Mark Usow



Couvert: \$36 per person

RSVP Required by July 8

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

Minimum gift of \$1,000 to the Federation's 2019 annual campaign.



THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE.
THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.

Chabad to Offer New and Ongoing Classes this Summer

PITTSFIELD – Chabad of the Berkshires will offer several series of adult classes over the summer at its headquarters at 450 South Street.

Hebrew for Beginners and Beyond

Rabbi Levi Volovik, co-director of Chabad of the Berkshires, will teach an eight-session course called "Hebrew for Beginners and Beyond," on Wednesday afternoons in June (5, 12, and 26) and July (3, 10, 17, 24, and 31). The classes will start at 2 p.m., and last one hour.

The course will aim to familiarize participants with the basics of prayer book and conversational Hebrew.

Says Rabbi Volovik: "This course is for anyone who has ever felt lost at services because they couldn't follow the Hebrew, or who wants to study the Torah in its original language, or who may be planning a trip to Israel and would simply like to be able to read a street sign and conduct a simple transaction in the language of our ancestors. This course will be a first step toward Hebrew literacy."

Students can learn with the group, and private lessons are also available

To reserve a place in the class, call (413) 499-9899. Suggested donation for the entire session is \$100.

Talmud Study

Rabbi Volovik will teach a free course in Talmud study called "Lunch and Bavli," every Wednesday in the month of June and July at 12:30 p.m.

The course, which will be conducted in English, is meant to be an introduction to the methodology of studying the Talmud, one of the key documents of Judaism. No previous experience is necessary.

The meetings will include a kosher lunch, and then study. "This is a terrific way to feed your body, and study to feed your mind," says Rabbi Volovik. To reserve a place in the class, call (413) 499-9899.

Torah and Tea – a Kabbalistic perspective of the Torah

Join Sara Volovik, co-director of Chabad of the Berkshires, for "Torah and Tea," an exploration of the weekly Torah portion based on the teachings of Kabbalah and the Talmud. A second semester begins on May 22 and continues on subsequent Wednesday afternoons at 12:30 p.m.

The course will outline a spiritual road map for day-to-day life by delving through the weekly Torah portion, culling from the Talmud, Midrash, Chassidic masters, and participants' input and experiences, as well.

"This course will change the way you view the stories of our heritage," says Sara. "Although the course's teachings are firmly anchored in more than 3000 years of scholarship, the urgent relevance of these age-old truths to contemporary life has never been more manifest. The principles derived from the Kabbalah embody a distinctly universal message, calling for humankind at all times to lead productive and virtuous lives, and for unity among all peoples and all nations."

There is no charge for "Torah and Tea," and prior knowledge of the subject matter is not necessary. Light refreshments will be provided.

To register or for more information contact Chabad of the Berkshires at (413) 499-9899 or via email Jewishberkshires@gmail.com

LOCAL NEWS

Local Congregations to Celebrate Receiving the Torah Together

PITTSFIELD – In the introduction of his book, *The Gifts of the Jews: How a Tribe of Desert Nomads Changed the Way Everyone Thinks and Feels*, Thomas Cahill writes:

But to understand ourselves – and the identity we carry so effortlessly that most “moderns” no longer give any thought to the origins of attitudes we have come to take as natural and self-evident – we must return to this great document, the cornerstone of Western civilization.

Cahill, of course, is celebrating the Torah, which has served as a moral, spiritual and practical guide for individuals, families and nations these last 3000 years.

All are invited to acknowledge receiving our Torah

through the tradition of community study on the holiday of Shavuot, Sunday, June 9, from 3 to 5:30 p.m. at Temple Anshe Amunim.

Led by Rabbi Liz Hirsch of Temple Anshe Amunim, Rabbi Neil Hirsch of Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, and Rabbi David Weiner of Kneset Israel, the community will experience the relevance of Torah as a source for personal insights and life lessons.

The afternoon will begin with options for learning sessions with each rabbi. Rabbi David Weiner will speak on “An Aramaean Sought to Kill My Father? But My Father Was a Wandering Aramaean!” Rabbi Liz Hirsch will speak on “*Gadol HaShalom: Great is Peace.*” Rabbi Neil Hirsch will

speak on “Sinai or Auschwitz: What Guides You in Your Jewish Life?”

A panel discussion addressing the “Commandments for the 2019 Jew” will follow the individual learning sessions.

Light refreshments will be served. This is a joint event, sponsored by Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, Kneset Israel, and Temple Anshe Amunim. Registration for the event is encouraged, but not required. For more information or to register, please contact Temple Anshe Amunim at (413) 442-5910 or email templeoffice@ansheamunim.org.

The event is free and open to the public.

Temple Anshe Amunim is at 26 Broad Street in Pittsfield.



Hevreh Forums to Tackle the Big Issues – Finance and End of Life

GREAT BARRINGTON – Hevreh of Southern Berkshire hosts two discussion groups that will address important issues we all must face.

Useful Ideas in Finance

On Monday, June 3 at 9:30 a.m., this installment of Hevreh’s well-attended discussion group will again focus on personal financial issues including asset allocation, taxes, and investment and retirement strategies. These sessions will be led by one of the following experienced finance professionals: Jon Budish, Eric Katzman, Terry Webb, and Jay Weintraub.

Jewish Perspectives on Death with Dignity

On Thursday, May 30 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., Hevreh’s

Rabbi Neil Hirsch leads an exploration of the various texts that our tradition provides to consider the Jewish values involved in the debate regarding death with dignity. “The Massachusetts legislature is exploring a bill that would allow Massachusetts licensed physicians to prescribe medication, at a terminally ill patient’s request, and end that patient’s life,” says Rabbi Hirsch. “Jewish tradition gives guidance, not absolutes, regarding end-of-life decisions.”

Both events are free and open to all. Hevreh of Southern Berkshire is located at 270 State Road in Great Barrington. For more information, please call (413) 528-6378.

Families Together Engages Parents and Children in Social Action

PITTSFIELD – Kneset Israel’s Families Together program is an ongoing initiative to engage parents and children in social action projects and education. The next event is on Saturday, June 8 at 10:30 a.m. All families are invited to celebrate the end of the school year with a Family Service and an outdoor Kiddush lunch (weather permitting).

As part of Kneset Israel’s Families Together program on Sunday, April 7,

attendees gathered to explore some of the themes of Passover. Over 40 adults and children joined together to make soup packets to donate to local food pantries. The children also decorated and laminated placemats to donate alongside the soup packets.

While the children were busy in project-based learning about food insecurity in Berkshire County and the ties between

food justice and Passover, Rabbi David Weiner led a workshop for parents. The topic centered on having conversations with our children about difficult topics, including acts of oppression and violence.

Please contact Judith Weiner at jweiner@knesetisrael.org or (413) 445-4872, ext. 15 for more information.



Kneset Israel’s Families Together prepare soup packets

The Berkshire Eagle Looks at Itself and Journalism Today

GREAT BARRINGTON – On Thursday, June 6 at 4 p.m., Hevreh of Southern Berkshire hosts the publisher and editor of the newspaper with the largest circulation in the region for a discussion titled, “*The Berkshire Eagle Looks at Itself and Journalism Today.*”

With roots going back to 1789, *The Berkshire Eagle* is the leading newspaper in the Berkshires. In 2016, the *Eagle* was purchased by a local investor group that included retired District Court Judge Fred Rutberg, who is now

The Berkshire Eagle

the *Eagle* president and publisher. He and executive editor Kevin Moran will discuss the issues facing the *Eagle* in a challenging journalistic environment.

This event is free and open to the community. Hevreh of Southern Berkshire is located at 270 State Road in Great Barrington.

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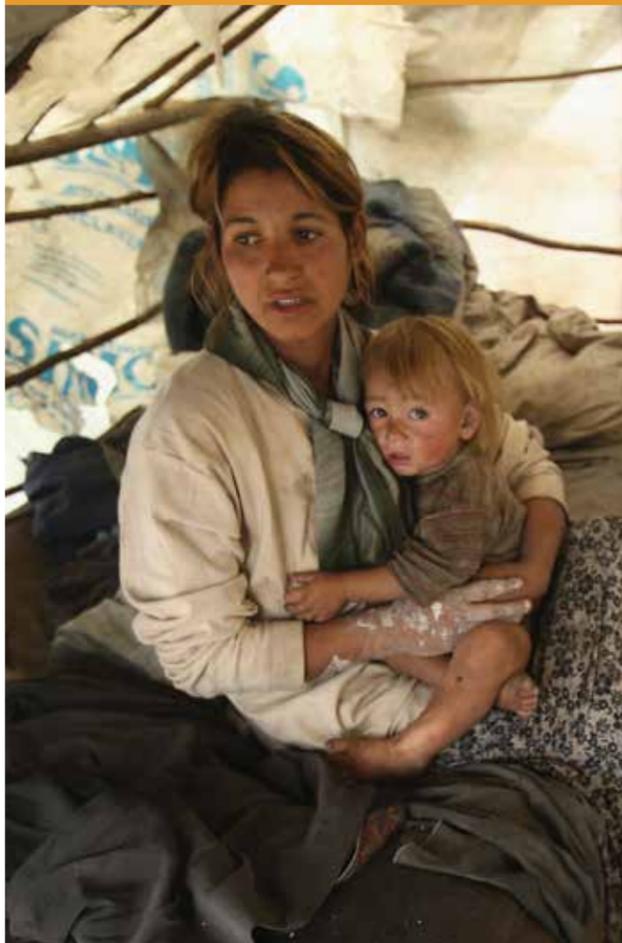
Fewer Jews say they are attached to Judaism. Yet 97% of American Jews state that they are "proud to be Jewish." Our critical challenge is to transform Jewish pride into true participation in Jewish life. And we are already on our way.

Locally, Federation helps children and teens live their Jewishness at school and summer camp. Birthright trips transform young adults' relationship to Israel. Around the world, in places where the Holocaust and Communism almost wiped out Jewish life, we're nurturing the efforts of a core of inspiring young people who are reinventing Jewish life.



Younger people feel detached from Judaism

We build connection.



Millions of Jews find every day a struggle

We are a lifeline.

People just like us, our children, our parents or grandparents, desperately need our help. Fragile Holocaust survivors who can't handle basic daily tasks. Families reeling from job loss. Widows and widowers face loneliness. Forgotten Jews, young and old, living in poverty and lacking basic necessities.

Federation removes obstacles. We bridge gaps. A hot meal is delivered to a homebound person. An emergency loan covers the rent for a struggling family. Health aides bring food and medicine to an elderly survivor. A social worker helps an older adult find a safer living situation.

In the US and around the world, Jewish people and institutions are being threatened. Security is posted at synagogues. At Jewish schools in France, five-year-olds file past armed guards to get to the playground. Jewish students arriving at college encounter toxic anti-Israel and anti-Semitic slogans.

