Replacing Darkness with Light
Shoulder to shoulder, heart to heart, a community stands as one

unspeakable loss of life, offer prayers of healing, and recommit themselves to combating anti-Semitism and hatred in all its forms.

The Berkshire Jewish Musicians Collective opened the ceremony with a rendition of “Hineih Ma Tov” — “How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony” (Psalm 133). Jewish Federation of the Berkshires Executive Director Dana Kaufman offered words of welcome, asserting that “We are here to say to the people of Tree of Life Synagogue, and the entire Pittsburgh community. You are not alone. We are here.”

Rabbi David Weiner of Knesset Israel — who was instrumental in managing the logistics at the site that ensured the success of this communal event — then took the pulpit. “We have gathered tonight quite deliberately in a Jewish sanctuary. We have chosen to do this because whenever a sanctuary is violated, every sanctuary of every faith is compromised. And when we choose to return to that holy place, we restore it and heal it.”

Rabbi Weiner’s words were followed by the reflections of State Senator Adam Hinds, Reverend Sheila Sholes-Ross of Pittsfield’s First Baptist Church, Williams College Muslim chaplain Imam Sharif Rosen, and Talia Ben Sasson-Gordis of ADL New England. (Selections from their remarks appear on pages 14 and 15.)

“Let’s Talk” the Theme of JFNA’s General Assembly in Israel
Tel Aviv confab fostered dialogue between Israeli and Diaspora Jews

frustration over decisions made by the Government of Israel that adversely impact them.

To be sure, as one people who seek both a thriving nation state and prospering communities beyond its borders, we are almost there, but we need your help!

If you have not yet made your gift to the 2018 Annual Campaign there is still time to do so!

Your gift will help us engage the next generation, support the elderly and vulnerable, and sustain Jewish life all year round!

Donate online at jewishberkshires.org

THANK YOU FOR MAKING DIFFERENCE!

Jewish Federation of the Berkshires

The Strength of a People. The Power of Community.

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THANK YOU FOR MAKING DIFFERENCE!

Jewish Federation of the Berkshires

The Strength of a People. The Power of Community.
Shalom, folks. With the way things have been going recently, who knows what will be happening in the world when you read this, as compared to what is happening now in mid-October when I am writing this. As this newspaper reaches you, the mid-term elections will have happened with now unpredictable results, the daylight will be getting predictably shorter (thank goodness something is predictable!), and Thanksgiving, Chanukah, and the end of 2018 will be approaching quickly. Standing here today, though, we can look at some deeply embedded themes that don't change on the winds of whim…though, we can look at some deeply embedded themes that don't change on the winds of whim. How has this idea helped to create the world view that infuses our people's awareness of itself? 

Interestingly, we project a set of contradictory expressions of this experience…another of our self-defining truths is that we are and always have been a minority, a small people in a larger and usually hostile world. That concept is borne back to the Beginning, in the Garden of Eden, as Adam and Eve leave as part of their “punishment” and to Noah who certainly had no idea what would happen to him and the inhabitants of the ark as they felt the waters lifting them and setting them afloat.

How do we do our history from the history of Abram and Sarai, in Lech Lecha, when Abram is instructed to go forth to an unknown land. But we can go all the way to the Backyard, in the Garden of Eden, as Adam and Eve leave as part of their “punishment” and to Noah who certainly had no idea what would happen to him and the inhabitants of the ark as they felt the waters lifting them and setting them afloat.

Another of our self-defining truths is that we are and always have been a minority, a small people in a larger and usually hostile world. That concept is borne out by verifiable fact and the anecdotal flow of story and myth. How has this idea helped to create the world view that infuses our people’s awareness of itself? Interestingly, we project a set of contradictory expressions of this experience…

So how do we learn from our history the big important lessons that can empower us as individuals in our personal lives and as a small percentage of the world population? We need to see that minorities can triumph…How? Our Chanukah story tells us so! It takes some courage and some fearless people and for those who believe… a little discipline and miraculous help. Chanukah leads us to ask the following: How do we get to the point of knowing when enough is enough? How do we pay attention and honor that inner voice that encourages us to speak out, take a risk, and gather with others that are of like mind, who seek to challenge the larger and louder and more powerful entities that seek to suppress and dishonor all of those who disagree with them? It is recognize that this path will not be for everyone and we must try not to be judgmental about those who are not at the tip-point where we find ourselves.) This edge of action is, however, where many of us (but not everyone reading this) have not faced these kinds of personal and mass oppressions…the denial of our human rights and the threat to life that fighting back might lead to. It is easy to be brave and judgmental from the comfort of our privileged perches. The continual life and death choices – conversion, exile, or death – that faced so many Jews throughout our history are ones we hope never to have to face. How we might decide at such moments leads to some of the darkest personal sel-searchings in our Jewish history.

The Holocaust, of course, comes to the modern mind, as it always should. How the Jews, a victimized and decimated minority, survived and went on to continue our history and to see a world where there is a Jewish state (challenged as it is to stay faithful to its founding ideals) is some mystery, to some a miracle, and, at least, a real testimony of faith, persistence, and resilience. So how do we learn from our history the big important lessons that can empower us as individuals in our personal lives and as a small percentage of the world population? We need to see that minorities can triumph…How? Our Chanukah story tells us so! It takes some courage and some fearless people and for those who believe… a little discipline and miraculous help. Chanukah leads us to ask the following: How do we get to the point of knowing when ‘enough is enough’? How do we pay attention and honor that inner voice that encourages us to speak out, take a risk, and gather with others that are of like mind, who seek to challenge the larger and louder and more powerful entities that seek to suppress and dishonor all of those who disagree with them? It is recognize that this path will not be for everyone and we must try not to be judgmental about those who are not at the tip-point where we find ourselves.) This edge of action is, however, where many of us (but not everyone reading this) have not faced these kinds of personal and mass oppressions…the denial of our human rights and the threat to life that fighting back might lead to. It is easy to be brave and judgmental from the comfort of our privileged perches. The continual life and death choices – conversion, exile, or death – that faced so many Jews throughout our history are ones we hope never to have to face. How we might decide at such moments leads to some of the darkest personal self-searchings in our Jewish history.

So how do we do our history the big important lessons that can empower us as individuals in our personal lives and as a small percentage of the world population?

Chanukah NOW!!!… More than Ever!

By Rabbi Barbara Cohen

By Rabbi Barbara Cohen

Rabbi Barbara Cohen is the spiritual leader of Congregation Ahavath Sholom in Great Barrington.

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

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

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

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

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

The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires Tikkun Olam Volunteer [TOV] Network connects community members of all ages with Mitsvah opportunities to make a difference in our community.

SEE the Berkshire Jewish Voice in COLOR at www.jewishberkshires.org

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

Purchase $50 worth of taxi coupons for $5 (valid 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 Taxi of Great Barrington and Lee.

Some restrictions apply. Limit 10 vouchers perket 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.
Young Judaism

During each minute you spend reading this article, thirty people will have been displaced. Thirty individuals from around the world, fearing for their lives, will have crossed over to another location to escape whatever they can carry and flee their homes, often leaving loved ones behind. That means one person every two seconds—4,400 people every day.

On Friday, October 19, the Williams College Jewish Association (WCJA) had the pleasure, along with members of several local communities, to participate in National Refugee Shabbat. On this Shabbat—an annual initiative of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), one of the nation’s leading refugee resettlement agencies—communities across the country were invited to dedicate their services and reflections to refugees.

In certain respects, this Shabbat was like any other during the school year at Williams College. Students gathered in the kosher kitchen starting on Thursday evening to begin cooking Shabbat dinner for an expected 70 attendees, a meal that would take ten hours to prepare. At 6 p.m. on Friday, while the dinner was being plated, two student religious directors led services in the sanctuary. At 7 p.m., students of all faith and non-faith backgrounds, as well as a few professors, staff, and community members, sat down to a family-style meal. At the end of dinner, one student stood up to give a d’var, a speech elucidating meaning from that week’s Torah portion.

But National Refugee Shabbat also entailed a few changes from the norm. Services included a liturgical reading of “Alenu,” connecting the prayer’s messages—“on us”—to the global refugee crisis. Instead of the typical 70 attendees, over 100 came. We were also incredibly fortunate that week to have a speaker after the meal: Curt Nadal, a lactation counselor and craniosacral therapist from Stockbridge, who shared her firsthand experience assisting (mainly Syrian) refugees on three humanitarian volunteer missions to Greece.

And on this Shabbat, I was the one giving the d’var. National Refugee Shabbat, Avram Lezberg, a junior at Williams College majoring in critical theory. She serves as both the JFSStudent Director and as a member of the Student Refugee Project.

The most obvious answer: this is simply the closest episode one can find in the Torah to a refugee situation. Instead of the typical 70 attendees, over 100 came. We were also incredibly fortunate that week to have a speaker after the meal: Curt Nadal, a lactation counselor and craniosacral therapist from Stockbridge, who shared her firsthand experience assisting (mainly Syrian) refugees on three humanitarian volunteer missions to Greece.

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Helping Pittsburgh Recover

Our connections to one another are always important, and in times of tragedy, they are crucial. In the wake of the attack that took the lives of 11 Jews at the Tree of Life synagogue, we are proud that The Jewish Agency for Israel played a critical role, together with Jews from around the world, in supporting the Pittsburgh Jewish community. Immediately following the attack, The Jewish Agency partnered with the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs and The Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh to dispatch a mission of five post-trauma and grief specialists from the Israeli Trauma Coalition. They landed in Pittsburgh within 48 hours of the attack for a five-day trip. The specialists advised local leaders on best practices to help their constituents recover from trauma, and provided the leaders with tools to manage their own anxiety. The group also began to develop a long-term healing plan for the community that will guide The Jewish Agency on ways to provide future assistance.

Expressions of support for the Pittsburgh-Jewish community poured in from around the world—notably from Pittsburgh’s partnership region of Karmiel-Misgav in northern Israel. These communities have shared deep communal and personal connections through The Jewish Agency for Israel’s Partnership2Gether platform for more than 20 years. A memorial service in Karmiel’s Culture Hall drew 200-300 people. At the ceremony, the outgoing mayor of Karmiel, Adi Eldar, said that his final act as mayor had been to sign an order for a permanent memorial to be erected in Karmiel in memory of the victims at Tree of Life. “The Jewish community in Pittsburgh has always stood by us,” he said. “I’m sorry that the last event that I’m taking part in as Mayor is this sad event.”

Jewish Agency Chairman of the Executive, Isaac Herzog visited Pittsburgh for Shabbat to show solidarity as a representative of Jews from around the world. Herzog visited families of victims, addressed the community and joined a Shabbat service attended by members of Tree of Life and other Pittsburgh synagogues.

Moving Towards Health, with Thea Basis

On Monday, November 26 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires welcomed 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 exercise specialist serving groups and individuals in proactive, healthy, independent lifestyles, while addressing the unique challenges of aging.

Now Accepting Applications for Camp Scholarships

You can Afford Jewish Summer Camp

The Jewish Federation can Help!