Federation is helping to restore a sense of security by sharing resources, expertise and training to keep our communities safe. Standing up against hatred and combating BDS. So that Jews everywhere can walk without fear, into a synagogue, a Jewish school—or simply down the street.



The world is an unstable place

We bring security.

CAMPAIGN GOAL IS \$855,000

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JEWISH LIFE FOR YOUNG FAMILIES

You can help young families in the Berkshires embrace Jewish values and traditions while building a supportive community with Jewish peers through programs like PJ Library and Federation Family Days.



FOOD SECURITY, HEALTH CARE, AND WINTER RELIEF

Winters are long and cold in the Ukraine, but you can help the most vulnerable prepare with warm clothes, blankets, and heaters. You can also bring food cards, home health aides, and medicine to those who need it most.

DIGNITY & COMPASSION

You can provide older adults and the homebound with nutritious meals and stimulating programming served up with a side of companionship and compassion through our Connecting with Community kosher meals and Kosher Meals on Wheels.



JEWISH EDUCATION & VALUES

You can share your values and nurture a Jewish future for hundreds of local children by providing a high-quality, meaningful Jewish education through critical grants to all of our local Jewish supplemental schools.



A SENSE OF COMMUNITY

You can help strengthen, sustain, and connect our community through hundreds of educational programs, holiday celebrations, and the *Berkshire Jewish Voice*, which bring people together and engage them in meaningful Jewish life.



A STRONG JEWISH IDENTITY

You can help young people across the Berkshires and in the former Soviet Union build strong Jewish identities and become future leaders through scholarships for Jewish overnight camp and Israel experiences.

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

You can help individuals across the Berkshires who are facing unexpected crises, challenges, and life transitions receive the support they need through the Federation's social worker. You'll also provide community members with a safety net of emergency assistance when needed.



RESOURCES TO FIGHT ANTI-SEMITISM

You can help combat anti-Semitism and fight the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement through community, youth and college programming, as well as national advocacy and security resources.



A PLACE TO CALL HOME

You can help tens of thousands of new immigrants, who are fleeing anti-Semitism in Europe and fighting in the Ukraine, build new lives for themselves and their families in Israel.



CARING IN TIMES OF CRISIS

We join with Jewish communities across North America to rapidly mobilize local resources to help in times of crisis. From the recent attacks in Israel to relief efforts in Nepal, you help deliver an SOS response wherever and whenever it is needed.

A CLOSE & CARING RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL

You can help provide programs for at-risk students, shelter for abused women, support services for disabled youth, and job training for new Israeli citizens. You'll also help connect our community to Israel and help Israel connect with the Global Jewish community.



ADVOCACY & COMMUNITY RELATIONS

You can help provide a proactive voice in our public schools, media, and government, addressing anti-Semitism, religion, Israel, the Middle East, justice legislation, and other issues important to our community.



WHEN OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS US, WE ARE THERE.

Please answer the call and pledge your support to the 2019 Annual Campaign



Jewish Federation
OF THE BERKSHIRES

THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE.
THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.

BERKSHIRE JEWISH VOICES

Traveling with Jewish Taste

Ottolenghi Strikes Again, But Makes it a Lot Easier This Time

By Carol Goodman Kaufman



Simple is not just the title of this newest cookbook by Israeli chef Yotam Ottolenghi. It is the chef's attempt to help readers prepare fabulous recipes at home with a minimum of fuss.

Sounded good to me. As much as I love to cook, I admit that Ottolenghi's *Jerusalem* had me scrambling for such exotic ingredients that I was sure I would need a Sherpa to forage for me. The list in *Simple* is admittedly shorter, but the chef doesn't completely abstain from the unusual (kaffir lime, anyone?) He also insists that home cooks stock ten essential ingredients in their pantries, and they are, again, exotic. Among those listed: barberries, black garlic,

urfa chile flakes, and preserved lemon.

To further assist the reader, *Simple* is also an acronym, its letters standing for:

- S** Short on time
- I** Ingredients, ten or fewer
- M** Make ahead
- P** Pantry: what most people have in their pantries.
- L** Lazy, allows people to do something else while the item is cooking
- E** Easier than you think

Fair warning: The recipes in this cookbook are not all kosher. Some dishes call for mixing meat and milk, others require out-and-out *treif*. However, there were more than enough recipes to test, particularly those for vegetable dishes in the first half of the book. Herein are the results of my trials.

Let's start with an appetizer. Roasted whole cauliflower is a big thing now in Mediterranean and Middle Eastern restaurants, but I have to admit that the only time I had tasted it before now I was disappointed. Ottolenghi's version, however, is outstanding. Boiled briefly in water, then roasted in the oven and basted with butter and olive oil, all three of my tasters gave it an A+. The chef suggests serving it with his Green Tahini Sauce. With or without the dip, this recipe is a keeper.

I love soup, and it was still cold outside the day I made the Curried Lentil, Tomato, and Coconut soup, so something hot was called for. Rated IML, and it is indeed super easy to make. More important, it may in fact be among the most delicious soups I have ever had. Another A+

On to entrees. We had to search several stores to find puy (French green) lentils for the Puy Lentil and Eggplant Stew. Once we found them, the stew was easy to make, but the taste was only okay, maybe a C+. However, the Bulgur with Mushrooms and Feta had a lovely mix of flavors and textures. I'd give that a B+

Unlike its more familiar, pillowy-soft cousin made with potatoes, Gnocchi alla Romana is prepared with semolina. It made for a beautiful presentation in the dish and had a silky smooth texture, although I would advise charging up the flavor by using a bit more strong cheese, as the semolina is mild. B+

Since Ottolenghi is a sabra, I was very excited to try his Seeded Chicken Schnitzel, anticipating memories of my time living in Israel, when I prepared a lot of the dish in my tiny Rehavia kitchen. Panko crumbs, sesame seeds, and sunflower seeds made for a very crispy exterior, and the interior was nice and juicy, but even with cayenne, coriander, and turmeric added to the mix, there was surprisingly little flavor in the fillets. C+

We all know that salmon is good for us, and one of the star recipes in *Simple* – Bridget Jones's Pan-Fried Salmon with Pine Nut Salsa – makes it absolutely scrumptious. As a bonus, the story behind it is funny. As Ottolenghi explains, "This is the dish Patrick Dempsey's character tells Renée Zellweger's Bridget Jones that he would have brought her on their imaginary second date in *Bridget Jones's Baby*. 'From Ottolenghi,' says Dempsey, 'delicious and healthy!' And easy, we might add! What sounded like a bit of product placement on our part was in fact no such thing. The recipe didn't even exist on our menu, so this is a retrospective acknowledgment." A+

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.

Affiliate with a Congregation.

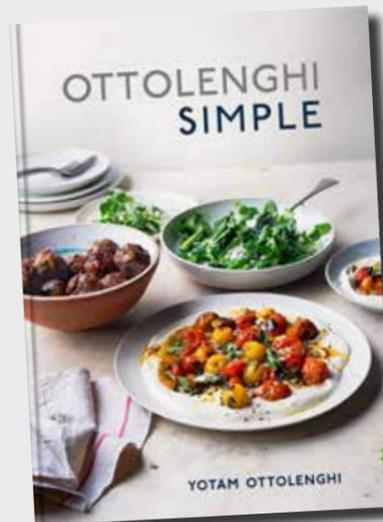
You, the congregation, and the Jewish community benefit when you do.

- YOU GET the Jewish enrichment and spiritual nourishment you are seeking.
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- 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.

Ottolenghi's Curried Lentil, Tomato, and Coconut Soup, Adapted

Serves 4



This recipe couldn't be easier or more delicious. However, since I am one of those people for whom fresh cilantro tastes like soap, I have substituted the dried herb in this recipe.



Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons coconut oil or sunflower oil
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 1 tablespoon medium curry powder
- ¼ teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 2-inch piece ginger, peeled, finely chopped
- ¾ cup red lentils, rinsed and drained
- 1 14.5-ounce can diced tomatoes
- 1¼ cups cilantro stems, plus ¼ cup leaves for garnish (or 1 tablespoon dried cilantro)
- 2½ cups water
- Salt and black pepper
- 1 13.5-ounce can coconut milk



Curried lentil, tomato, and coconut soup

Directions:

- Heat oil in a medium saucepan over medium.
- Cook onion, stirring often, until softened and golden brown for 8 minutes, stirring frequently, until soft and caramelized.
- Add curry powder, flakes, garlic, and ginger and continue to fry for about 2 minutes.
- Add lentils and cook, stirring, for 1 minute.
- Add tomatoes, cilantro, water, 1 teaspoon salt, and a very generous grind of pepper.
- Pour the coconut milk into a bowl and gently whisk until smooth and creamy. Set aside ¼ cup — you'll need this when serving — and add all the remaining coconut milk to the soup.
- Bring to a boil, then decrease the heat to medium and simmer gently for 25 minutes, until the lentils are soft but still holding their shape.
- Add a little bit more water — about 7-10 tablespoons — if your soup needs thinning.
- Divide soup among four bowls, drizzle with the reserved coconut milk, and sprinkle with more cilantro.

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

BERKSHIRE JEWISH VOICES

Celebrating 10 Years of Caring

The Jewish Women's Foundation of Berkshire County continues to grow

By Jane Glaser

After 30 years of being a second homeowner, we moved to the Berkshires full time. I knew there had to be a Jewish community here, but I was not a part of it.

So I called the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires and met Arlene Schiff, the executive director at the time, and told her that I was sure there were other women who, like me, were involved in their home communities and who would love to make a difference here. After all, we consider the Berkshires our summer paradise.

The Jewish Women's Foundation of Berkshire County was founded in 2009 with 28 members, all eager to learn about the unmet needs of our Jewish community. The partnership with Federation was AMAZING! We learned about programs we could help and programs we could create.

Along the way, our membership grew, and we learned about the dire needs within the greater community. We recognized the opportunity that existed to identify unmet needs in Berkshire County and, by applying Jewish values of compassion and *tzedakah*, take steps to support grassroots organizations, both Jewish and non-Jewish.

To date, the Foundation has awarded over 40 grants to worthy programs that provide food, fuel assistance, cultural development, and support for children. In 2018, our grants totaled more than \$30,000!

Our ongoing support to our Jewish community includes taxi vouchers, camp scholarships, the community Passover Seder, and support of our local PJ Library program. We also support the Federation's partnership with the ADL to roll out the A WORLD OF



Jane Glaser (center) with fellow Jewish Women's Foundation members Pommi Levy (left) and Susan Sussman

DIFFERENCE anti-bias program in local schools.