The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires is dedicated to making a Jewish summer camp experience affordable and accessible for every child. Tuition assistance is available through:

Jewish Federation of the Berkshires Camp Scholarship Fund
Dr. Arthur & Helen Maislen Camp Scholarship Fund
Jewish Women’s Foundation of Berkshire County

Application Deadline: January 16

Download an application at Jewishberkshires.org or pick one up at the Federation’s office, 196 South St., Pittsfield, MA

Additional funding is available:
Harold Grimson Founders’ Fund
Berkshires JewishLink

Letters to the Editor

Summer Concert Funds Supporting Israeli Victims of Terror

Dear Jewish Federation of the Berkshires,

On behalf of my colleagues at The Jewish Agency let me say how grateful we are for the generous gift for our Victims of Terror Fund from the benefit concert proceeds. The Fund ensures that victims of terror attacks in Israel receive the treatment and assistance they need.

Within 24 to 48 hours of an attack, a trained Jewish Agency representative visits victims or family members at the hospital or at home. They bring words of comfort on behalf of the world Jewish community along with immediate emergency aid of $1,100 with no questions asked. In the following months and years, we provide additional services and grants of up to $6,300 per family for recuperation efforts such as long-term psychological care, camp programs for affected children, college scholarships, financing for job retraining, and more, based upon the evaluation of the victim’s needs. The Fund coordinates with government agencies to meet the victim’s needs without duplication of services.

Recently, we helped the families of those murdered (Ran Lewengrund- Yehzekel and Zvi Haggai) and injured (Mrs. Sarah Vaturi) in the serious attack that took place in Barkan on October 7, 2018. The Fund also delivered an emergency relief check in the amount of 4,000 NIS to the Tamano family of Beer Sheva, whose home was seriously damaged by a rocket attack from Gaza.

Sincerely,
Jane F. Karlin
Senior Vice President, Israel and Global Philanthropy
Jewish Agency for Israel – North American Council

You Helped with the Money, and this Camper had the “Mo”

Dear Jewish Federation of the Berkshires,

Thank you for giving me the money to go to Camp Eisner. Camp Eisner was so fun. I had the “Mo,” which is the camp store with candy. I made very good friends. My other favorite thing was running to our bunks and singing Jewish songs.

This was my first year at sleep away camp. I went for 2 weeks. Next year, I want to go for 2 months, but I don’t think they’ll let me. I’ll go for 4 weeks.

Sincerely,
Levi Denmark, Age 7½
Pittsfield

For further information on all Jewish Federation of the Berkshires programs, please call Nancy Maurice Rogers, Program Director, at (413) 442-4360, ext. 15.
Messiah, to deliver them from horrors of their every-tured the imaginations and hopes of the people for a people. Shabbetai Tzvi, a mystic and madman, cap- whose impact at first elevated and then destroyed wake of mass oppression and the deadly and devas-

Pittsfield is part of the Federation's Connecting With Community series.

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

Linda Novick says: "Chair Yoga is appropriate for people of all levels of mobility. It is a series of breathing and stretch- ing exercises done in a chair, which increases mobility of the joints. flexibility, strength and stamina. Some of the exercises are performed standing behind the chair, while holding on. Participants will learn breath- ing techniques to enhance lung capacity, as well as easy stretches and yoga postures. Yoga is good for all bodies. Beginners are welcome." Linda Novick, MFA, is an author, teacher, artist, and professional level Kripalu Yoga teacher. She currently teaches yoga at Berkshire West Fitness Center and Kimball Farms, and all over the Commonwealth with the Massachusetts Housing Authority. She explains that her ap- proach to yoga encourages everyone to listen and love their body. Her yoga classes encourage gentle stretching, proper breathing, strength and balance. She attended Pratt Institute in Brooklyn and has a BFA in art education, and has taught art for 50 years. She’s been teaching yoga since 1997, and lately has been focusing on easy yoga for elders. She taught on staff at Kripalu Center for 7 years, and is now a regular present- er, offering programs that combine painting and yoga. She’s the author of the book, The Painting Path: Embodying Spiritual Discovery through Yoga, Brush and Color.

IF YOU GO
Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community
Venue: Knesset Israel
Date & Time: Thursday, December 20 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch by a kosher hot lunch. Lunch is a $2 suggested donation for adults over 60

On Monday, November 19 and Monday December 3 the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires presents "The Process of Aging" with thera- pist Maggie Bittman. This free program at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, in Pittsfield, is part of the Federation's Connecting With Community series. This program will provide an opportunity to be part of a group dialogue, created and facilitated by Bittman, who will explain her outlook and approach, emphasizing that aging begins at birth. She will discuss how all of us are con- fronted with four existential truths as we age – the search to find meaning and purpose; facing mortality; experiencing aloneness; and engaging free will. Bittman will highlight how this is a lifelong process, and the ways people return to these existential truths at each stage of life with the added wisdom that comes with aging. Within this context, participants will discuss, share and offer sup- port, as they explore these existential truths.

IF YOU GO
Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community
Venue: Knesset Israel
Date & Time: Monday, November 19 and Monday December 3, followed by lunch (see page 26).

Rabbi Barbara Cohen is rabbi of Temple Ahavath Sholom in Great Barrington. Join Rabbi Cohen as she shares this story of Judaism's most infamous "false Messiah." This free program at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield is part of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires' Connecting With Community series.

Rabbi Barbara Cohen, whose topic will be "False Messiah: The Life and Impact of Shabbetai Tzvi." On Thursday, November 29 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires hosts Rabbi Barbara Cohen, whose topic will be “False Messiah: The Life and Impact of Shabbetai Tzvi”. This free program at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield is part of the Federation's Connecting With Community series.


On Thursday, December 20 at 10:45 a.m., join Linda Novick for "Chair Yoga: Easy Yoga for Flexibility, Mobility, and Peace of Mind." This free program at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield is part of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires' Connecting With Community series.

Linda Novick says: "Chair Yoga is appropriate for people of all levels of mobility. It is a series of breathing and stretch- ing exercises done in a chair, which increases mobility of the joints. flexibility, strength and stamina. Some of the exercises are performed standing behind the chair, while holding on. Participants will learn breath- ing techniques to enhance lung capacity, as well as easy stretches and yoga postures. Yoga is good for all bodies. Beginners are welcome." Linda Novick, MFA, is an author, teacher, artist, and professional level Kripalu Yoga teacher. She currently teaches yoga at Berkshire West Fitness Center and Kimball Farms, and all over the Commonwealth with the Massachusetts Housing Authority. She explains that her ap- proach to yoga encourages everyone to listen and love their body. Her yoga classes encourage gentle stretching, proper breathing, strength and balance. She attended Pratt Institute in Brooklyn and has a BFA in art education, and has taught art for 50 years. She’s been teaching yoga since 1997, and lately has been focusing on easy yoga for elders. She taught on staff at Kripalu Center for 7 years, and is now a regular present- er, offering programs that combine painting and yoga. She’s the author of the book, The Painting Path: Embodying Spiritual Discovery through Yoga, Brush and Color.

IF YOU GO
Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community
Venue: Knesset Israel
Date & Time: Thursday, December 20 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 26).

Knesset Israel
Venue:
Community
Sponsor:
IF YOU GO
Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community
Venue: Knesset Israel
Date & Time: Thursday, Novem- ber 20 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 26).

Linda Novick
Institute in Brooklyn and has a BFA in art education, and has taught art for 50 years. She’s been teaching yoga since 1997, and lately has been focusing on easy yoga for elders. She taught on staff at Kripalu Center for 7 years, and is now a regular present- er, offering programs that combine painting and yoga. She’s the author of the book, The Painting Path: Embodying Spiritual Discovery through Yoga, Brush and Color.

IF YOU GO
Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community
Venue: Knesset Israel
Date & Time: Thursday, December 20 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 26).

Linda Novick
Creative Exploration and Good Questions: Combating Poverty of the Mind

On Thursday, December 6 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires welcomes Dr. Philip Pryjma, co-founder and co-director of the Sawas Sawas Foundation, an art gallery in Lee that works to enrich Africans and Americans through humanitarian efforts in Africa, and bring about understanding, respect, and goodwill between the two continents. He’ll be speaking about “Creative Exploration and Good Questions: Combating Poverty of the Mind.”

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

What will Dr. Pryjma talk about? We let him explain: “Growing up in Brooklyn, I set the stage for a life of exploration and fascination for what surrounded me and countless unanswered questions — why?”

“I was fortunate to have a large supply of wonderful mentors throughout my education who challenged me and encouraged my creative energies as well any spark of artistic proclivity. Higher education included degrees in mathematics, physics, engineering, medicine, and eventually psychiatry, with fortunate exposure to some of the most creative leaders in each field of study. This very broad background set up my own personal challenge to make sense of all of these seemingly disconnected and stimulating ideas and hopefully emerge with a ‘unified theory of everything.’

“Since this ‘collection of knowledge’ brought on many more questions than answers I realized life was a work in progress. I decided that all of these invitations to explore should continue as a humble quest to continue the search by asking better questions, somehow realizing along the way that this process, the process of searching, learning and exploring was more important than the final answers I was seeking.”

“Fast forward. I find myself running an unusual art gallery in Lee, in a former Catholic church (St. Francis) and every year for two months teaching out-of-the-box art and thinking to 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders in rural western Kenya.

“The past four years have also been occupied with agricultural renewal, water scarcity projects, maternal health, community enrichment, and responsible entrepreneurship in this same area. My prior years in Kenya were spent making mistakes and learning how to create change in post-colonial impoverished areas. This was done by changing from paternalistic giving to transformative change – reducing poverty of the mind.

“In working to build a community of creative growth art has been a strong focus, along with finding creative, transformative, and responsible entrepreneurial leaders. Our goal was to create a culture of continuous learning and exploration. It was most important to include myself in this same process and my talk will focus on this.”

IF YOU GO
Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community
Venue: Knesset Israel
Date & Time: Thursday, December 6 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 26).

For Your Health – “The Interaction Between Hearing and Balance”

What is vestibular therapy and how can it keep you from falling?

On Monday, December 17 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires hosts audiologist Dr. Andrew Puttick and vestibular therapist Dr. Trevor Marcotte with discussion about hearing and balance. This free program at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield is part of the Federation’s Connecting With Community series.

On Monday, December 10 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires is pleased to welcome the Berkshires Jewish Voice’s own Dr. Philip Pryjma, for a globetrotting talk titled “Bimuelos and Keftes and Gelt, Oh My! Hanukkah Foods From Around the World.” This free program at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield is part of the Federation’s Connecting With Community series.

Dr. Puttick and Dr. Marcotte will discuss hearing and balance and how these two “senses” work together.

“Over time, we all experience gradual onset hearing loss,” says Dr. Puttick. “With this change in hearing, our ability to maintain balance and avoid falling is also affected. Come learn how physical therapy, specifically vestibular therapy, can improve your balance at any age!”

IF YOU GO
Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community
Venue: Knesset Israel
Date & Time: Monday, December 17 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 26).

Dr. Philip Pryjma working in Kenya

Bimuelos and Keftes and Gelt, Oh My! Hanukkah Foods From Around the World

Carol is a recovering psychologist and criminologist, and now writes about food, travel, and anything else that catches her fancy in her regular columns in the Berkshire Jewish Voice, and Worcester Living magazine. She is also a regular contributor to Berkshire Magazine. 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, artifacts, and literature around the world.