The Jewish Women's Foundation of Berkshire County continues to grow the way it began – by friends bringing in friends. We invite all those interested to join us at our annual membership

brunch on Friday, June 21 at 11:30 a.m. at Crissey Farm, 426 Stockbridge Road in Great Barrington.

Please call the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires for more information at (413) 442-4360, ext. 10.



Linking Young Jewish Women in Their Fight Against Breast Cancer

(866) 474-2774
www.sharsheret.org



Welcome to the Jewish Berkshires

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

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

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

JEWISHBERKSHIRES.ORG

BERKSHIRE JEWISH CONGREGATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS

Berkshire Minyan

Lay-led egalitarian minyan held at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Rd., Great Barrington, MA (413) 229-3618, berkshirerminyan.org

Berkshire Hills Hadassah

P.O. Box 187, Pittsfield, MA (413) 443-4386, Berkshirehillshadassah@gmail.com

B'nai B'rith Lodge, No. 326

Chabad of the Berkshires 450 South St., Pittsfield, MA (413) 499-9899, jewishberkshires.com

Congregation Ahavath Sholom

Reconstructionist North St., Great Barrington, MA (413) 528-4197, ahavathsholom.com

Congregation Beth Israel

Reform 53 Lois St., North Adams, MA (413) 663-5830, cbiweb.org

Hevreh of Southern Berkshire

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

Israel Philatelist Society

c/o Dr. Ed Helitzer, (413) 447-7622

Jewish Federation of the Berkshires

196 South St., Pittsfield, MA (413) 442-4360, jewishberkshires.org

Jewish War Veterans

Commander Robert Waldheim (413) 822-4546, sellit4@aol.com

Knesset Israel

Conservative 16 Colt Rd., Pittsfield, MA (413) 445-4872, knessetisrael.org

Temple Anshe Amunim

Reform 26 Broad St., Pittsfield, MA (413) 442-5910, ansheamunim.org

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

Thank you to these individuals who through their gift to the Legacy Circle will ensure that the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires thrives long into the future. May your name be a Blessing, and may the example you set inspire others to create their own Jewish Legacy.



Anonymous (10)
Ed Abrahams
Norman Avnet*
Barbara Bashevkin
Robert Bashevkin
Linda J. L. Becker
Robert Berend
Shelley Berend
Helene Berke
Lawrence Berke

Lee & Sydelle Blatt
Betty Braun*
Cipora Brown
Barbara Cohen
Mark Cohen*
Mimi Cohen
C. Jeffrey & Judith Cook
Gerry & Lynn Denmark
Jonathan & Lara Denmark
Sheila K. Donath
Melva Eidelberg
Monroe England, *in memory of*
Monroe B. & Isabel England
Dr. Armand V. Feigenbaum*
Dr. Donald S. Feigenbaum*
Steven Feiner
Diana & Stanley Feld
Stuart M. Fischman
Lynn & William Foggie

Elaine Friedman
Eiran Gazit
Jeffrey Goldwasser &
Jonquil Wolfson
Jordan & Laura Green
Harold Grinspoon
Ellen Heffan
Ed Jaffe*
Elihu Katzman
Marilyn Katzman
Dara Kaufman
Howard & Nancy* Kaufman
Lawrence Klein
Sarah Klein
Arthur Kriger*
Fred & Brenda Landes
Beth Laster-Nathan
Andrew S. Levine*
Toby H. Levine

Erna Lindner-Gilbert*
Amy Lindner-Lesser
Helen Maislen*
Ellen Masters
Stuart Masters
Estelle Miller
Robert Newman*
Wendy Robbins
Ken & Fran Rubenstein
Stella Schecter*
Arlene D. Schiff
Gary Schiff
Stephen & Deborah Schreier
Martin Silver
Sylvia Silverberg, *in memory of*
Jerome Silverberg
Richard A. Simons & Marcie
Greenfield Simons
Mark & Elisa Snowise

Harold Sparr*
Lisa Fletcher-Udel
Edward Udel
Michael & Joan Ury
Mark & Judy Usow
Henry* & Beate* Voremborg
Alexandra Warshaw
Florence Wineberg*
Rabbi Deborah Zecher &
Rabbi Dennis Ross

**Of blessed memory*



Jewish Federation
OF THE BERKSHIRES

OBITUARIES

Sheila Nancy (Cohen) Shapiro, 68, worked as a psychiatric nurse

PORT ST. LUCIE, FL – Sheila Nancy (Cohen) Shapiro, 68, formerly of North Adams, died on Thursday, March 21 at Lawnwood Regional Medical Center in Fort Pierce, FL.

Born in North Adams on May 9, 1950, daughter of Emanuel and Anne (Pindick) Cohen, she attended local schools and graduated from Drury High School. Sheila went on to graduate from the Burbank Hospital School of Nursing, where she received her nursing degree. She worked as a psychiatric nurse and, over the span of her career, worked in Boston, New Hampshire, and Florida.

Sheila was a member of Congregation Beth Israel in North Adams. Survivors include her husband, Jay Shapiro; sister Marilyn "Mimi" Amazon of OH; nephew Marc Amazon and niece Tiffany Amazon.

Funeral services took place Wednesday, March 27 at Congregational Beth Israel, North Adams, with Rabbi Rachel Barenblat officiating. Burial followed in Beth Israel Cemetery, Clarksburg.

Isabelle Shirley Hofstein, 100, active with Berkshire Hills Hadassah

LENOX – Isabelle Shirley Hofstein, 100, a fifty-year resident of the Berkshires, died Saturday, April 6 at Kimball Farms Nursing Center.

Born in Pawtucket, RI on July 19, 1918 to Abraham and Kate Stone, she proudly graduated from Brown University, summa cum laude, and received her master's degree in social work from Columbia University. She worked as a social worker for many years and started one of the first "Mommy and Me" programs in the nation.

Before moving from New York, she and her husband Saul spent summers camping on land they bought in Washington, MA. They retired full time to Washington and then Pittsfield. She especially enjoyed cultural events and volunteering at Tanglewood and the Berkshire Museum. Isabelle was active with Berkshire Hills Hadassah and was a member of Temple Anshe Amunim.

She married her beloved Saul Hofstein in 1947; he passed away in 2002.

Isabelle will be lovingly remembered by her children, Natalie Mendelsohn Matus and husband Roger Matus, of Pittsfield, and Susan Hofstein of Miami, FL; grandchildren Dr. Kira Matus and husband Dr. Jonathan Halpert, and Gabrielle Matus; and two

great-grandsons, Arthur and Ethan Halpert. She was predeceased by her sister, Gertrude Clark of Montreal.

Funeral services were held Monday, April 8 at Congregation Beth Israel, North Adams. Burial followed in Pittsfield Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to Berkshire Hills Hadassah in care of Flynn & Dagnoli-Bencivenga Funeral Home, 5 Elm Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201.

Rose Foster, 89, tutored special needs children for bar/bat mitzvah

LENOX – Rose Foster, longtime resident of the Berkshires, died peacefully at her home on Tuesday, April 9.

Born April 1, 1930 in Brooklyn, NY, the youngest of 5, to Samuel and Adele Zelenetz, Rose graduated from Brooklyn College and went on to earn her master's degree in special education from Hofstra University. She taught in the BOCES system in the New York area for many years as a special education teacher. She was also a tutor of special needs children as they prepared for their bar and bat mitzvah.

During her years in the Berkshires, Rose was an art and theater enthusiast, and a longtime volunteer at Tanglewood who was instrumental in starting the host family program.

Rose was the matriarch of her immediate and extended family, and was the person responsible for maintaining connections of the family diaspora scattered around the world.

She is survived by her four children, two stepchildren, 14 grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Friday, April 12 at the Jewish Community of Amherst, Amherst, MA. Donations can be made to Jewish Family and Children's Services of Boston, 1430 Main Street, Waltham, MA 02451 or Mass02451. www.jfcsboston.org

Shirley Marks, 89, life trustee of Jewish Family Services

HOUSTON, TX – Shirley Marks, 89, passed away peacefully in her home on Wednesday, April 10. Born April 3, 1930, the daughter of Maurice and Frances Glosserman, Shirley lived a full life, spreading love and compassion throughout her journey. Never has there been a kinder person.

Her lifelong passion was first and foremost her family. Shirley enjoyed music, and was involved with the Houston and Boston Symphonies, along

with Shepherd School of Music at Rice University and Moore's School of Music at University of Houston. She loved helping others, both through her lifelong volunteer work and, along with her husband, incredible generosity.

She and her adoring husband had residences in Houston as well as the Berkshires, where magnificent summers were spent. Shirley was a gourmet cook and loved to entertain friends, artists and musicians who would come to visit throughout the summers in the Berkshires.

Shirley was a long time board member of Jewish Family Services of Houston. Last year, Jewish Family Services bestowed her with their highest honor, recognizing her as a life trustee.

She is survived by her loving husband of 67 years, Jay Marks; children, Lester Marks and Fran Lowe, and their spouses Penelope Gonzalez Marks and Jerry Lowe; six grandchildren, Joshua Marks, Asher Marks, Alana Marks, Robin Lowe Clarkson, Alan Lowe, and Matthew Greenwood; great-grandson, Jack Clarkson; brother, Norman Glosserman; and lifelong friends Mary Harberg and Ruth Walker.

A memorial service was conducted Friday, April 12, in the Gordon Chapel of Congregation Beth Israel, Houston. Prior to the service, the family gathered for a private interment service at Congregation Beth Israel Memorial Garden, Houston. Memorial contributions may be directed toward Jewish Family Service, 4131 S. Braeswood Boulevard, Houston, TX 77025 or to the charity of one's choice.

Eugene D. Kline, 77, supporter of opera, devotee of classical music

Eugene D. Kline, 77, brother of Great Barrington resident, Roselle Kline Chartock, died on Sunday, March 3, in New York City of colon cancer.

Born in Brooklyn and raised in Hudson, NY, Gene Kline was the son of William E. and Miriam (Mishkoff) Kline. A 1959 graduate of Hudson High School, he went on to graduate from SUNY Binghamton (then Harpur College) and Brooklyn Law School. After earning his CPA, Gene was an accountant for over forty years.

A dedicated supporter of the Bronx Opera Company since its inception 52 years ago, Gene served on the opera company's board. And he was a lifelong devotee of classical music, often visiting Tanglewood, as well as concert halls in New York City and London.

Eugene David Kline is survived by his sister, Roselle (husband, Alan), nephew Jonas and niece Sarah (Dan), grandnephews Noah and Mosiah and grandniece Hana, and a wide circle of music-loving friends.

A gathering to celebrate Gene Kline's life will take place on May 19 in New York City. Contributions in his memory can be made to: The Bronx Opera Company, c/o Michael Spierman, 5 Minerva Place, #2J, Bronx, NY 10468.

Theresa Pill, 93, lived her values and beliefs every day

LENOX – Theresa Pill, 93, formerly of Pittsfield, died on Friday, April 19.

Born June 5, 1925 in New York City, she was the daughter of David and Bessie (Levinson) Goldenberg. Educated in New York City schools until the 10th grade, Theresa moved to Pittsfield in 1941 and was a 1943 graduate of Pittsfield High School. A Navy Veteran of World War II, Theresa served at Oakland Naval Hospital in California. After the war, she attended and graduated from Berkshire Business College on the GI Bill.

Theresa worked a long and productive career, first in the Transformer department of General Electric. She then worked as executive secretary to Nathan George Horwitt (inventor of the Movado watch among other things), then Sid Sisselman at the Coat Factory, and then at Knesset Israel and the Jewish Community Center. She started two businesses: Theresa Pill Home Supply, where she plied the back roads of the Berkshire hill towns selling various household items, yard goods, toys, and supplies to farm families in the days before Amazon. Fearless on the roads, she would aim her big station wagons where she wanted to go and plow through any road in any weather.

She later started The Heirloom Shoppe, an antiques store located first on Tyler Street in Pittsfield then later in Great Barrington. Theresa developed a specialty in lamps of all kinds and dolls.

Theresa was an avid reader, an excellent cook, and decorated cakes with a creative flair that led others to request cakes for their occasions. She loved history and crossword puzzles.

She was a devoted friend, wife, mother, aunt, sister, and grandmother – and when she took on a job or task, she took it on in earnest.

Her politics were liberal, she was a feminist before

feminism was a term, and never let being told that she was a woman stand in the way of her forging forward. She lived her values and beliefs every day, and was a force of nature in her own right. She loved her bling, hairdresser appointments, and prided herself on always being well dressed.

Married to the love of her life, Israel B. Pill, on November 20, 1955 until his passing in 1999, they had three children, Samuel J. Pill (deceased), David Pill of Pittsfield, and Shari M. Kane of Beverly, MA. She leaves two grandsons, Ian Kane and Joshua Pill; her former daughter-in-law Sharon Sheppard of Newburyport, MA; and former son-in-law, John Kane of Rowley, MA. She also leaves a niece, Susan Raskin (Mark), and nephew, Phil Goldenberg (Sue). Theresa was predeceased by her brother, Jerome Goldenberg, and sister-in-law Mimi Goldenberg.

Theresa loved life, loved people, and loved being in the mix of a group of people. Compassionate and generous, she believed that sharing and caring for those around her – offering food, advice, or anything else she could offer was the reason we are on this earth. Family, friends, and God were the priorities of her life and she felt grateful to have been able to share whatever she could share.

Shari and David are also grateful to the people who made the last few years of her life as pleasurable as they could. This includes staff at Melbourne Place, Pine Hill at Kimball Farms, and especially the kindness of the staff at Kimball Farms Nursing Care Center, as well as HospiceCare of the Berkshires. Your compassion and understanding have been appreciated by us on a daily basis. As her memory dimmed and her health declined, you helped keep her spirit bright as the world around her grew smaller.

Funeral services were held Monday, April 22 at Knesset Israel, Pittsfield with burial at Knesset Israel Cemetery, Pittsfield. Donations may be made to the KI Cemetery Gate fund in care of Flynn Dagnoli-Bencivenga Funeral Home, 5 Elm Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201.

Irene Colby, 95, active with local organizations

PITTSFIELD – Irene Colby, a longtime resident of Pittsfield, died peacefully at her home on Monday, April 15, one week short of her 96th birthday.

Born in New York City on April 23, 1923, she was the daughter of Shepard and Rose Berger. She settled in Pittsfield

OBITUARIES, continued on page 19

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OBITUARIES

OBITUARIES, continued from page 18

more than 70 years ago with her husband, Dr. Raymond Colby, who practiced medicine for more than 40 years before retiring in 1987. She also spent a number of winters with Dr. Colby in Highland Beach and Delray Beach, FL.

Married for 72 years, Mrs. Colby was devoted to her husband in every way. After he retired and his health declined from debilitating surgery, she was by his side virtually every moment with loving care and encouragement. She also was a generous, attentive mother and grandmother who was always available to share her opinion and provide advice.

Mrs. Colby was an active member of the Berkshire District Medical Society Women's Auxiliary and did volunteer work at the Berkshire Medical Center. As a member of Temple Anshe Amunim's congregation, she joined Hadassah and the Temple Sisterhood.

World travel was one of Mrs. Colby's greatest pleasures and she and Dr. Colby toured extensively, visiting all the continents with the exception of Antarctica. Until Parkinson's disease took its toll, she stayed physically active playing golf and tennis at the Country Club of Pittsfield. In her later years, she and Dr. Colby took frequent walks together around her neighborhood and in town, always hand and hand. One of her favorite pastimes was bridge, which she played

for as long as she possibly could, earning numerous Masterpoints.

Mrs. Colby was fortunate to have her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren living close by for all her life; they are comforted by wonderful memories of holidays, celebrations and time spent together. She is survived by her two daughters and their spouses: Ellen and Joseph Fabino of Pittsfield and Jill and Donald Shulman of Boston. She also leaves five grandchildren, all of whom reside in Massachusetts: Robert Fabino of Methuen, Amy Michael (husband Stephen) of Concord, Christopher Fabino (wife Heidi) of Lenox, Alex Shulman of Brookline, and Lydia Shulman of Stockbridge; and five great-grandchildren. Her family will be eternally grateful to her longtime caregivers for their skills and exceptional devotion, and the compassionate assistance from hospice during her final weeks. She will be missed by all who loved her.

Friends may make donations to the Parkinson's Foundation or an organization of their choosing, in care of the Devanny-Condron Funeral Home, 40 Maplewood Avenue, Pittsfield, MA 01201.

Judy Carol Rosley, quick-witted, playful, resourceful, kind

SHEFFIELD – Judy Carol Rosley, the daughter of Sylvia Friedman and Jack Shapiro, passed away peacefully in her

sleep on Saturday, April 27, surrounded in her final days by the love and embrace of her friends and family. Quick-witted, playful, resourceful, kind, and impossibly full-hearted, she was deeply loved and admired by those close to her.

Born during the Great Depression in Woodmere, NY, she was a proud big sister to her younger brother Joel, who she gleefully taught to play and love sports, including tennis, baseball, yoga, and bicycling. A beautiful fashionista and an artist, she cultivated and emanated style throughout her life as a designer, an antique dealer, a healer, a poet, a writer, a therapist, a dancer, and a radio host. She married Hal Schwartz in 1955 and raised two brilliant children, Jill and Jonathan, who she exposed the world to through travel, culture, passion, and understanding, and an appreciation for art. She encouraged her children to be big dreamers and find joy in their lives.

Judy was always ahead of her time – an unabashed gift-giver, a scribe of long, illegible love notes, a generous soul, the life of the party, a lifelong learner, a student of the spirit, a host of fashion shows and themed parties, and a collector of silver linings. She was a deep conversationalist, an inquisitive interlocutor, and a remarkable listener.

Judy later married Walter Rosley before welcoming two precious joys of hers, her two grandsons Wyatt and Cooper. Her quest to spend quality time around them brought her from Manchester, VT to Sheffield, MA where she spent the last 15 years of her life. She spent long spring afternoons in lawn chairs watching her grandson Wyatt play baseball and lazy weekends on the couch reading poetry with her grandson Cooper. She indulged her grandsons' interests, taking them on solo trips to explore their passions.

She marched to the beat of her own drum, but she leaves behind an army of like-minded loved ones, including her brother Joel, her children Jill and Jonathan, her grandsons Wyatt and Cooper, and her adorers Hal, Nan, Ron, Steve, Doreen, Ruth, and Ellie. She will be indescribably missed, but Judy Rosley's legacy will live on for generations because of the impact she had on those around her with every ounce of her life and love.

A memorial service was held on Wednesday, May 1 at Congregation Ahavath Sholom, Great Barrington. Please send donations to the Parkinson's Foundation c/o Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home, 426 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230.

Bonnie Joy Oszmian, 57, wife, mother, grandmother

HANCOCK – Bonnie Joy Oszmian, 57, passed away Thursday, March 28 at North Shore University Hospital.

Bonnie was born in Bridgeport, CT, daughter of the late Iris and Michael Peretzman. She met her husband-to-be, Martin Oszmian, at a Jewish singles dance in 1981 and they were married May 30, 1982.

Bonnie is survived by her beloved husband, Martin Oszmian; their three incredibly cherished daughters, Alana Klipper of Syosset, NY, Shira Rappaport of New York, NY, and Jenna Oszmian of Forest Hills, NY; her beloved sons-in-law, David Klipper and Ian Rappaport; her treasured grandsons, Jared, Ryan, and Bradley Klipper of Syosset, NY; and her brother, Marc Peretzman of Pittsfield.

Services were held on Friday, March 29 at the Hebrew Sick Benefit Association Cemetery in Fairfield, CT.

Betty Secunda Rich, dedicated to music education and her family

RICHMOND – Betty Secunda Rich passed away peacefully at home on Thursday, April 25, with her family by her side.

A native of Pittsfield, she lived her entire life in Berkshire County. Betty was born in 1928 to Isador and Sadie Berman Secunda. She graduated from Pittsfield High School in 1946 and from Bennington College, where she majored in music, in 1950. A violinist since childhood, she played throughout much of her life, though not without interruptions.

In 1950, she married Paul N. Rich, with whom she had four sons: Tom (Pamela), Matthew, Andrew, and Joseph (Harry Paynter). She was pre-deceased by her husband, her son Matthew, and her brothers Albert and Daniel Secunda.

Once her children were in school, Betty began teaching music education at Berkshire Country Day School, Pittsfield Music School, and in the Williamstown school system, introducing the Carl Orff method to the region. Her dedication to music education was such that even in her seventies, she would arrive at Pittsfield High School at 6:15 a.m. to play with the PHS string orchestra, alongside her brother Daniel, (a cellist) and her grandson Harry, who was studying the violin.

For a time she was a stalwart member of the Berkshire Symphony in Williamstown,

and once, having taken a sabbatical from the orchestra, she received a note from Julius Hegyi, the group's conductor, begging her to return. "Anyone who plays the violin as beautifully as you do," he wrote, "should not stick the fiddle 'under the bed.' We need you, have always needed you, and missed you when you left." Coming from the notoriously demanding maestro, this was especially high praise, and she returned for many more years.

Her time was not occupied solely by music and family life. In the 1970s, she began to manage and develop her family's real estate, the Dunham building and 122 North Street (now home to Barrington Stage), which she renamed The Galleria. The project, which created a collection of shops in a space once occupied by a large department store, was innovative at the time. It was also an enormous undertaking that required her to learn about design, construction, mechanical systems, and many other topics that she had no experience in. She also had to learn to hold her own in a world dominated by men and was the rare woman to do so at the time.