IF YOU GO
Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community
Venue: Knesset Israel
Date & Time: Monday, December 10 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 26).
2018 Grants Announced by The Jewish Women’s Foundation of Berkshire County

Fourteen worthy projects chosen

The Jewish Women’s Foundation of Berkshire County continues to support vital local programs in the Jewish and broader Berkshire community. Dedicated to sharing Jewish values by meeting unmet needs in the community and supporting social action, the group conducted an open grant application process, inviting community organizations to submit grant proposals for funding.

From a pool of 29 applications, 14 worthy projects across Berkshire County were chosen to receive a total of $32,000 in support, approximately $8,000 more than in 2017. The recipients are:

- Alchemy Initiative/Downtown Pittsfield Farmers Market: Funding to increase access to healthy fresh food from November through April.
- Backyard Bounty of the Berkshires: Funds to help collect and distribute excess fresh produce from local farms and farmers markets during summer 2019.
- Berkshire Community Diaper Project, Inc.: Funds to facilitate the more economical purchase of diapers in bulk.
- Berkshire Grown: Funding to feed disadvantaged families via shares in local farms.
- Berkshire Hills Regional School District: Support for Project Connection, a food assistance program for families with elementary-age children during summer, school, and vacation.
- Berkshire Immigrant Center: Funding to expand a citizenship program and preparation for naturalization interviews.
- Berkshire South Community Center: Funds for food served at Community Monday Night Supper Program.
- Boys & Girls Club of the Berkshires: Funding to increase support for disabled and special needs children.
- The Christian Center of Pittsfield: Contribute funds for a discretionary fund program for the financially needy.
- Congregation Beth Israel: Funding to support Take and Eat meals program.
- Community Health Programs: Funding for new program to better equip parents to provide care for children.
- Gladys Allen Brigham Youth Community Center: Support the Kurekal Program with funding for materials and field trips to promote STEM subjects to girls.
- North Berkshire Interfaith Action Initiative: Funds to purchase fresh, healthy, and nutritious food to supplement the work of the Western Massachusetts Food Bank.
- Railroad Street Youth Project: To strengthen mentoring programs for at-risk teens.

In addition, the Foundation continued their ongoing support of these additional programs in 2018:

- The Jewish Transportation Network
- The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires’ Community Seder
- BIMC’s Care Navigation – Medical Transport Program
- Food Insecurity (supplemental Meals on Wheels)
- PJ Library of Berkshire County
- Jewish Camp Scholarships

Founded in 2010, the Jewish Women’s Foundation of Berkshire County operates under the auspices of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. Its membership has grown to 130 women in 2018.

Says Lauren Spitz, a member of the executive committee: “Through my work with the Jewish Women’s Foundation, I feel blessed to be able to say ‘thank you’ by helping with food security, literacy, empowerment, and education. Even though I am in the Berkshires for only five months a year, this community offers so much to nurture my soul, and the people are warm and welcoming – it feels like a home I’ve lived in forever."

Your Federation Presents

Three Compelling Conversations, from the 92nd Street Y

This December, the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires will screen three thought provoking re-recorded talks from the renowned 92nd Street Y in New York City as part of its Connecting With Community series. These free programs will be screened at Knesset Israel, 16 Cold St. Road in Pittsfield.

On Thursday, December 13, Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks and Simon Schama join moderator David Gregory for “Genius and the Story of the Jews.” The extraordinary resilience of the Jewish people—in the face of adversity through every generation since Moses—gives power and resonance to their collective vision, and provides the key to Jewish identity and sense of purpose. Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, Emeritus Chief Rabbi of Britain and the Commonwealth and current professor at New York University, and King’s College London and Simon Schama, author of The Story of the Jews, will delve into the deep roots of Jewish history to explore and explain the genius of Jewish survival, resilience, security, prosperity and leadership.

On Monday, December 24, former US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright will be in conversation with David Miliband, the president and CEO of the International Rescue Committee, in a talk titled “Decade of Disorder.” They explore what can be done to meet the needs of the unprecedented number of people uprooted by conflict, war and disorder, and will address major global challenges today at the intersection of security and justice. Topics will include the refugee crisis in Europe, upheaval in Syria, and other global hotspots that need humanitarian relief. Prior to leading the IRC, David Miliband had a distinguished political career in the United Kingdom, serving as Foreign Secretary and Secretary of State for the Environment. Dr. Madeleine K. Albright is chair of the Albright Stonebridge Group, a global strategic advisory and commercial diplomacy firm. She was Secretary of State from 1997-2001.

On Thursday, December 27, “Jewish Identity: The Truth, Fears and Illusions” is a panel discussion on Jewish Identity with Rabbi Peter J. Rubenstein, Rev. Eleanor Harrison Bregman, Rabbi Irwin Kula, Rabbi Brent Chaim Spodek, and Sharon Thomas. This forum is part of the Shababa Network Summit, a training program for organizations that are ready to rethink and transform family engagement and Jewish life.

Wishing you Peace and Light at Chanukah and throughout the year.

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“Hey, that wasn’t so bad”

Yeah, we get that a lot.
Thank you to our supporters!
The Berkshire Jewish Voice extends a very special “thank you” for the generosity extended thus far by 171 households as of today who have sent in their contributions for voluntary subscriptions to the paper in 2018.

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Mail check payable to: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires
196 South Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201

IF YOU GO
Date & Time: Friday, December 7 at 10:45 a.m.
Venue: Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 196 South Street, Pittsfield, MA 0201
Cost: $11 (RSVP required).

The Jewish World of Elvis Presley
Roselle Chartock will illuminate the King’s relationship with the Tribe at Knosh & Knowledge

GREAT BARRINGTON – On Friday, December 7 at 10:45 a.m., Knosh & Knowledge hosts author and scholar Roselle Kline Chartock for an interesting, and perhaps unexpected, overview of “The Jewish World of Elvis Presley.”

This free Jewish Federation of the Berkshires program will take place at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire at 10:45 a.m., and will be followed by lunch, available for $11 (RSVP required).

Elvis and Jews – at first glance, notes Roselle Chartock, these two words don’t seem to go together. But, the truth is, Elvis Presley, a poor, fundamentalist Christian boy from the Deep South, an area known historically for its anti-Semitism, developed an affinity to Jews.

In her talk, Dr. Chartock will explain some of the reasons for this development, as well as the nature of Presley’s relationships with Jews, a little known aspect of the life of this rock ‘n’ roll icon. Roselle Kline Chartock is Professor Emerita of Education at the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts in North Adams. She is co-editor of an anthology on the Nazi Holocaust, Can It Happen Again: Chronicles of the Holocaust (Black Dog and Leventhal, 2001) and the author of two education textbooks, as well as several scholarly articles. She has spoken frequently in the Berkshires and beyond about her most recent book, Windsor Mountains School, A Beloved Berkshire Institution (The History Press, 2014). “The Jewish World of Elvis Presley” is the result of Chartock’s interest in Jewish topics, history, music and biography.

Elvis wearing a Star of David with Hal Lansky, son of Bernard Lansky, Elvis Presley’s first tailor, seen with Presley in photo on the wall of Lansky Brothers Clothing in Memphis.
Celebrate Chanukah at winterlights

The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires and Naumkeag invite you to a joyous

Celebration of the Festival of Lights

Sunday, December 9 from 5-8 pm
Naumkeag, 5 Prospect Hill Road, Stockbridge, MA

Chanukah Menorah Lighting
Join us at 5:30 pm as we kindle the lights of the menorah and celebrate with songs, latkes, dreidels and chocolate gelt.

Chanukah & Holiday Light Displays
Don your coat and stroll through the garden paths where more than a hundred thousand lights will illuminate special Chanukah and Holiday light displays.

FREE Admission with Advanced Registration
or $17 per person at the door. Children under 6 are always free.
Register by December 7th by calling the Jewish Federation at (413) 442-4360, ext 10 or federation@jewishberkshires.org

Happy CHANUKAH

Use your Stop & Shop card and save on items on this page. Prices valid Nov. 14 through Dec. 15, 2018. Some items not available in some stores. We will feature and non- kosher foods.
Temple Anshe Amunim to Hold Community Crib and Winter Shabbat Dinner

PITTSFIELD – Temple Anshe Amunim will hold its annual Community Crib and Chanukah Shabbat Dinner on Friday, December 7th, at 5:30 p.m., at 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield. The evening will begin with a lively musical Shabbat service led by the Religious School, and Rabbi Liz Hirsch. A chicken and latke dinner will follow in the social hall.

In conjunction with this event, the PTTY Youth Group will be collecting new clothing, toys, baby formula, diapers, and other new items for children aged 6 months through 18 years old for donation to local charities. Families will also sponsor a teen through the Adopt a Teen Program at the Christian Center. All presents will be labeled and distributed by PTTY to the Christian Center.

The cost of the dinner is $18 for adults, $8 for children under age 12, and a maximum of $40 for families with children.

For information or to make reservations for dinner, which are required by December 5th, please contact the Temple Anshe Amunim office at: (413) 442-5910 or templeoffice@ansheamunim.org.

Hevreh Celebrates the Festival of Lights

GREAT BARRINGTON – This Chanukah season, Hevreh of Southern Berkshire hosts programs for all age levels.

Chanukah Potluck Seder
Join Hevreh’s rabbis, Neil Hirsch and Jodie Gordon, and student cantor Shani Cohen for a lively Chanukah celebration with a potluck dinner, latkes, and a Chanukah sing-along around the piano. This event takes place on Friday, December 7th at 6:15 p.m. Latkes will be provided by the congregation. Reservations are required in advance. Visit the Hevreh website – Hevreh.org – for more information about potluck dishes and to make your reservation.

Chanukah L’Chaim: Jews and Brews with Hevreh Hipsters
On December 16th at 8 p.m., Jodie Friedman, Hevreh’s program associate, hosts “Jews and Brews,” a fun night out at Barrington Brewery in Great Barrington. Jews in their 20s and 30s are invited to nosh, drink, play dreidel, and have a miraculous time. Cash bar with pub snacks provided.

Barrington Brewery is located at 420 Stockbridge Road in Great Barrington. Contact Jodie Friedman at jfriedman@hevreh.org for further information, or check out the event on Hevreh of Southern Berkshire’s Facebook page.

Judaica Shop
Hevreh’s Judaica Shop offers a wide variety of menorahs, candles, wrapping paper, dreidels, jewelry and much more. Come by on Sunday, December 2nd from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. to get your Chanukah needs filled.

The Judaica Shop is also open during regular Hevreh office hours during the week, Monday – Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Any questions, please call Hevreh at (413) 528-6378.

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

Mah Jongg Cards to Benefit Hadassah
Mah Jongg players can order 2019 Mah Jongg cards through Berkshire Hills Hadassah, which receives part of the proceeds for each order placed through them. The cards will be sent to purchasers directly by the National Mah Jongg League and cost no more than $15 purchased elsewhere. Standard cards are $8.00 each and large print cards are $9.00 each. Deadline is for further information on ordering cards for yourself and even your friends, or send in your order and a check payable to “Berkshire Hills Hadassah” to Helen Radin, 135 Mountain Drive, Pittsfield, MA 01201.

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

Temple Anshe Amunim to Hold Young Families Kabbalat Shabbat

PITTSFIELD – Temple Anshe Amunim will hold their second Young Families Kabbalat Shabbat at 4:45 p.m. on Friday, December 7, before its annual Community Crib and Chanukah Shabbat dinner at 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield.