With retail in her blood and a fierce devotion to maintaining North Street as the beating heart of Pittsfield – *The Berkshire Eagle* once dubbed her "a knight on North Street" – she joined her husband and son Tom to open Paul Rich and Sons Home Furnishings in 1983. She contributed to nearly every aspect of the business and was instrumental in helping it grow and thrive. Starting a new business at the age of 55 didn't faze her, and she was still signing checks in her late eighties.

Over the last 24 years, nothing gave her more pleasure than her three grandsons, Harry, Jackson, and Gabe Rich. When Harry turned five, she drove him to his weekly violin lessons until he learned to drive. She eagerly went to all three grandsons' soccer and basketball games well into her late eighties, and she tried never to miss a recital, grandparents' day, graduation, or awards ceremony.

In addition to her children, their spouses, and her grandchildren, Betty is survived by her sister, Marion Poliakoff, of Vancouver, British Columbia, her nieces, and a nephew.

Funeral services took place on Monday, April 29 at Kneset Israel in Pittsfield. Donations may be made to Berkshire Children & Families Kids 4 Harmony or Hospice Care of the Berkshires.

MAZEL TOV

Mazel Tov to...

Elliot and Barbara (Kronick) Greenfeld on celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary on June 7.

Joseph Weiner, son of **Rabbi David and Judith Weiner**, on his June 1 bar mitzvah at Kneset Israel.

Leslie and Roy Kozupsky on the birth of their first grandchild, born to parents **Jordana Kozupsky Bel and Greg Bel**.

Andy and Barbara Hochberg on the engagement of their daughter, **Miranda Hochberg** to **Robert Schneider**.

Robert Ferrin, son of **Richard and Heidi Ferrin**, on his May 18 bar mitzvah at Kneset Israel.

Nancy Schulman on the birth of her granddaughter, **Lyla Sage Bloomberg**.

Howard Shapiro on his special birthday.

Amy and Ben Sosne on the birth of son **Henry**, welcomed also by older siblings **Jack and Ruby**.

Leora Cook-Dubin, daughter of **Jesse and Rebecca Cook-Dubin**, on her May 25 bat mitzvah at Kneset Israel.

Amy Abramovich on the engagement of her daughter, **Emily Abramovich**, to **David Weilburg** of Newton, MA. Emily is the granddaughter of **Marilyn Simons**.

Nate Doctrow on his special birthday.

Nina Lipkowitz, whose gallery exhibit "Dancing Lines, Dancing Colors: The Way Of the iPad" runs through May 27 at the 510 Warren Street Gallery in Hudson, NY.



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Flynn & Dagnoli Funeral Homes

<p>Flynn & Dagnoli-Bentley</p> <p>5 Elm St. Pittsfield, MA 01201 (413) 442-1733</p>	<p>Flynn & Dagnoli-Montagna</p> <p>Central Chapel West Chapel 74 Marshall St. 521 West Main St. North Adams, MA 01247 (413) 663-6523</p>
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 Children under 12 will not be admitted.

JUNE 19–JULY 13
 at The Unicorn Theatre

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by JOHN PATRICK SHANLEY
 directed by KAREN ALLEN

JUNE 27–JULY 21
 at The Colonial Theatre

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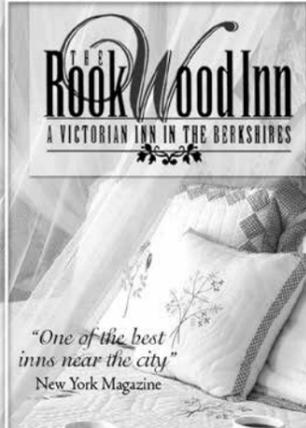
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Programs take place on most Mondays and Thursdays at 10:45 a.m. Lunch is served Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays at noon. Beginning on June 3 and continuing through the summer months, the Tuesday kosher lunch will be on hiatus. Tuesday lunches will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

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

MAY

Monday, 13 10:45 a.m., "Mystery Writer Seeking Truth" with author, Anastasia Goodman. **Lunch: Turkey piccata**#, pineapple juice, rice pilaf, broccoli cuts, chef's choice of bread, parve cake and tea.**

Tuesday, 14 Spaghetti and "sausage"#, zucchini rice soup, salad, Italian beans, garlic bread, peaches and tea.

Thursday, 16 10:45 a.m., "Working at the Intersection of Arts and Activism" with Kristen van Ginhoven, artistic director of WAM. **Lunch: Fresh fish**, tomato juice, kugel, asparagus cuts n tips, scones, mandarin oranges, coffee, tea and milk for coffee.**

Monday, 20 10:45 a.m., "Helping Women and Children Survive in the Toughest Places" with Liza Ramlow, midwife at Doctors Without Borders. **Lunch: Malaysian curry chicken**#, brown rice noodles, Oriental vegetables, multi-grain bread, pineapple and tea.**

Tuesday, 21 Salisbury steak**#, potatoes O'Brien, Brussels sprouts, salad, pumpernickel bread, pears and tea.

Thursday, 23 10:45 a.m., "The Trustees in the Berkshires – Yesterday and Today" with Brian Cruet. **Lunch: Tuna salad & cottage cheese platters**, rolls, ice cream and cookies, coffee, tea and milk for coffee.**

Monday, 27 Closed for Memorial Day

Tuesday, 28 Chicken nuggets#, mango juice, sweet potato fries, peas, whole wheat bread, pineapple and tea.

Thursday, 30 10:45 a.m., "How Turkish Kurdistan Effected a Life" with Chris Andersen. **Lunch: Hot dogs & hamburgers**#, coleslaw, potato salad, baked beans, hamburger rolls, grapes and tea.**

JUNE

Monday, 3 10:45 a.m., "Familiar Songs and their Unfamiliar Stories" with author and storyteller, Sandy Schuman. **Lunch: Meat loaf**#, passion fruit juice, French fries, green beans, salad, Challah, Gluten Free brownies and tea.**

Thursday, 6 10:45 a.m., "Moving Towards Health" with Thea Basis. **Lunch: Black bean burgers with cheese, mixed vegetables, salad, hamburger rolls, coffee, tea and milk for coffee.**

Monday, 10 Closed for 2nd Day of Shavuot

Thursday, 13 10:45 a.m., "The Maggid: Divine Sparks and Tales of the Baal Shem Tov" with Richard Stone. **Lunch: Fresh fish**, gazpacho, salad, beets, baby carrots, Farmer's loaf, berry shortcake, coffee, tea and milk for coffee.**

Monday, 17 10:45 a.m., "On-site Tour Through Blue Q's Pop Culture" with owners Seth and Mitch Nash. **MEET AT 10:30 AT BLUE Q, 103 HAWTHORNE AVENUE, PITTSFIELD. Lunch: Barbecued chicken**#, salad, corn cobettes, yellow rice, oatmeal bread, fruit cocktail and tea.**

Thursday, 20 10:45 a.m., "Current Affairs" with Steven Rubin. **Lunch: Spinach mushroom quiche, pineapple juice, tomato zucchini medley, scones, lemon pudding, coffee, tea and milk for coffee.**

Monday, 24 10:45 a.m., Program to be Announced. **Lunch: Open faced turkey salad sandwiches#, coleslaw, potato chips, ciabatta bread, tropical fruit salad, and tea.**

Thursday, 28 10:45 a.m., Program to be Announced. **Lunch: Greek salad platters, Italian bread, baklava, coffee, tea and milk for coffee.**

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CULTURE AND ARTS

The World Needs Beautiful Things

By Avi Dresner / Special to the BJV

GREAT BARRINGTON – Anyone who has ever known a child, who likes to pick up random things of apparently no value or significance – in short, anyone who has ever known or been a child – will recognize Bezalel, the protagonist of Rabbi Leah Rachel Berkowitz’s children’s book, *The World Needs Beautiful Things*.

And anyone who knows the Bible will recognize the name of the artist charged by God with constructing the *mishkan*, the portable tabernacle, which served as God’s dwelling place amongst the Israelites and was where God and Moses would meet on the long journey to the Promised Land.

The Bible, however, has little to say about Bezalel’s backstory other than whose son and grandson he was, and what tribe he came from. And so, Berkowitz’s delightful tale, beautifully illustrated by Daniele Fabbri, makes for an entertaining and inspiring origin story. Think of it as an itty-bitty biblically inspired *bildungsroman*.

The 32-page picture book, published by well known Jewish children’s book publisher Kar-Ben and suitable

for children age 3-8, begins with Bezalel as a young slave in Egypt who likes to put all manner of found objects into his Beautiful Things Box – shiny stones, dyed strings, even bug wings. Bezalel’s friends tell him to stop, but he doesn’t because although the objects appear to have no power to anyone else, they transport him into a world of beauty where Bezalel can temporarily forget he’s a slave.

When the Israelites are miraculously freed, Bezalel’s parents beg him to leave the box behind in Egypt, to take only what they “need.” But he takes it with him, saying: “Each of these things is beautiful in its own way, and the world needs beautiful things.”

And it’s a good thing he does, for pretty soon God is telling Moses to build a house made of beautiful things. And who do you think steps up first to the offering plate?

Plus, in doing so, not only does Bezalel share his treasures, but he inspires the other Israelites to see beautiful things all around them and, together, they use them to make the *mishkan*, or as it’s called in the book “the biggest Beautiful Things Box ever.”

On Saturday, July 20 at 4 p.m., children will have the opportunity to hear Rabbi Berkowitz read her book, and make their own beautiful things box at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire in Great Barrington.

Weather permitting, children and their adults will go on a found object art nature walk in Hevreh’s backyard, then return to the synagogue to do some creative crafting together and enjoy a hands-on Havdalah and some sweet Shabbat treats.

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, PJ Library, Jewish Federation of the Berkshires

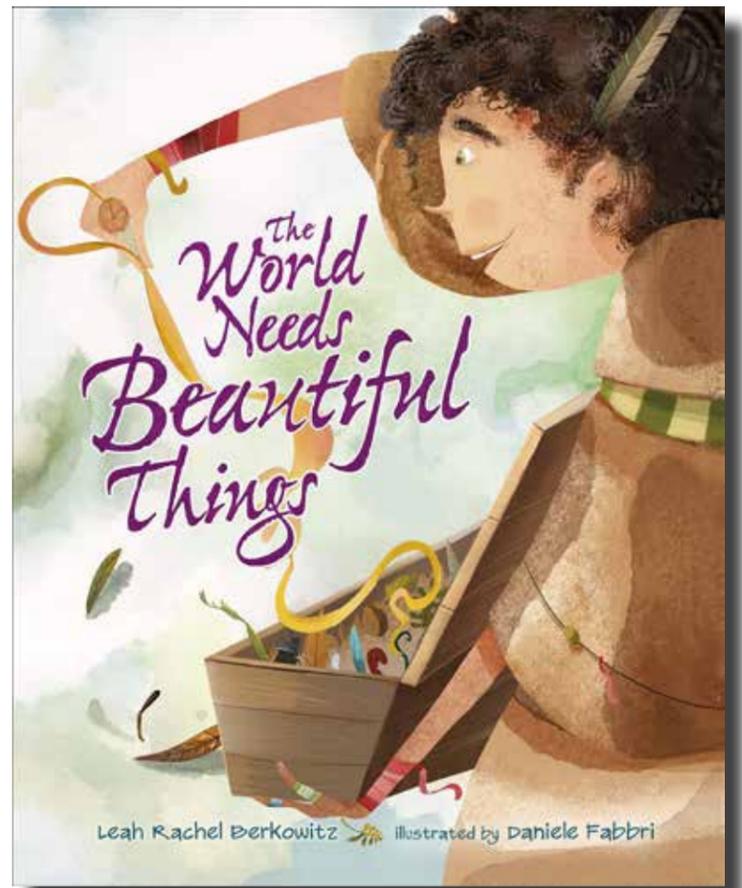
Date & Time: Saturday, July 20 at 4:00 p.m.

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

Cost: FREE, but books will be available for sale

Advance reservations suggested for this event to ensure there are enough materials and snacks for all.

Email jlee@hevreh.org, or call (413) 528-6378





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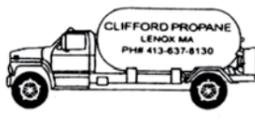
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CULTURE AND ARTS

Coming in July – Third Annual Jewish Festival of Books at Hevreh

GREAT BARRINGTON – The Berkshires' third annual Jewish Festival of Books will take place at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire from Thursday, July 18 through Sunday, July 21.

Co-presented by Hevreh and the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, in partnership with the Jewish Book Council, and with the generous support of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, the festival will feature free and fee-based author talks, teachings and readings by nationally and internationally acclaimed writers in genres ranging from adult fiction to children's literature to cookbooks.

The opening night author on Thursday, July 18 at 7 p.m. is Barry Joseph, presenting *Seltzertopia: The Extraordinary*

Story of an Ordinary Drink, the definitive biography of seltzer. (See related article, below right.)

On Friday, July 19, following the 5:45 p.m. Shabbat evening service, Angela Himself will discuss her memoir, *A River Could Be A Tree*, which traces her journey from one of eleven children, growing up in rural Indiana as part of an apocalyptic, doomsday Christian sect led by a white supremacist to a Modern Orthodox Jewish woman living on Manhattan's Upper West Side. The Jewish Women's Archive is sponsoring this event.

On Saturday, July 20, immediately following Shabbat morning services at 10 a.m., best-selling novelist Tova Mirvis discusses her memoir,

The Book of Separation, tracing her journey away from her Modern Orthodox upbringing. She leaves both a marriage and the religious community of which she was a part, and struggles to find her footing in an unfamiliar secular world. She still keeps one foot in the Orthodox world for the sake of her children, and steps with the other into a new and emerging way of expressing her Judaism and living her life. The Jewish Women's Archive is sponsoring this event.

On Saturday, July 20, during Shabbat morning services, Tova Mirvis and Angela Himself will be in conversation with each other, moderated by Judith Rosenbaum, executive director of the Jewish Women's Archive. Among other topics,

they will recount their two journeys to and from Modern Orthodoxy, and explore the power and complexity of community, family, tradition and finding one's own path and meaning. The Jewish Women's Archive is sponsoring this event.

On Saturday, July 20 at 4 p.m., Rabbi Leah Rachel Berkowitz will read from her children's book, *The World Needs Beautiful Things*, a Biblically inspired exploration of creativity and the arts. (See related article on page 22.)

The festival ends on Sunday, July 21 at 10 a.m., with Chef Rossi – yes, Chef is the first name she goes by – presenting her raucous memoir *The Raging Skillet*,

recounting her own revolution against Orthodoxy and the microwave, and evolution into one of the most sought after caterers in New York City. This event will include lunch featuring some of the recipes from the book. (See related article, below left.)

All of the other festival events will also offer refreshments. Hevreh will also have books available for advance purchase – the proceeds of which will go towards bringing other world-class writers to the Berkshires – which the authors will be happy to sign at the festival.

For more information, or to make reservations, visit hevreh.org/books or call Hevreh at (413) 528-6378.

Chef Rossi Serves Up Stories and Snacks at Berkshires' Jewish Festival of Books

By Avi Dresner / Special to the BJV

GREAT BARRINGTON – How do you go from being served bread and wine by the Lubavitcher Rebbe to serving up trays of exotic *trauf* to the rich and famous?

In the case of Chef Rossi – Chef is the only first name she goes by – it's a long, winding road trip indeed. She shares her story in the raucous memoir, *The Raging Skillet*, which recounts her revolution against Orthodoxy and the microwave, and evolution into one of the most sought after caterers in New York City. Along the way, Rossi sprinkles in lots of fun and simple recipes, liberally spiced with her own unique brand of irreverent humor.

As a memoir, it's obviously her story, but it's also very much a family story – both Rossi's birth family and her adopted restaurant and catering families – and the reader really gets a sense of how both shaped her to become the person and the chef that she is.

Rossi declares her familial and professional intentions early on in the book when she writes: "As the observer I considered myself then, as I do today, the family anthropologist. My mission like that of all great historians and Andean plane crash survivors, was simple: I had to survive at all costs to tell the story and, you know, become a caterer." She succeeded in doing both despite the odds and a family who wasn't always supportive of her career goals.

She writes about how her "Orthodox light" parents wanted to set her up with a kosher deli, to which she protested: "I'm a chef, Mom!" Her mother's response was: "What do chefs make? They make food. What do kosher delis serve? They serve food." Rossi gives up, remembering a similar fight she had with her mother during which her mom insisted that there was no difference between a writer and a secretary because they both type.

Still, Rossi credits her

family meals as being the early inspiration for her future career – albeit more in opposition to them rather than inspired by them. Of those meals Rossi writes:

Our family suppers were never just about the food. The real main dish was guilt. Each platter was garnished with a sermon about how long my mom had suffered to make it, or how far she had to travel to find kosher meat, or all the things she didn't do today or yesterday because she was too busy, you know, opening the cans. I didn't mention that she rarely even did that much, once she discovered the microwave.

When Rossi's family discovers her nascent lesbianism and rock and roll lifestyle, they ship her off to live with the Lubavitchers after she runs away at 16, hoping a dose of Judaism would cure her of her rebellious ways. She describes Crown Heights as being "like Mars...with matzo balls," but also writes affectionately of the Rebbe. "It's an irony to say that the Rebbe, who inspired countless thousands to become more religious Jews, is the reason I abandoned my pretense at religious life, but he inspired me to be true to myself."

Though she may not be religious, Rossi's sense of humor is as Jewish and Borscht Belt as it gets, as are some of the recipes she includes in the book. When she talks about shredding the meat for the Cuban dish, *ropa vieja*, she writes, "It should fall apart easily like my love life." Even the serving sizes are played for laughs, like when she writes of her *mozzarella stick* recipe, "Serves 6 normal people or 3 of my relatives."

The "Two Drops and a Plop" Impatient Cook's Glossary at the end of the



Chef Rossi

book also defines the terms she uses in the book's recipes in funny ways like "smidgen," "plop," and "dollop" which, by the way, is defined as "a heaping tablespoon or a plop and a half." The same can be said of the book itself – it's a plop and a half of fun!

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, Harold Grinspoon Foundation

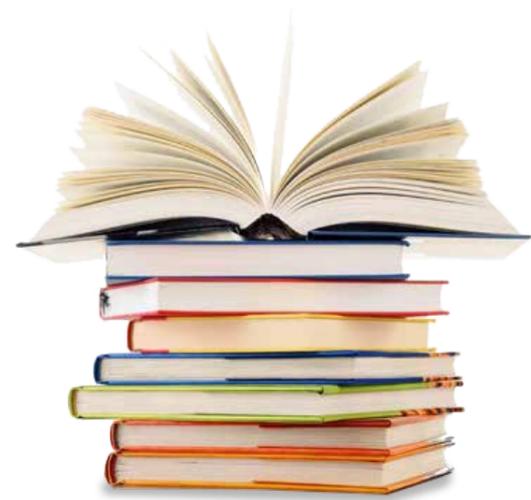
Date & Time: Sunday, July 21 at 10 a.m.

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

Cost: \$30 includes lunch featuring recipes from the book, which will also be available for sale

Advance reservations required for this event. To register, visit hevreh.org/books. For more information, and to register for this and the other festival author events, visit hevreh.org/books.

Email jlee@hevreh.org, or call (413) 528-6378.



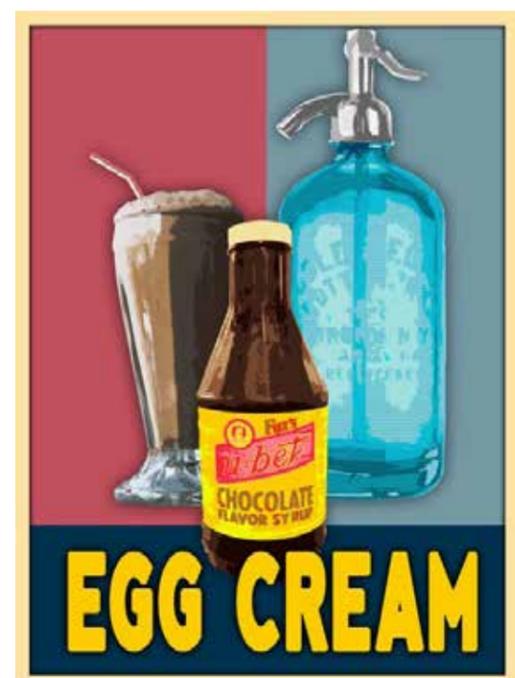
Eggstravaganza to Raise Funds for Jewish Book Fest

GREAT BARRINGTON – Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, The Great Barrington Bagel Company & Deli, and Concepts of Art are pleased to be collaborating on a fundraiser for the Berkshires' Jewish Festival of Books.

The Great Barrington Bagel Company & Deli will be running a nearly two month long Egg Cream Eggstravaganza. For every egg cream sold between Memorial Day weekend on May 24, and the end of the festival on July 21,

Barrington Bagel will donate a percentage of the proceeds to the book festival to support its aim of bringing world class authors to the Berkshires each summer. Mr. Joseph's book will also be available for sale at Barrington Bagel.