The evening will begin at 4:45 p.m. with a Kabbalat Shabbat service led by Rabbi Liz Hirsch. There will be singing, blessings and snacks. They will also light the menorah and celebrate Chanukah together. This service makes it easy for families with young children to celebrate Shabbat together. Following the event, all are invited to stay for the 5:30 p.m. Shabbat service led by the Religious School and Youth Group.

This event is free and open to children ages 0 – 5 and their older siblings and parents.

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.

Lee & Sydelle Blatt
Betty Braun*
Cipora Brown
Barbara Cohen
Mark Cohen*
Mimi Cohen
C. Jeffrey & Judith Cook
Gerry & Lynn Danmark
Jonathan & Lara Denmark
Shelka K. Donath
Melva Eidelberg
Monroe England, in memory of
Maurine R. & Elbel England
Dr. Armand V. Feginhauser
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Mark & Elisa Snowise
Harold Spar*
Lisa Fletcher-Udell
Edward Udel
Michael & Joan Ury
Mark & Judy Uoow
Henry* & Beate* Voremb
Alexandra Warshaw
Florince Windberg*
Rabbi Deborah Zecher &
Rabbi Dennis Ross
"Of blessed memory"
LENNOX – On Sunday, December 2 at 4 p.m., Chabad of the Berkshires kicks off a busy Chanukah calendar of events with a free concert and public menorah kindling ceremony at the Gateways Inn, 51 Walker Street.

Israel-American singer Sandy Shmueli headlines the concert, after which community leaders will be in attendance as local families assist in lighting the giant "Menorah of Freedom," created by Giving Back.

All are welcome for dancing, hot potato latkes, chocolate Chanukah coins, a grand raffle, and games of dreidel.

The Sunday program is co-sponsored by the Jewish Community Outreach, the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, the Wassermann-Street Y'DIYAH Memorial Fund, and Chabad of the Berkshires.

More Chanukah Fun with Chabad

Over the course of the holiday, Chabad of the Berkshires will bring the light of Chanukah to locations across the region.

On Monday, December 3 at 4 p.m., Chabad lights a menorah at the Lee Chamber of Commerce. JCC Park Place is in downtown Lee.

On Tuesday, December 4 at 4 p.m., the celebration shifts to Stop and Shop, 1 Dan Fox Drive in Pittsfield.

On Wednesday, December 5 at 12:30 p.m., there will be a luncheon for women at the Chabad House. Menorah lighting will be followed by a Kabbalat Shabbat service, after which dinner for the community will be served. Guest speakers will be in attendance.

Chabad's Chanukah celebration concludes on Sunday, December 8, with Shabbat services beginning at 10 a.m., followed by a kiddush at 12:30 p.m.

"By coming together and lighting the menorah, which has eight branches out of one shaft," says Rabbi Volovik, "we want to emphasize the fundamental unity and goodness that is inherent in the world. We come together to light a public menorah to tell all people that the lesson of Chanukah is universal."

Light Up the Berkshires

Every year, Hevreh of Southern Berkshire gathers together to visit assisting living facilities in the area during Chanukah to light candles, play dreidel, and sing songs. Last year, Hevreh visited residents at Kindred Laurel Lake, Kimball Farms, Fairview Commons, and several other facilities. "Our goal is to bring the beauty and light of Chanukah to those who may not have the opportunity to celebrate otherwise," says Rabbi Neil P.G. Hirsch.

All are invited to help Hevreh warm up these cold winter nights with older friends in our Berkshire community. A final schedule of visits will appear on the Hevreh website (www.hevreh.org) as the holiday approaches (Chanukah begins on Sunday, December 2 and continues through Sunday, December 9). If you know of a facility that might like to schedule a visit, or if you would like to help facilitate a group during the week, please give Hevreh at call at (413) 528-6378.

"This small mitzvah during the holidays can make a huge difference in the lives of those who can’t travel to be with family and friends," says Rabbi Hirsch.

Yachad Chanukah Celebrates the Holiday by Giving Back

GREAT BARRINGTON – On Sunday, December 9 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., join Hevreh of Southern Berkshire in celebrating the miracle of Chanukah by giving (and not just getting). All families with school-aged children are invited to join Hevreh’s fifth Annual Yachad Chanukah celebration.

Participants will start the day wrapping new children’s books and creating holiday gift bags to be delivered to Volunteers In Medicine for their clients.

Afterwards shift into party mode, with Chanukah food and a sing-along. All are invited to attend.

Hevreh of Southern Berkshire is at 270 State Road, Great Barrington.
Scholar-in-Residence Program at Hevreh

GREAT BARRINGTON – Hevreh of Southern Berkshire and the South Berkshire County Community Hevra Kadisha invite all to join in learning about Jewish spiritual approaches from death through burial with scholar-in-residence David Zinner, executive director of Kavod v’Nichum and founder of the Gamliel Institute.

Kavod v’Nichum (Honor and Comfort), is a non-profit organization that encourages and assists the organization of bereavement committees and hevra kadisha groups (burial societies) in synagogues and communities. Executive Director David Zinner’s theme over this residency will be “Mavet Too: Getting Good with Death.”

Events will take place from Friday, November 30 through Sunday, December 2. All events are free of charge, though some programs require advance registration, as noted.

Shabat Services, Friday, November 30, 6:15 p.m.: “The Spiritual Uplift of Taharah and Shmirah”

It’s Shabbat— is talking about death appropriate? Maybe, because working around death can be profound. Really? Why? How? Explore the non-physical aspects of the process of dying and death. How do these concepts apply to death and its treatment? These events are made possible by the generous sponsorship of Backyard Bounty of the Berkshires.

December 1: “Taharah Liturgy”

For members of the South Berkshire County Community Hevra Kadisha or those interested in joining (time/place TBD). It is not possible to study the taharah (preparing the body for burial) prayers during the taharah, so studying them outside the taharah room is essential to really understand them. Participants will learn how the prayers associated with taharah were codified back in 1826, and look at how the taharah liturgy is constructed, as well as its content. If you are not currently a member of the South Berkshire County Community Hevra Kadisha and want to learn more or attend this session, please contact Heidi Katz at katheheidig@gmail.com. Hevreh’s Religious School on Sunday, December 2

For students in grades 8-12 and their families: “Jewish Traditions Around Death,” from 9 to 10:30 a.m. What is death? Have you been to a funeral? What do Jews do when someone dies? And why? Participants explore these topics with lots of time for questions, and maybe some answers. Parents encouraged to attend.

GOLAN, ISRAEL – Eight Berkshire residents were among a group of 15 people; all friends from the Naples (FL) area, who were the first English-speaking tourists to visit a new archeological site in Israel – Ein Keshatot. Located in the Golan, where fully one-fourth of ancient synagogues in Israel have been unearthed, it is a new national heritage site that includes a 6th century synagogue and village that were destroyed by an earthquake in the 8th century.

The site opened just three days before the group arrived, and they Weintraub (co-founders of Backyard Bounty of the Berkshires) says they were amazed by the beauty of the synagogue and the surrounding grounds, as well as with the glass and stone visitors’ center with sweeping vistas of the valley below.

While the ruins were discovered in the late 19th century, reconstruction efforts only began in 2003. The synagogue was meticulously rebuilt from its original blocks using a digital 3D scan of the piles of collapsed stones, which helped in the analysis and understanding of the structure. Arches over the natural spring site have also been rebuilt, and there are plans to reconstruct at least some of the houses in the village.

“I recommend that other visitors from the U.S. make sure to see Ein Keshatot when they’re in Israel,” says Weintraub.
Visit Your Local Big Y World Class Market For Everything You Need For Chanukah, for Every Holiday & Every Day. From Challah to Latkes, Donuts to Brisket, We’ve Got What Your Family Craves! Happy Holiday!

VISIT OUR GREAT BARRINGTON BIG Y, 700 MAIN STREET, RTE. 7 & OUR LEE BIG Y, 10 PLEASANT ST. & BIGY.COM
In light, we see. In light, we are seen.

– Rabbi Jodie Gordon

Friends, what cannot fail is the continuing reaffirmation of our interdependence as brothers and sisters of one human family.

– Imam Sharif Rosen

The shooting at Congregation Etz Chaim claimed the life of Joyce Fienberg, 75, related by marriage to our Federation’s former development officer Margo Golos, who here shares her experience in the aftermath of the tragedy.

As soon as I received word that Joyce was among the victims of the synagogue shooting, my first call (after those made to my sister, son, and daughter) was to my rabbi, Rabbi David Weiner of Knesset Israel. His comforting words – just his voice – helped me get through Saturday evening. I told him I would be joining the Sunday minyan the next morning, another guidepost for me in navigating this road of grief. During the service, Joyce’s name was read on the official news announcement about those who perished, and I was surrounded by my synagogue family. Later that afternoon, I was encouraged to attend the Berkshire Interfaith Organizing (BIO) program where my friend, Ellen Masters, was being honored. Here again, I was surrounded by a loving community, and reminded about the wealth of goodness that there is in this world.

I then had to handle the concrete steps...making plane reservations and organizing my family to underwrite some shiva meals. I was beginning to feel a bit overwhelmed when Marnie, Joyce’s daughter-in-law and my cousin, texted me to share that Jewish Federations had arranged to provide all the shiva meals for the 11 mourning families. I later received a call asking me to help the Hadassah Pittsburgh chapters in organizing an eternal yartzeit for Joyce at Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem. (Yes, Joyce was a lifetime member of Hadassah.)

Truly, I have felt myself protected and consoled beneath a canopy of peace – ‘Ufros Aleinu Sukkat Shlomecha’ as we recite in our evening prayers – thanks to my faith, my family, and my community. Please continue to be there for each other and continue to believe in the strength of our community.

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We are truly blessed to live in a place with such community bonds.

– Dara Kaufman

The Importance of Community — A Personal Reflection

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ALL PHOTOS BY MELISSA BISSELL

A menorah as a stylized Tree of Life in the floor decoration of the Kazinczy Street synagogue in Budapest, Hungary.
Change is not going to happen naturally… it takes leadership, commitment, and passion, and it takes each and every one of us.

– Talia Ben Sasson-Gordis, ADL New England

Love always moves a person to action, and that’s simply the ongoing treasure within each of us.

– Reverend Sheila Sholes-Ross

Maybe the wider public will recognize that words have consequences – you cannot vilify and dehumanize others.

– State Senator Adam Hinds

Benediction for Pittsburgh Vigil

Rabbi Neil P. G. Hirsch of Hevreh of Southern Berkshire summed up the spirit of the gathering with these words, which were followed by the Williams College Gospel Choir’s uplifting rendition of “This Little Light of Mine.”

M’qor Chayei, O Fountain and Source of Life, we have come together to seek meaning beyond our limited selves. Having encountered hate, we have come together to seek a spirit that binds together the scattered threads of our humanity, a thread that binds us together in compassion, understanding, and love; a thread that weaves the past, present, and future together, uniting the fragments of our existence into a meaningful whole.

We came together from across our county tonight to bear witness to the preciousness of life, to say even when confronted with communal trauma and grief, that within us lies a sacred invincibility of spirit, and that that invincibility is a gift that emerges out of community. It is that invincibility of spirit which binds us to one another.

May we wrap our arms around one another with gratitude, being thankful for our loved ones, our friends, our community members. May we be grateful for fellowship, which like a brilliant light radiates beyond these walls, touching the lives of others who are with us in their tears, their grief, their loss, their pain, their hope, their compassion, their love—the same love as our own. May those who find themselves grieving for the lost lives from the Tree of Life Synagogue and elsewhere find comfort and solace in these days. And may we, as one, diverse community, know that while the whole world may be a narrow bridge, we serve God and one another best when we are not afraid.

M’qor Chayei, Source of Life, continue to bless our days that we may long endure, thrive, and serve You with joy. May we recognize the light within, within ourselves and within others, letting it shine shine shine.
borders, the relationship between Israelis and Diaspora Jews is complicated, and can be challenging. Yet it is in this space that Israelis and Diaspora Jews must remain steadfast in their engagement. The 2018 GA was the vehicle to make this happen. The theme this year was “Let’s Talk.” And that’s exactly what conference participants did. They talked. And they listened.

The 2018 General Assembly

In moderated small group discussions and publicly broadcasted sessions on the plenary stage, more than 1,500 Israelis and more than 1,500 North American attendees addressed issues as complicated as how to support Israel when you don’t agree with her politics, and how to define what makes our people.

I have had the opportunity to study our community and the important issues that in- spire us, concern us and often divide us and I keep coming back to the same three questions: Why does Judaism matter? Why does diaspora mat- ter? Why does Israel matter? Why does Israel matter?

...And, it is time for each of us to revisit the words of Rabbi David Wolpe, who spoke to us at the GA in Los Angeles last year:

“...We are strangers and immi- grants to our own tradi- tion; we don’t know Torah or the Talmud or the poetry and writing that makes our people our people. We don’t know ourselves, our history and the richness of our tradition. Our tradition has something to give the world, but first we have to know what it is.”

We can only understand our tradition and its importance to our lives by going back to the basics, by learning the depth, richness, and complexity of that tradition. We cannot live Jewish values if we do not understand what they are.

So the first imperative is a commitment to studying Torah and our tradition freely and openly. There has never been a better, or a more important time for us to revive Jewish learning, to rebuild Jewish culture and to bring the community together.

...We need to take advantage of this remarkable time in our history.

“Which leads me to the second imperative: No mat- ter where we live, no matter what political or religious position we hold, all of us must end the divisiveness that exists between us. We are all here...”

Richard Sandler is the outgoing chair of the Board of Trustees of JFNA and a past chair of the board of the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles. A partner in the law firm of Maron and Sandler; he is also the executive vice president and a trustee of the Milken Family Foundation. What follows are excerpted remarks from his October 23 address to the GA at Israel’s Knesset.

Representing the Berkshires at the GA were Federation’s Executive Director Dara Kaufman (standing) and C. Jeffrey Cook, Judith Cook from our board of directors, and Development Officer Leslie Rozansky. We’ll have much more on their Israel experiences in the next issue of the Berkshire Jewish Voice.

There were four plenary sessions on the Monday morning, two on Tuesday, and a final one on Wednesday — that celebrated Israel’s 70th birthday, delivered heart-warming stories of Israelis resilience and innovation and featured top Jewish leaders.

Flanery speakers included Israeli officials like Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel President Reuven Rivlin, President of the Jewish Agency for Israel Bousie Herzog, U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman, Marius Nacht and Danna Azielli (GA Co-Chairs), and many others. There were also major addresses by JFNA Board of Trustees Chair Richard Sandler (from Los Angeles) and JFNA President and CEO Jerry Silverman.

Excerpts from outgoing JFNA chair’s address to the GA

Richard Sandler is the outgoing chair of the Board of Trustees of JFNA and a past chair of the board of the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles. A partner in the law firm of Maron and Sandler; he is also the executive vice president and a trustee of the Milken Family Foundation. What follows are excerpted remarks from his October 23 address to the GA at Israel’s Knesset.

Pre-Event with Israeli President Reuven Rivlin

The day before the opening of the GA, a small group of top Jewish leaders were invited to the home of Israeli President Reuven Rivlin to discuss the Jewish State’s fraying relationship with Diaspora Jewry. Long time Israel Knesset member Nachman Shai moderated a panel discussion with the President and CEO of UJA- Jewish Federation of New York, Eric Goldstein, Jewish Federation of Cleveland incoming President Erika Rudin-Luria, and the Ruderman Foundation’s Shira Ruderman. At the end of the event, Rivlin thanked the group and said he would use the information offered to construct his speech at the opening of the GA — the next day.

Off-Site Event at the Knesset

Midway through the 3-day event, GA participants attended a reception and brief program at the Knesset. The event, hosted by Member of Knesset Speaker Yuli Edelstein, brought together elected officials from Israel and World Jewish leaders “to talk.” Members of the Knesset who addressed the group included Leader of the Opposition from the Zionist Camp Tzipi Livni, Michal Rozin of the Meretz Party, a self-proclaimed feminist and powerful advocate for gender equality, Nava Baker of the Likud Party — a former Israeli journalist who advocates passionately for Israel’s emergency services, and Beaziel Smotrich of the Jewish Home party, who lives in the Jewish settlement of Redumin.
Love Graffiti for Congregation Beth Israel

NORTH ADAMS – On November 2, volunteers spent a Friday afternoon at the Mount Williams Greenhouses in North Adams crafting, sign-making, and letter-writing to show members of Congregation Beth Israel support and hope following the shooting in Pittsburgh. Veronica Bosley organized the event. The “Love Graffiti” decorations were placed at the synagogue to greet congregants as they arrived at Shabbat services.

Sharing the images on Facebook, Rabbi Rachel Barenblat wrote: “My shul this morning. I am overcome.”

Thank you!

The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires’ board wishes to express their gratitude for the partnership and support of the many individuals and organizations who came together to develop and present the Interfaith Community Vigil on November 1. We especially wish to thank:

The many volunteers who helped with parking, greeting and ushering
Rabbi David Weiner, Knesset Israel
Rabbi Neil P.G. Hirsch, Hevreh of Southern Berkshire
Rabbi Jodie Gordon, Hevreh of Southern Berkshire
Rabbi Liz P.G. Hirsch, Temple Anshe Amunim
Rabbi Barbara Cohen, Ahavath Sholom
Rabbi Rachel Barenblat, Congregation Beth Israel
Imam Sharif Rosen, Williams College
State Senator Adam G. Hinds (D – Pittsfield)
Reverend Sheila Sholes-Ross, First Baptist Church

Berkshire Jewish Musicians Collective: including Jonathan Denmark, Alan Gold, Jon Gotterer, Sherri James Buxton, Colin Ovitsky, and Rabbi Liz Hirsch
Reverend Joel Huntington, South Congregational Church

Talia Ben Sasson-Gordis, ADL
New England
Williams College Gospel Choir: including Delsa Lopez, Ana Delgado Fernandez, Shalya Powell, Sean Ninsing, Alex Quizon, Connor Middleton, and Joseph Wilson
Megan Whilden, Berkshire Community College, OLLI
Colin Ovitsky, Williams College
Richard Simons, Knesset Israel
Nan Bookless, BookMarc Creative
Melissa Bissell, Melissa Bissell Photography
Chris Goetz, Knesset Israel
Diana McFarlane, Knesset Israel
Mayor Linda Tyr, City of Pittsfield
Pittsfield Police Department
Berkshire Interfaith Organizing
Pittsfield Area Council of Congregations
Four Freedoms Coalition

LOCAL NEWS

SANDLER, continued from page 16

at the GA with its theme “let’s talk” – which also means we need to listen, and we need to do so with respect. We are small people who have enough enemies outside of our community. We do not need to do their work for them by being so divisive. …

The most repeated prayer in our tradition, one of the only two prayers that the Torah commands us to say each day is the Shema. Shema means “hear” or “to listen.” Like Hillel and Shummai, we need to study together as we debate important issues and listen to different points of view. We do matter to one another. We’re too small a people to be like the rest of society where people of different points of view refuse to listen to one another.

And, that leads to our third imperative: Being at home in America is being committed and caring Jews we committed and caring Jews we need to listen; and we need to understand our different concerns and the different lives we lead, yet never forgetting Rol Yisrael Arevim Zeh La Zeh – all Jews are responsible for one another. We have many differences, but so much more in common.

To my fellow Jews in Israel I say we are all better off with thriving Jewish communities well beyond your borders. No people on this planet will ever care as much about a strong Jewish State as we do.

And to those in the Diaspora I say never take the miracle of Israel for granted. Israel gives us a seat at the world table – a seat we did not have in the 1930s. It provides a shield for all of us we never had before.

Today there are countless thousands of missiles on Israel’s border aimed at Israeli citizens, in the hands of terrorist who call for the total destruction of Israel and the Jewish people. Those of us in the Diaspora can’t even begin to understand or appreciate the challenges and pressures the Israeli people endure daily.

This does not mean that as committed and caring Jews we do not have the right to expect more from Israel. We have that right. Israel is far from perfect. And Israel also has a right to expect more from us. But first, all of us must listen to one another to truly appreciate and understand our different concerns and the different lives we lead, yet never forgetting Rol Yisrael Arevim Zeh La Zeh – all Jews are responsible for one another. We have many differences, but so much more in common.

Here we are at the seat of government of the only democracy in the Middle East, a Jewish homeland that connects us to our tradition. Our homeland is a small country, the size of New Jersey, has been in constant conflict for all of its 70 years.
Knesset Israel Hosts Monthly Mussar Learning Experience

FITTSFIELD – What is Mussar? The Mussar Institute home page explains that “Mussar is a path of contemplative practices and exercises that have evolved over the past thousand years to help an individual soul to pinpoint and then to break through the barriers that may surround or obstruct the flow of inner light in our lives. Mussar is a treasury of techniques and understandings that offers immensely valuable guidance for the journey of our lives.”

Rabbi Pamela Wax will conduct a monthly Mussar series at Knesset Israel that will continue through the summer on the following Sundays from 9:45 to 11:15 a.m.: December 9, January 6, February 10, March 10, April 7, May 5, June 9, July 7, and August 4. The first session was held in November, and please contact Myrna Hammerling, director of programming and adult education at KI, for information: (413) 445-4872, ext. 16 or mhammerling@knessetisrael.org. The series will cost no more than $136 per person; the price will be lowered if there are more than 8 students.

Rabbi Pamela Wax serves as the staff rabbi and spiritual care coordinator at Westchester Jewish Community Services, a large Jewish social service agency in New York, where she offers individual pastoral counseling and spiritual direction and facilitates both spiritual support groups (for issues such as bereavement, caregiving, divorce, illness, and estranged families) and spiritual journeying groups (such as spiritual memoir, meditation, Wise Aging, and Mussar). Mussar has been her passion as a student and teacher for the past 18 years. She leads many Mussar groups (including one for rabbis and cantors), travels widely to teach it, and was the co-author of Pitcher and Receiver, a weekly Mussar Torah commentary offered through the Institute for Jewish Spirituality from 2016 to 2017. She is also the author of two curricula on Mussar (one for teens and one for adults) through the Chai Mitzvah education project, and is working on several other Mussar-related manuscripts, as well. Rabbi Wax was the rabbi of Congregation Beth Israel in North Adams from 1996 to 2000, and the assistant director of the Department of Adult Jewish Learning at the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (now the URJ), 2000-2003. She is a former global justice fellow for the American Jewish World Service and a graduate of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality. Pam lives both in Bronx, NY and North Adams with her husband, Chaim Bronstein.

Says Myrna: “If you are interested in working on your inner pathways in a Mussar context, please contact me. Between the monthly sessions there will also be contact between you and a ‘chavruta’ partner (your learning buddy), between you and your inner self through journaling, and, of course, between you and the authors whose articles may be the basis of a particular month’s focus. Rabbi Wax will also be available online or via telephone when you need her guidance.”
Oldest ever inscription of ‘Jerusalem’ found on pillar

“My heart started to pound, and I was sure everyone could hear it. My hands were trembling so badly I couldn’t properly take a picture,” said Israel Antiquities Authority archaeologist Danit Levi.

The Times of Israel, Israel Antiquities Authority archaeologist Danit Levi said when her team alerted her to the find, she could not believe that the word “Yerushalayim” was etched in Aramaic or Hebrew. When she saw the expertly chiseled Hebrew lettering in the 31.5-inch tall column, she dusted it off and began to read.

“My heart started to pound, and I was sure everyone could hear it. My hands were trembling so badly I couldn’t properly take a picture,” said Levi. Levi believes the column and inscription date back to 10th-9th BCE, and belonged to or was built with money from Hananiah son of Dodalos—Dodalos being a nickname used at the time to refer to artists, based on the Greek myth of Daedalos.

Levi said the column was located in a Jewish village, but that it was found in a ceramic construction workshop used by the Tenth Roman Legion—the army that would eventually destroy Jerusalem and exile the Jews—evidently being reused in a plastered wall.

There is a disagreement among experts as to whether the word “Yerushalayim” was etched in Aramaic or Hebrew. While bar is the Aramaic word for “son,” the Aramaic pronunciation of Jerusalem was “Jerusalem,” whereas the word in the inscription was simply written “Yerushalayim,” just like in Hebrew.

Mass Prayer in Jerusalem Marks National Day for Ethiopian Jews

JERUSALEM (JNS) — On a national holiday for Ethiopian Jews, before a crowd of tens of thousands, the president of Israel vowed that the citizens of his country will not discriminate on the basis of skin color.

“We are all children of the same parents, and anyone who tries to undermine that has no place amongst the tribes of Israel,” President Reuven Rivlin said in his address on November 7 to mark Sigd, a state holiday since 2008 that marks the Ethiopians’ yearning to return to Jerusalem and Zion.

Ethiopian Jews living in Israel and their supporters gathered for a mass prayer at Sherover Promenade in the Arnon Hanatziv neighborhood of Jerusalem to mark the holiday. The promenade offers a wide view of the Temple Mount, and was once used by the Ethiopian community as the central meeting place for the holiday when the first immigrants began to arrive in Israel.

“Jeena, Jeena, Ierusalem, Longing, Longing for Jerusalem’ – this is what we sing to Jerusalem in the prayers of the festival,” Rivlin said. “And those prayers: those ancient, wonderful prayers that you kept hold of and held dear to you and learned by heart and taught your children and passed down the generations. They are prayers of wonder and expectation all the way to Jerusalem. You brought a spirit of heroism and nobility that was sorely tested on the difficult journey you undertook, and over the long years of expectation and yearning. And you brought with you an ancient and passionate love for Zion, a love without bounds,” he said.

The holiday had been first observed in Ethiopia, where the Jews led by their elders went to the mountains 50 days after Yom Kippur for prayer and fasting. A festive meal and singing and dancing to celebrate Jerusalem followed the last.

Rivlin, the first Israeli president to visit Ethiopia, assured the crowd that Israel was working to secure the release of Avraham Mengistu, the Ethiopian Israeli being held by Hamas in Gaza.

On Monday, Rivlin and Justice Minister Ayelit Shaked issued a special appeal to the Israeli government to close the Falash Mura refugee camp in Ethiopia.

Hamas in Gaza.

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The 2019 state budget, which was approved by the Knesset in March, does not include funds for Ethiopian immigration, including the long-term costs of acclimating the immigrants.
**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, berkshireminyan.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, jewissherbertshires.com

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

- Congregation Beth Israel Reform
  - 53 Lois St., North Adams, MA
  - (413) 663-5830, chiweb.org

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

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

- Jewish Federation of the Berkshires
  - 196 South St., Pittsfield, MA
  - (413) 442-4360, jewishberkshires.org

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

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

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

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**MAZEL TOV**

Ellen Masters on receiving the Berkshire Interfaith Organizing’s MICAH (Members in Community Action Honoree) Award in recognition of her tireless volunteer work on behalf of the Berkshire community. The award was presented in Dalton on October 28.

C. Jeffrey Cook of the law firm Cohen Kinne Valicenti & Cook LLP on being recognized as an “Overall Changemaker” by Berkshire Family YMCA, part of the organization’s inaugural Changing Lives After 55 awards, celebrating community achievers over 55 identified as demonstrating a commitment to the Y’s core values.

Criminal defense attorney Leonard Cohen, one of the founding partners of the law firm Cohen Kinne Valicenti & Cook LLP, for being recognized in The Best Lawyers in America 2019, a list based on a peer-review evaluation process.

Janie and Larry Pellish on the marriage of their daughter, Debra, to Michael Schrieber.

Sharon Wiles on the birth of granddaughter Ziva Lydia Anderson – proud parents are Natasha Bates Anderson and Ryan Anderson.

Mason Rosenthal, who became a big brother to Gabriel Rosenthal. Parents are Allison and Michael.

Josh Billings Triathlon members of the tribe athletes Richlie Simons, Fred Landes, Jeff Siegel, Jonathan Denmark, Jesse Cook Dublin, Heidi Ferrin, Stephanie Ilberg-Lamm, Jenny Girlitz, and Lara Denmark.

Ira Lieberman on the publication of his latest book, In Good Times Prepare for Crisis.

Barbara (Kronick) Greenfeld on her special birthday, December 16.

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**Yiddish Book Center**

- The World’s First Yiddish Museum
- EXHIBITS • EVENTS • TOURS • & MORE

**Yidish Book Center**

- **EXHIBITS**
  - *The Lost Synagogues of Europe*
  - A collection of early twentieth-century postcards on Jewish themes, many of them depicting synagogues in Eastern Europe that were destroyed during World War II.

- **EVENTS**
  - *The World’s First Yiddish Museum*
  - *The World’s First Yiddish Museum*

- **TOURS**
  - *The World’s First Yiddish Museum*
  - *The World’s First Yiddish Museum*

- **& MORE**
  - *The World’s First Yiddish Museum*
  - *The World’s First Yiddish Museum*

For more information and a full schedule of events:
yiddishbookcenter.org

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- 103 West Park Street
  - Lee, MA 01238
  - (413) 243-4331

- www.octobermountainfa.com

October Mountain Financial Advisors operates as St. Germain Investment Management in the Berkshires.

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**Financial Times**

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  - Being selected means a lot to us.
  - A

**M**aking this list is no small feat, and we’re honored to be honored—yet again—as one of the industry’s elite advisors.

The editors of the Financial Times evaluate a variety of factors, from advanced industry credentials to reliability and experience managing assets to investment skills and positive compliance records.

Have a conversation with Gary Schiff, Managing Director, and discover the qualities which contributed to our inclusion in the 2018 Financial Times FT300.

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**Shalom**

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:

[JEWISHERBERTSHIRES.ORG](http://www.jewishberkshires.org)
To Brighten the Festival of Lights

Empire Kosher Whole Turkey
Free
Organic Whole Turkey $3.49 lb.

Golden Gourmet Pancakes
50 ct. • Select Varieties or Cheese Blintzes & Pick • 13 oz.
All Varieties

Manischewitz Egg Noodles
22 oz. • Select Varieties or Cheese Blintzes & Pick • 13 oz.
All Varieties

Offers effective Sunday, November 11 thru Saturday, December 15, 2018 in all Price Chopper, Market Bistro and Market 32 stores located in CT, MA, NH, NY, PA & VT. Not all items are available in all stores.
Strings Attached
by Avi Dresner

With Thanksgiving, Chanukah, winter, and the secular New Year fast approaching, I find myself hearkening back to the Jewish New Year, and to the summer that preceded it.

Those of you who read my last column will recall that it was about Jewish summer camp in general, and our seven-year-old son Lev’s first two-week sleepaway experience at Eisner in particular. As I mentioned in that column, Natasha and I received generous Federation support to send him, and additional support to send him and his five-year-old brother Sasha to Eisner Day Camp thereafter. We also got a major assist from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, as well as help from our synagogue, Hevreh.

We also got a major assist from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, as well as help from our synagogue, Hevreh. Those two latter grants, however, were no strings attached, while Federation’s came with a string – five hours of volunteer work to benefit our local Jewish community.

Now, most often, when we say that something comes with strings attached, we mean it in a negative way. This string, however, struck me as something positively powerful and, in visualizing it, I was reminded of the blue fringe, the thread of t’chelet, woven into the four corners of the tallit.

As with so much else in Judaism, there are multiple interpretations of the purpose and the origin of the tallit in general and the blue thread in particular, but I would like to share one that most speaks to me.

The origins of the tallit can be traced back to the priestly vestments worn by the Cohenim in the ancient Temple. The fringes on it, as the Shema tells us, are to remind us of God’s commandments and, as for why the blue thread, the best answer I have found appears in Tractate Menasheh 43b of the Babylonian Talmud. There, Rav Meir says “It is because t’chelet is similar in its color to the sea, and the sea is similar to the sky, and the sky is similar to the Throne of Glory as it is stated: ‘and they saw the God of Israel, and there was under His feet the like of the paved work of sapphire stone, and the like of the very heaven for clearness’; Exodus 24:10.”

Bolstering this specific connection between the t’chelet and the sea is a theory that the dye for it came from the chilazon, which is known in Hebrew as the t’chelet. There is debate as to whether the chilazon was a cuttlefish, a sea snail, or something else entirely, but there seems to be no doubt that it was something that lived in the sea. In thinking about this connection between the t’chelet and the sea – which, according to Genesis, already seems to have existed even before creation itself formally began – I was reminded of a family vacation to Narragansett that we took the summer before last.

On that vacation, in the heat of late August, we found ourselves on a whale watching cruise about to shove off from the dock in Point Judith. Right before the boat left, an older Chasidic couple appeared on the crowded top deck, where Natasha, Lev, Sasha, and I were scrunched next to each other on a bench near the railing. As there were no other seats available, the couple found a spot standing against the metal bulkhead beneath the bridge. I exchanged a few words with Natasha in Russian, we each took a boy on our lap, and I motioned for the couple to come over, which they did.

The husband thanked me in heavily Yiddish accented English, and I said to him in Hebrew (Aramaic, technically) “Kol Yisrael arevim zeh ba’zeh,” which basically means “each Jew is responsible for every Jew.” Upon hearing this, the Chatid smiled broadly, elbowed his wife and, jerking his thumb in my direction, said to her in Yiddish “A yidisher mensch” – i.e. “a Jewish man.” He then said to me in English that I was teaching my sons a very important lesson, derech eretz, which literally means “the way of the land”, but is used to mean “right behavior,” just as mensch literally means “man,” but is used to mean a “good person.” And it is this thread that pulls me back to Rosh Hashanah this past year and the attached volunteer string.