Concepts of Art will also be offering beautiful seltzer themed prints by Jewish pop artist Marv E Lindenman for sale at Barrington Bagel and at the book festival, and will also be donating a portion of each sale to the festival.



Egg cream art by Marv E Lindenman

CULTURE AND ARTS

The earliest surviving photographs of Jerusalem live on in historic exhibit

By Karen Chernick / JTA

When French architectural historian Joseph-Philibert Girault de Prangey left Paris in 1842, his luggage weighed over 100 pounds and his three-year itinerary was ambitious. He was mesmerized by photography — invented just a few years before by a fellow Frenchman — and headed to the eastern Mediterranean to document ancient buildings with his extraordinarily large-format camera.

There he produced over 1,000 daguerreotypes that now include the earliest surviving photographs of Jerusalem, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Anatolia and Turkey.

Twelve of his Jerusalem photographs are currently being shown as part of “Monumental Journey: The Daguerreotypes of Girault de Prangey,” an exhibition that closed in May at New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art.

“No other photographer of the period embarked on such a long excursion and successfully made a quantity of [photographic] plates anywhere near Girault’s production,” writes Stephen Pinson, curator of photography at the Metropolitan Museum, in the Monumental Journey catalog. “His photographic campaign remains a feat without analogy.”

Regional photography spread among locals who witnessed the stream of European practitioners and their uncanny new method of image making. Photography was increasingly adopted by Jerusalem’s residents, some of whom learned the craft from visitors. A few even bought their photographic equipment from these foreign photographers, who were eager to lighten their load before beginning the long journey back to Europe. (Girault de Prangey’s camera, for example, has yet to be tracked down.)

As of the mid-19th century, Jerusalem’s residents were photographing their own city. James Graham, a Scottish photographer living and working on the Mount of Olives

between 1853 and 1857, trained some of the city’s inhabitants. Around the same time, Yessai Garabedian, the patriarch of the Cathedral of Saint James in the Old City’s Armenian Quarter, began teaching photography courses within his church’s compound. One of his students, Garabed Krikorian, opened the first commercial photography studio in the city, on Jaffa Road, around 1885. And Krikorian’s apprentice, Khalil Raad, is considered the first Arab photographer in the region.

“From that point on you can see a generational chain,” Raz says. “Like an oral history [being passed down].”

Jerusalem’s American Colony — a utopian Christian society begun in 1881 by a small contingent of Chicagoans — bought a small camera to document the visit of German Kaiser Wilhelm II in 1898. This inadvertently began the colony’s photographic department, which produced and sold thousands of photographs of Jerusalem.



Its studios also trained local photographers.

The city appeared different in the eyes of photographers who lived among its serpentine alleyways and hidden treasures.

“Traveling photographers were led by local guides to fixed angles and shots,” Raz explains. “Local photographers were not in a rush and found different angles — and

it can be noted that they presented freer compositions that emphasize aesthetic values rather than documentary value.”

The early studios of Krikorian and Raad also produced mostly portraits, documenting themselves and their neighbors instead of ancient relics in the land of the Bible.

Girault de Prangey’s Jerusalem, on the other hand, is a ghost town. Save for a few blurry figures near the entrance to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the city looks like an archaeological museum, not a place where people went about the daily routines of life.



With time, those anonymous individuals have come into focus. People, vibrant color and live action have enhanced contemporary

photographs of Jerusalem. The earliest surviving photographs of the city are a far cry from those now taken daily, nearly two centuries later, by anyone with a smartphone.

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“Hey. That wasn’t so bad.”

Yeah. We get that a lot.



NEWS

Why a Bible-toting, onion-eating British officer remains a hero in Israel 75 years after his death

By Hillel Kuttler / JTA

HOF HACARMEL, Israel — Few non-Jews and even fewer British soldiers are regarded as highly in Israel as Orde Charles Wingate, a senior officer who became a legend here by shaping Israel's prestate military. Many Israeli towns have a Wingate street or square, and relatives and others who share his name are often reminded of Israel's debt to him.

"I had recognized him as a man of genius, and I hoped he might become a man of destiny," British Prime Minister Winston Churchill wrote to Lorna Wingate after her husband's death aboard an American military plane that crashed in Burma on March 24, 1944. David Ben-Gurion thought Wingate might have become the Israel Defense Forces' first chief of staff — an extraordinary possibility for a Christian steeped in a religiously inspired Zionism.

Seventy-five years after his death at age 41, Wingate is being honored and remembered throughout Israel at institutions founded in his honor and by those who carry on his legacy.

Yemin Orde Youth Village, Hof Hacarmel

In this campus named for Wingate atop the Carmel Mountains, seven members of a high-school drama troupe sat in a semi-circle reciting paragraphs about him. It was their first meeting ahead of an April 1 performance in his memory.

"Wingate was the father of the IDF. The IDF today remains Wingatean in terms of its tactics," said Knesset member Michael Oren, a historian who wrote a screenplay on Wingate that Hollywood optioned but hasn't produced.

A son of missionaries, Wingate carried a Bible wherever he went in prestate Israel and trumpeted Jewish claims to the land just as British Mandatory policy turned anti-Zionist.

He arrived in September 1936 charged with ending the Arabs' sabotage of an oil pipeline running from Iraq to Haifa through the Jezreel Valley, then trained that region's Jewish fighters to repel attacks during the Arab Revolt, the nationalist uprising by Palestinian Arabs against the British Mandate.

Wingate, a captain, formed the Special Night Squads in which British infantry soldiers and Jewish paramilitary retaliated, often ruthlessly, against Arab insurgents. (Palestinians and some Israeli historians take a dimmer view of Wingate's exploits, accusing him of sadism and targeting civilians as well as combatants.)

Wingate drilled his men in an ethos of utilizing offense over defense.

"The concept was new to us," Moshe Dayan wrote

in his autobiography of his first meeting Wingate, when the visitor led a nighttime ambush. "Arab attackers had been forced to realize that no longer would they find any path secure for them."

Wingate taught himself Hebrew. He had an eccentric side, too. Dayan wrote of Wingate regularly holding meetings in the nude while eating a raw onion, which he would sometimes wear around his neck on a string. His troops often were subjected to long religious sermons.

After learning of Wingate's influence, Ella Brahanu, a Yemin Orde 10th-grader said, "Now I understand and appreciate this place."

Kibbutz Ein Harod

Forty-five miles southeast and several hours later, two soldiers visited Beit Shturman, a museum at the kibbutz that served as Wingate's base during the Arab Revolt. Down the path from the museum



Street sign

is a building with a picture of Wingate marking his headquarters.

The duo had come to arrange the visit of hundreds of recruits from Israel's elite Golani Brigade for a full-day seminar on Wingate.

They stood in a lower-level room devoted to the British officer, who had risen to major-general at his death. A case displayed Wingate's Bible, which Lorna dropped from a hovering airplane to residents of a besieged moshav, Ramot Naftali, during Israel's War of Independence. One wall told of the Special Night Squads. Another featured verses from Chapter 7 of the Book of Judges, whose central figure, Gideon, was Wingate's hero.

Orde Wingate Institute for Physical Education and Sports, Netanya

Last July, Rick Summers ate lunch at a picnic table with players from the Wales national team competing here in the World Lacrosse Championship. Summers was their assistant coach.

Playing for England's squad heading to Baltimore for the 1982 world championship, Summers had submitted personal documentation to staff. Word leaked of his given name: Orde.

Summers' father, Harry, an observant Jew who served in Britain's military during World War II, admired Wingate for leading Jews, Ethiopians

and Burmese toward independence. Wingate commanded Ethiopians against Italy's occupation — characteristically he called his unit the Gideon Force — and organized Indian and British forces he dubbed the Chindits against Japanese invaders in Burma.

"My father recognized that this was a guy who stood up for what he believed and had principles," said Summers, a 62-year-old engineer from Manchester, England.

This athletic-training complex where Summers sat memorializes his namesake, who, said Effy Yaacobi, the Wingate Institute's former director of external relations, "was an absolute meshuga on physical fitness."

Abutting the institute is an army base, Machane Hayedid. Wingate was known as "hayedid," the friend — so much so that his superiors evicted him from the country.

Another of Wingate's namesakes lives in suburban Washington, D.C. Orde

Kittrie expressed surprise at an email introduction to Summers he received last summer.

"This is the very first time I have had the pleasure of meeting someone else named Orde," Kittrie responded.

Kittrie,

54, a senior fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, consults for the Pentagon, where American officers sometimes ask, "Are you named after ... ?" Next to the Pentagon is where Kittrie's father, Nicholas, a Tel Aviv native, took him — "from as young as I can remember," Kittrie said — to annual Wingate ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery. Wingate is buried there in a common grave with the other victims of the plane crash.

When Ireland's parliament considered legislation last year to criminalize the purchase of goods and services from Israeli

settlements, Kittrie, a lawyer, warned Irish corporate and political leaders about how U.S. anti-boycott laws would harm subsidiaries of American companies.

Ireland will likely quash the bill because of potentially huge economic losses, Kittrie said.

Wingate "serves as an inspiration to me," Kittrie said. "His hallmark was using unconventional military tactics. I, similarly, try to use creative tactics ... to achieve national security and foreign policy objectives."

Nahariya

Orde Wingate died seven weeks before his only child, Orde Jonathan Wingate, was born. Like his father, grandfather and relatives (T.E. Lawrence, known as Lawrence of Arabia, was a distant cousin of his father), Orde Jonathan served in the British military.

His seventh cousin, Duncan Orde, has lived in Israel since 2003. Orde, 60, is related through Ethel Orde-Browne, Wingate's mother. At a coffee shop, he showed a journalist his family tree. Orde Wingate's appearance on it helped Duncan attain Israeli residency visas for himself, his wife and their three children, all Christians. So did letters



Orde Wingate

on Orde's behalf from several of Wingate's Special Night Squads soldiers.

"The mere fact that former SNS members are so respected in Israel obviously carried weight," Yaacobi said. "It produced results."

Orde said he feels "a spiritual connection" to Wingate through their common devotion to Zionism.

"He believed that this is your homeland, and he didn't just talk about it," Orde said.

Orde's sons, John-Joseph and Ben, acted, too. They served in the IDF and live with their sister in Jerusalem.

John-Joseph's commanders had learned about Wingate in officers' training course, and asked about his surname. John-Joseph confirmed his relationship to Wingate.

"They have a lot of respect for Wingate and what he did," John-Joseph, 24, said. "It's nice to be in the same family."



Duncan Orde

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NEWS

Genetic study finds widespread Sephardic ancestry in Latin America

By Cnaan Liphshiz / JTA

In a genetic study of 6,589 people from five Latin American countries, about a quarter displayed traces of what may be Sephardic Jewish ancestry.