In a future column, I will write about the Mensch Visits that Hevreh’s 5th and 7th grade religious school students make every month to a local assisted living facility, a program that was inspired, I might add, by Eisner Day Camp’s Mensch on a Mission initiative. This past Rosh Hashanah, however, Natasha, the boys and I were at another local assisted living facility delivering Federation’s Rosh Hashanah packages to the Jewish residents as part of fulfilling our volunteer quota.

Inside the paper bags were holiday staples like small round challot, apple sauce, honey and hand-made New Year’s cards, made by local religious school children. We spent three of our required five volunteer hours making the rounds, delivering the packages to about 20 Jewish residents, wishing them a shanah tovah and shoukim. Incredibly, the boys didn’t seem bored by all of this. On the contrary, they actually seemed to enjoy it, and the senior residents did as well.

Of all our positive interactions that day, the one that sticks out the most was with a woman who was so small and frail that she and Lev – who, while tall for his age, is still only seven – were literally eye to eye. The look on her face seeing him and Sasha was, for lack of an appropriate Jewish term, beatific. It was the type of pure unself-conscious joy that one typically only sees in small children. If felt like we not only made her day, her week or her month; it was like we had made her year, and it happened because Federation “made” us do it.

So, in the spirit of Thanksgiving, thank you again not only for the scholarship but, more importantly, for the opportunity to serve our local Jewish community. In the spirit of Chanukah, thank you for being the shamash that lights other candles and for making each of us a shamash for others. And, finally, in the spirit of the secular New Year, as we all know, New Year’s is a time for resolutions and intentions. I know, the overwhelming majority of us will not keep them, in spite of our best intentions.

To increase our chances of doing right by ourselves and right by the world – whether tied around a finger or through a string – there are worse things than having a string attached to remind us to do the right thing for ourselves by doing for others. My family and I wish you and yours a Happy Chanukah, a Chanaika of Light and a Happy, Healthy New Year!

Avi Dresner is a freelance journalist and author, and co-chair of the Berkshires Jewish Festival of Books. He is currently working on a documentary with his sister, Tamar, about their Freedom Riding exploits with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the Civil Rights Movement.
in milk before breading. No, this koshker dish calls for a marinade of oil, lemon, nutmeg, and garlic before a dredging in flour and egg before frying. Crispy and tender, just as chicken should be. Add a salad and hot veggie to balance out your football food, if you still enjoy that.

Night #1: Pollo Frito per Chanuka. We’ll start our holiday with fried chicken. Ubiquitous throughout Italy on the holiday, this is not your typical KFC variety that requires soaking the chicken in buttermilk for hours. No, this kosher dish calls for a marinade of oil, lemon, nutmeg, and garlic before a dredging in flour and egg before frying. Crispy and tender, just as chicken should be. Add a salad and hot veggie to balance out your football food, if you still enjoy that.

Night #2: Pescado Frito. While most people probably think of newspaper-wrapped fish and chips as a London street food, this traditional fried fish was eaten as early as ancient Rome. Our Sephardic ancestors along Spain’s southern coast first introduced the dish back in the 16th century, and its popularity spread through the Mediterranean. The recipe is quite simple. Take a nice piece of white fish, season as cod, dredge it in flour and deep fry in hot oil. Salt and a squeeze of fresh lemon are the only other ingredients. What could be easier?

Night #3: Kubbeh. There are almost as many different recipes as there are pronunciations of this dish, but for me, kubbeh (aka kibbeh, kebbeh, kibbis) is the one I like in honor of the torpedo-shaped delights I devoured at the home of my Israeli friend, whose Iraq-born mother prepared them by the score. Kibbeh are dumplings made with semolina and bulgar wheat, stuffed with ground lamb or beef, and flavored with herbs and spices before frying. Most Israeli restaurants that offer kibbeh serve them as dumplings in soup, but they are just as good on their own. Because the preparation is quite labor intensive, it is common to prepare huge batches and freeze some. However, if you don’t have the desire to spend hours in the kitchen, simply ask a New Jersey friend to bring you one contains from its in Teaneck, an offshoot of the eponymous restaurant in Jerusalem.

Night #4: Crochette de Prata. Leek fritters are popular among the Sephardic Jews of Greece, Turkey and Bulgaria, and because they are fried, they are traditionally served at Hanukkah. The late food historian Gil Marks writes that leek or spinach keftes are listed the ways he would consume his on each and every one of the eight nights of the holiday. As long as we have latkes in the house, Joel is happy. In fact, he has said that he would have hot air balloon for even eight days, much less eighty but, come this Hanukkah, we can do better. So, grab your apron and let’s plan a menu for the eight nights of Hanukkah.

Night #1: Pollo Frito per Chanuka. We’ll start our holiday with fried chicken. Ubiquitous throughout Italy on the holiday, this is not your typical KFC variety that requires soaking the chicken in buttermilk for hours. No, this kosher dish calls for a marinade of oil, lemon, nutmeg, and garlic before a dredging in flour and egg before frying. Crispy and tender, just as chicken should be. Add a salad and hot veggie to balance out your football food, if you still enjoy that.

Ingredients

- 2 pounds Russet or Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled and quartered
- 2 whole eggs, plus 2 egg yolks
- 3/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- Freshly grated nutmeg or ground mace
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour, or as needed
- 1 cup cornflake crumbs, or as needed
- Vegetable oil for deep-frying

Directions

Place the potatoes in a saucepan with salted water to cover. Bring to a boil and cook until tender, about 20 minutes. Drain and pass the warm potatoes through a ricer placed over a bowl, or mash well with a hand masher. Add the whole eggs, egg yolks, cheese, chives, and parsley to the potatoes and mix well. Season well with salt, pepper, and nutmeg or mace, again mixing well. Cover and chill for about 1 hour to make the mixture easier to shape. Spread the flour on a plate, then spread some of the cornflake crumbs on a second plate. To make the croquettes, scoop up some potato mixture and form into a 1-inch-long oval, or into a round if you prefer. Dip the croquette first into the flour, coating evenly, and then into the crumbs, again coating evenly. Place on a rack or on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Repeat until all the potato mixture is used. Refrigerate the croquettes until you are ready to fry them. (Goldstein says that they will hold together better if they are cold.)

To cook, pour the oil to a depth of 3 inches into a deep saucepan or wok and heat to 375°F. When the oil is hot, add the croquettes to the hot oil, a few at a time, and fry until golden, about 5 minutes. Using a slotted spoon or tongs, transfer to paper towels to drain. Keep warm in a low oven for no more than 10 to 15 minutes. Repeat until all croquettes are cooked, then serve piping hot.

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.
LENOX – Rabbi Harold I. Salzmann, 96, died peacefully on September 25 at Mt. Carmel Care Center in Lenox.

Born in Cleveland, OH in 1922, Rabbi was the son of Bernard Leopold and Rae (nee Bus) Salzmann. The son and grandson of traditional rabbis trained in the religious schools of the Austro-Hungarian Empire (today’s Slovakia), as a youth he before joining the US Army. He trained bar and bat mitzvah, theology and as a teacher who continued his scholarship in rabbinical studies in 1950. In 1975, he was recognized by his alma mater, the Hebrew University of Cincinnati, with an honorary doctorate. At least in equal measure, Rabbi devoted himself to the civic life of the Berkshires, as a citizen and one of its most dedicated religious leaders. Shortly after coming to Pittsfield, he became a member of the Rotary Club. In 1922, Rabbi recognized his many decades of service to Rotary and the community with the Paul Harris Award.

One of the longest serving members of the clergy in the Berkshires, he delivered more invocations at parades and high school graduations than any other rabbi, priest or minister in the county. He was active in many other capacities in the city and county, from the Berkshire Medical Center to the committee that restored Temple Anshe Amunim in veterans’ Park on South Street.

A longtime member of the Berkshire Clergy Association, he embodied the civic spirit of the Berkshires. In addition to his love of collecting books and stamps, he remained the keystone member of Monday Evening Club whose members included his dear friend, Normon Rokwell, well into his 90s.

One of his delights was poetry, particularly rhyming poetry of the 19th century, such as “The Charge of the Light Brigade” by Alfred, Lord Tennyson, and “Barbara Allen” by John Greenleaf Whittier. He was in the habit of reciting his favorite verses while doing his morning calisthenics, and once presented a paper to the Monday Evening Club about the poems and poets he loved.

He was a life member of the Society of Israel Philatelists and of Phi Beta Kappa. Rabbi Salzmann is survived by his brother, Stanley R. Weiss of Chicago, his only brother, Stanley R. Weiss of Chicago, and teammate of Larry; the personal best. She will be deeply missed.

Andrea’s life was an example of how she always encouraged and inspire others to do their personal best. She will be deeply missed.

Funeral services were held Monday, November 5 at Moriah Congregation, Deerfield, IL. Interment followed at Shalom Memorial Park, Arlington Heights, IL. Donations may be made to Temple Anshe Amunim in care of B’nai B’rith, 515 S. Taub Drive, Deerfield IL 60015, www.moriahcong.org for information.

Andrea Lipton Becker, 54, grew up in Pittsfield NORTHRIDGE, IL - Andrea Lipton Becker, nee Lipton, 54, passed away on Friday, November 2. Andrea was the beloved wife and teammate of Larry, the personal best. She will be deeply missed.

Andrea’s life was an example of how she always encouraged and inspire others to do their personal best. She will be deeply missed.

Donations may be made to Temple Anshe Amunim in care of B’nai B’rith, 515 S. Taub Drive, Deerfield IL 60015, www.moriahcong.org for information.

Harriette Rutkin, 83, gifted artist and painter

FAIRFIELD, CT – Harriette Rutkin Joffe, 83, formerly of Great Barrington, MA and Santa Fe, NM, a gifted artist, passed away peacefully at her daughter’s home on Tuesday, October 16. Born in New York City, CT. Harriette was the daughter of the late Henry and Selma Rutkin.

She is survived by her devoted daughter David Ira Roulser, Katherine Annmary, of the late Henry and Selma Rutkin.

She is survived by her devoted daughter David Ira Roulser, Katherine Annmary, and Abigail; cherished daughter-in-law of Bonnie and the late Alan Lipton, Pittsfield.

Rabbi Josh Breindel, spiritual leader of Congregation Beth El in Sudbury, MA and rabbi to the Southern Poverty Law Center through the Devanny-Condron Funeral Home.

Marvin Weiss, 91, honesty and generosity were always present in BROCKTON, MA – Our beloved father, grandfather, great-grandfather, in-law, and friend, Marvin Lawrence Weiss of Berlin, CT, comfortably passed on Monday, September 17 at the VA hospital in Brockton, MA. Born May 29, 1927, the son of Robert S. and Esther B. Weiss of Cohoes, NY, Marvin grew up in Farnborough, England, before being sent to the US Army Navy at age 17 to fight in World War II. He spent the war years in the Pacific, abnormalities on the way to the Bahamas, he was involved in multiple conflicts.

After the war, he married Helen C. Rolfs of Providence, RI in 1952. Marvin earned a BIS degree from Sienna College in Troy, NY. His business career spanned from a wholesale candy/sundries company, paint and wallpaper to vice-president of Viking Aluminum Company in New Britain, CT.

He was a true renaissance man with talents ranging from cooking, carpentry, oil painting, restoring cars and boats, collecting antiques, targets shooting, and sailing. He had a MPE passed everything he touched from mechanical. He enjoyed traveling to various feasts markets and studying about them.

Both were active in Jewish Women’s Services. He was a member of the Hadassah, Edna was active in all Hadassah activities. She was always present.

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In addition, his honesty and generosity are always present.

He was predeceased by his only brother, Stanley R. Weiss and his wife, Helen.

Survivors include his son and daughter-in-law, Eric and Julie Weiss of Berwyn, CT; his daughter and son-in-law, Gerald and Nancy Anderson of Sharon, MA, and five grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

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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) 499-5899 or visit www.jewishberkshires.com.

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


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

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

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

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

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.

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

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

Saturdays at 9:00 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@antheamunim.org.

Knesset Israel 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield
ONGOING MINYANS
Sunday 8:45 a.m. and 7 p.m.
Tuesday 7 p.m.
Friday 5:45 p.m.
Saturday 9:30 a.m. and evenings approximately 30 minutes before sunset

CANDLE-LIGHTING
Friday, November 23 4:06 p.m.
Friday, November 30 4:03 p.m.
[See calendar at knessetisrael.org for Chanukah lighting times, beginning Sunday, December 2]
Friday, December 7 4:02 p.m.
Friday, December 14 4:02 p.m.
Friday, December 21 4:05 p.m.
Friday, December 28 4:09 p.m.

Affiliate with a Congregation.

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

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

The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires encourages you to affiliate.
Connecting with Community
Nourish Your Body, Mind, and Soul!

Enjoy an educational program followed by a delicious kosher hot lunch!
Programs take place Mondays and Thursdays at 10:45 a.m. Lunch is served Mondays, Thursdays, and Thursdays at noon.

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

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

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

What’s for Lunch?

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

** Dairy Free, *** Gluten Free Main Entrée

### NOVEMBER


**Tuesday, 20** Grilled cheese and tuna, minestrone soup, mixed vegetables, whole wheat bread, pudding, coffee, tea and milk for coffee.

**Thursday, 22** Closed for Thanksgiving

**Monday, 26** 10:45 a.m. “Moving Towards Health,” with Thea Basis. Lunch: Beef chili, salad, brown rice, oat bread, pears, and tea.

**Tuesday, 27** Chicken Marsala, chef's choice juice, noodles, mixed vegetables, multigrain bread, apricots and tea.

**Thursday, 29** 10:45 a.m. “Shabbetai Tzvi, 17th Century False Messiah” with Rabbi Barbara Cohen. Lunch: Fresh fish, mushroom soup, broccoli, salad, rice pilaf, rolls, cookies, coffee, tea and milk for coffee.

**DECEMBER**


**Tuesday, 4** Meat leftover day, potato bread, mandarin oranges and tea.

**Thursday, 6** 10:45 a.m. “Combating Poverty of the Mind: Creative Exploration and Good Questions,” with Dr. Philip Pryjma. Lunch: Fish sticks, meadow blend vegetables, gluten-free), chicken soup, Italian beans, Italian bread, and milk for coffee.

**Monday, 10** 10:45 a.m. “Bimuelos and Keftes and Tacos,” with Philip Pryjma. Lunch: Meat leftover day, potato bread, apricots and tea.

**Tuesday, 11** BBQ chicken, zucchini rice soup, collard greens, sweet potato fries, corn bread, pecan pie bars and tea.


**Monday, 17** 10:45 a.m. “The Interaction Between Hearing and Balance,” with Dr. Andrew Puttick and Dr. Trevor Marcotte. Lunch: Sloppy Joes, cabbage soup, corn, mashed potatoes, hamburger rolls, peaches and tea.

**Tuesday, 18** Roasted chicken, celery rice soup, sweet potato, mixed vegetables, marble rye bread, oatmeal cranberry cookies and tea.

**Thursday, 20** 10:45 a.m., Chair Yoga, with Linda Novick. Lunch: Black bean burger, tomato goat cheese pasta with peas, salad, beets, muffin, applesauce, coffee, tea and milk for coffee.

**Monday, 24** 10:45 a.m., 2nd of 3 92nd Street Y video series. “Decade of Disorder: Madeleine Albright in Conversation with David Miliband.” Lunch: Tuna fish sandwich on whole wheat bread, tomato soup, beets, cookies, coffee, tea and milk for coffee.

**Monday, 31** 10:45 a.m., Program to be announced. Lunch: Turkey piccata, salad, rice, asparagus cuts and tips, Challah, parve lemon mousse and tea.

### JANUARY

**Tuesday, 1** Closed for New Year’s Day

**Thursday, 3** 10:45 a.m. Program to be announced. Lunch: Fish chowder, grilled cheese on multigrain bread, mixed vegetables, fruit cocktail, coffee, tea and milk for coffee.

**Monday, 7** 10:45 a.m., Program to be announced. Lunch: Meat loaf, salad, peas and carrots, mashed potatoes, eye bread, chocolate chip cookies and tea.

**Tuesday, 8** Chicken nuggets, zucchini rice soup, sweet potato fries, green beans, chef’s choice of bread, apricots and tea.

**Thursday, 10** 10:45 a.m., Program to be announced. Lunch: Macaroni and cheese, tomato soup, salad, beets, scones, tropical fruit salad, coffee, tea and milk for coffee.

**Monday, 14** 10:45 a.m., Program to be announced. Lunch: Spaghetti and meatballs (meatballs are gluten free), chicken soup, Italian beans, Italian bread, pears and tea.
BATTLE FATIGUE, continued from page 28

as keepsakes — menus, theater programs, postcards, newspaper clippings. Interspersed are photographs of Morton and his fellow soldiers taken during his training at stateside military bases, along with a certification showing he was licensed to operate cars, trucks, tanks, wreckers, and motorcycles.

The tenor of the album changes as Morton accompanied the U.S. Third Army as it raced through France following the D-Day invasion of Normandy in June 1944. Photographs appear documenting the five major battles in which he participated, including the Battle of the Bulge. As the war drew to a painful and bloody close, Morton Polkowitz found himself at the center of events. In Paris after its recapture from Nazi forces in 1944, he witnessed a failed German sniper attack on Charles De Gaulle, writing home laconically: “Gerry tried to get De Gaulle, August 26. Missed Polk, too.” Not only that, he attended the first post-liberation Rosh Hashanah service at the Great Synagogue of Paris and worshiped with just-freed survivors, one of whom gave Morton the yellow star from his camp uniform (which is also part of the scrapbook collection, and will eventually be donated to the U.S. Holocaust Museum).

Morton also was among the forces that liberated the concentration camp Ohrdruf, a sub-camp of Buchenwald, one of the first camps to be liberated by the Allies. For his work managing a factory that put together reclaimed elements of military vehicles and tanks, he was awarded the Bronze Star (which he did not collect until 1965, and then only because his family urged him to do so). The scrapbook also contains his honorable discharge papers, which reveal that he had been treated for post-traumatic stress disorder at Mason Hospital in Long Island at the end of his Army service.

It’s a big and fascinating human story scarcely done justice by a few paragraphs in a newspaper article. Fortunately, Nina Lipkowitz is sharing her father’s story — both visually and narratively — at galleries and other venues in the Berkshires as her interpretation of it develops. An exhibition titled “Battle Fatigue,” inspired by and derived from her father’s scrapbook, will be on view at the 510 Warren Street Gallery in Hudson, NY through November 25. It is clear from talking to Lipkowitz that the artistic energy that this project has unleashed has not come close to dissipating.

For one, she started painting again, and learned new techniques to apply photo transfers to canvas. She says she took pains “not to make these paintings decorative, to put pretty things together, as I am wont to do.”

When talking to her now about “Battle Fatigue,” one gets the sense that the project is in the process of evolving into its final shape, one that might become a composite visual and oral presentation delivered by Lipkowitz, who is a sharp and engaging speaker. She may not have known what to say about her father in the past, but through her exploration of his scrapbook, she is creating a powerful portrait of a guarded man who lived through some of the most important and emotionally wrenching events of the 20th century.

Even though the events that defined Morton Polkowitz occurred more than 70 years ago, through his daughter, his life story is still a work in progress. We look forward to finding out what happens next.
Battle Fatigue
Artist Nina Lipkowitz explores her father’s WWII experience

When there was peace, he went.
— from “The Unknown Citizen,” by W.H. Auden

Nina Lipkowitz has that look.
It’s the look that creative people get when they know they are on to something. When inspiration is firing on all cylinders. When the universe seems to be rewarding them, often in unexpected ways, with more and more rich material.

When the BJV last featured Lipkowitz in April 2016 — “She Prefers to Live in Color” — we shared her playful abstract iPad finger paintings and her lush and elegant watercolors of flowers from her garden. But in the intervening two-plus years, Lipkowitz stopped painting on paper and canvas. Her engagement with the way she was then working was manifest in gaps in her knowledge of the history of the war, the way she was then working having run its course.

Of enduring fascination, however, was the World War II scrapbook assembled by her father, Morton Polkowitz (a family name that was de-Hebraicized to Polk). “My sister got my parents’ wedding album,” says Lipkowitz, “and I got the scrapbook. I would look and look at it — it was literally always my most valuable possession.” Its contents — annotated over the years by Lipkowitz’s father and mother — recorded Morton’s wartime journey as an ordnance officer with the U.S. Third Army (General George Patton’s command) from stateside training through the end of hostilities in Europe, during which he experienced combat in some of the major battles fought toward the end of the war.

Lipkowitz says that she and her father never talked about those experiences — seemingly, he wished to put the war behind him and in any case, as she writes in an artist’s statement, he was “a difficult man. Eleven years after he died, my mother said, ‘How come nobody ever talks about Daddy?’ The truth is, we didn’t know what to say about him.” His reticence, along with Lipkowitz’s own unfamiliarity with the history of the war, made the images he preserved about the end of the war — and so the “project to share it with the world. She says she took to heart the message of “Lech Lecha” — God’s instruction to Abram to “go forth” — and “do something with this.” She thought, “I could write a book; but I’m not going to do that, because I’m an artist.” But first, she had to do historical research to fill in gaps in her knowledge of the war — and so the “project unpeeled one teeny piece at a time.”

Martin Polkowitz was in his thirties, married with a daughter (Nina’s older sister), when he enlisted as an officer in the U.S. Army, in part because “as a Jew he felt this war was something he had to be part of,” says Lipkowitz. Though he had a law degree from George Washington University, he worked for his family’s auto dealership business in the New Jersey area. Lipkowitz found out that owing to the familiarity auto dealers would have had with managing inventories of mechanical parts, in the military they often found themselves assigned to ordnance units, the branch of the armed forces that procures, maintains, and issues weapons, ammunition, and combat vehicles.

The scrapbook starts with the kinds of ephemera any vacationer might retain

“Lost Synagogues of Europe,” at the Yiddish Book Center

AMHERST — On view in the Yiddish Book Center’s Brechner Gallery now through March 2019, “Lost Synagogues of Europe” is a collection of early twentieth-century postcards on Jewish themes, many of them depicting synagogues in Eastern Europe that were destroyed during World War II. The postcards come from the collection of Frantisek Banyai, a Prague-based entrepreneur and son of Holocaust survivors who began amassing the collection 40 years ago and continues his search today.

The postcards’ scenes of buildings and workings have an overall effect, said a writer in The Times of Israel, that “is fascinating and devastating.”

The Yiddish Book Center is at 1021 West Street in Amherst, MA.