Geneticist Juan-Camilo Chacón-Duque and his colleagues published their findings last week in *Nature Communications* magazine, in an article titled "Latin Americans show wide-spread Converso ancestry and imprint of local Native ancestry on physical appearance."

Converso is the Spanish-language word for people who converted from Judaism to Christianity during the Inquisition in Spain and Portugal. Many conversos, or anusim in Hebrew, fled to Latin America.

Overall, converso genes account for only a small part of the ancestries of the study populations from each country, ranging from 1 percent in Brazil to 4 percent in Chile. The researchers used a set of DNA variations, or haplotypes, observed to be common among Jews with roots in the Iberian Peninsula.

But converso genes "are widespread," Chacón-Duque told JTA.

Some 23 percent of the 6,589 people sampled showed some genes – or more than 5 percent of their ancestry

– associated with Sephardic, East Mediterranean, or South Mediterranean ancestry, "probably stemming mostly from the clandestine colonial migration" of conversos, the researchers wrote.

"For every individual we characterized more than 600,000 genetic variants," they added, "creating a dense genome-wide profile of genetic variation for each individual."

The study is the most comprehensive of its kind in Latin America, but "it doesn't represent the whole population" of the genetically diverse region and "has biases," Chacón-Duque said.

While the study indicates that converso genes have spread far and wide in Latin America, he added, the research sample of fewer than 7,000 people "doesn't necessarily mean that a quarter of Latin Americans have Sephardic genes."

Last December, U.S. Rep.-elect Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) announced at a Hanukkah candle-lighting ceremony that she is descended from Sephardic Jews who fled to Puerto Rico during the Spanish Inquisition. During the ensuing debate, genealogists noted that any individual can count some 1 million ancestors between the present and the year 1500.

CULTURE AND ARTS

Local Jewish Artists Among Those Featured at Kimball Farms Exhibit

LENOX – The Kimball Farms Connector Gallery's Spring Show opens at 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 19 with a reception for folk artists Paul Graubard, Tom Warner, and Michael Wolski, and collage artist Roselle Chartock.

Much of Paul Graubard's playful and prodigious work celebrates the Jewish folk soul in all its quirkiness, humor, and zest for life. Tom Warner, who tells stories with his paintings, is a Berkshire artist who counts Norman Rockwell and Grandma Moses among his inspirations. Michael Wolski draws from his Polish/Ukrainian background to create lovely paintings with a simple, sweet and evocative strength.

Roselle Chartock, a lifelong educator at all levels, most recently at MCLA, works primarily in collage, integrating images from sources such as old photographs and pulp fiction covers. She is also the author of several books, most recently *The Jewish Life of Elvis Presley*.

The public is warmly invited to the reception from 3 to 5 p.m. on May 19. There will be music by pianist Karen Tchougourian and refreshments will be served. Those unable to come on May 19 may view the art until June 24 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. at Kimball Farms, 235 Walker Street, Lenox, MA.



"The Way They Were" by Roselle Chartock

Berkshire JEWISH VOICE

A publication of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, serving the Berkshires and surrounding NY, CT and VT

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Ben Kasper
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Calendar – Ongoing Events Around the Community

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

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

Sundays (second of each month) – Berkshire Hills Society of Israeli Philatelists meet. Discuss Israeli and American stamps. Coffee and donuts. Information: Ed Heltzer, (413) 447-7622, daytime.

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

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

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

Wednesdays at Hevreh – “Lunch N Learn: Early Prophets” with Rabbi Neil Hirsch at 11:45 a.m. is open to anyone who wants to deepen their relationship to Jewish study through text and discussion. Says Rabbi Hirsch: “Our tradition teaches that when two (or more) sit together, and discuss words of Torah, God dwells with them. Study is one of the many ways we as a Jewish community experience the sacred and the spiritual.” Classes available via video conference or conference call. Email Rabbi Hirsch at nhirsch@hevreh.org to find out how to join remotely.

Thursdays (fourth of each month) – Hadassah Book Club. For times, locations of meetings, and further information about the books: Pattie Lipman plipman@fairpoint.net.

Fridays, at 9:00 a.m. – Meditation with Rabbi Rachel Barenblat in the Congregation Beth Israel sanctuary, 53 Lois Street, North Adams, overlooking the Berkshire mountains. Silence, chanting, and meditation designed to help prepare for Shabbat. All welcomed. Information: (413) 663-5830 and www.cbiweb.org.

Fridays, once a month at 5:30 p.m. (followed by a family style Shabbat dinner at 6:30 p.m.) – Kneset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield. Shirei Shabbat (“Songs of Shabbat”). Unique service combines melodies from Carlebach, Debbie Friedman, and Camp Ramah to create a *ruach* filled (“spirited”) family friendly experience. Cost for dinner \$20 adult; \$15 teen, children free. Dinner reservations are due by the Monday before services. Full information: (413) 445-4872, ext 10.

Saturdays at 8:45 a.m. at Hevreh – 270 State Road in Great Barrington. Every Shabbat morning, gather in Rabbi Neil Hirsch’s study and dive into the less-often read books of the Bible. All are welcome to begin the day with coffee while studying and relaxing on Shabbat. Sessions will be between 45 and 60 minutes. Please be in touch with Rabbi Hirsch for further information: nhirsch@hevreh.org.

Saturdays at 9:00 a.m. Temple Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield – Rabbi Liz P.G. Hirsch leads a meditation and light yoga group.

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

Kneset Israel 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield

ONGOING MINYANS

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

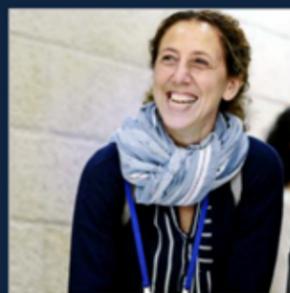
CANDLE-LIGHTING

Friday, May 17	7:52 p.m.
Friday, May 24	7:59 p.m.
Friday, May 31	8:05 p.m.
Friday, June 7	8:10 p.m.
Friday, June 14	9:18 p.m.
Saturday, June 8 (Erev Shavuot)	9:18 p.m.
Sunday, June 9 (2nd night Shavuot)	9:19 p.m.
Friday, June 14	8:13 p.m.
Friday, June 21	8:15 p.m.

79th ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, June 18 at 7:00 pm
Seven Hills Inn
40 Plunkett St., Lenox

Join us on the patio for a dessert reception followed by a brief meeting, elections, and guest speakers



IMPACT 2019: Russia, Israel, USA

Misha Libkin, Director of ORT Russia and Freda Baram, Delegation Director (Northeast Region) for the Jewish Agency for Israel, will share the impact of our local support on youth and young adults in Russia, Israel and the USA.

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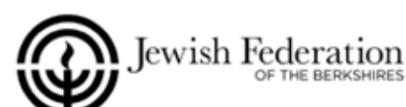
Friday, June 14 | 6:00 pm

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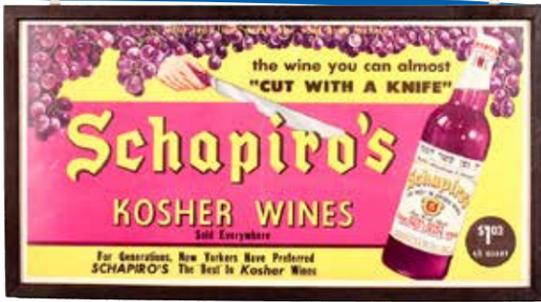
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CULTURE AND ARTS



Signs of Our Past

A unique memorabilia collection provides a window into the Jewish-American past

By Albert Stern / BJV Editor

RICHMOND – On Sunday, June 2 at 4 p.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires will host its major donors for a private viewing of the unique collection of historic Jewish signs, advertising, children’s books, and memorabilia assembled by Rabbi Michael Strassfeld and on display in the lower level gallery of his home he shares with his wife, Rabbi Joy Levitt. Equal parts art and preservation, this extensive collection reflects an ongoing theme of acculturation and identity and the balance between them.

Rabbi Strassfeld – author of several books on Judaism and co-editor of the countercultural landmark *The Jewish Catalog* series – will share his insights about his collection, which was featured in a 2009 exhibit at the JCC in Manhattan.

Space is limited for this special event. Major donors who have made a minimum commitment of \$1,000 to the Federation’s annual campaign are encouraged to register as soon as possible.

Rabbi Strassfeld has been collecting these types of objects for more than 30 years, his interest initially piqued after his father gave him a sign as a gift when he was a teenager. He says his collecting has gathered steam in the last 15 years – he seeks out synagogues and other Jewish institutions (mostly in the Northeast) that are closing their doors, or that otherwise might have this kind of material in storage, possibly destined for the junk yard.

The signs vary in their graphic quality. Many are crudely hand painted, meant to convey fundraising messages or publicize typical congregational offerings such as Hebrew classes or bingo nights, while some of the more ambitious pieces rise to the level of accomplished folk art. Other objects were clearly the products of considerable financial investment and communal pride, including a truly impressive assemblage of photographs of the board and officers of The Home of the Daughters of Jacob nursing home in The Bronx circa 1924 – dozens of

dowdy, well-heeled *balleboostas* who, as Rabbi Strassfeld observed, “all seem to have gotten their bosoms in the same place.” (Even more remarkable and weird is the home’s massive album of donors, “a perpetual record of popular subscriptions to the ‘building fund’ of the new Bronx home for 600 inmates,” all handwritten.)

Separately, most of the objects on view might be appreciated as historical curiosities. Together, however, they present a rich and varied mosaic of Jewish life in

the early to mid-20th century. The objects embody the values and concerns of American Jewish culture in its upper, middle, and working class expressions. They are strange artifacts from a now distant milieu of immigrant and assimilating Jews most of us will not have experienced directly, but which we are nevertheless bonded to ethnically and emotionally.

Rabbi Strassfeld’s collection invites viewers to use their imaginations, to try and connect with what the creators of these objects were thinking in making them, to enter their world. He says that it’s sometimes easy to discern the messages they are trying to convey, while at other times the meanings are more mysterious. If one looks closely enough at even the most pedestrian, utilitarian object, it may offer a hint to what its Jewish creators might have been thinking – for example, Rabbi Strassfeld points out how many of the signs’ creators employed a red, white, and blue color scheme, to affirm and display patriotism at times when Jews’ loyalty to America was challenged.

Please note, the nature of this private home requires walking down a flight of stairs to view the collection. Advance registration is required by May 28 to federation@jewishberkshires.org or (413) 442-4360, ext. 10. The home address of the event will be shared with registered participants.

For more information about becoming a major donor to the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, please call Development Officer Leslie Kozupsky at (413) 442-4360, ext. 19.



Rabbi Michael Strassfeld

