We are almost there, but we need your help!
If you have not yet made your gift to the 2020 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 A DIFFERENCE!

Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg

On Monday, December 21 at 6:45 p.m., join us for “Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg,” a virtual tour of an exhibition about the recently-deceased Supreme Court Justice now on view at the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center in Skokie.

This Jewish Federation of the Berkshires program will be presented via Zoom. Please type jewishberkshires.org/rbgtour in your Web browser to access the registration page.

Please note: Registration is limited for this program, and slots will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

Based on the New York Times best-selling book and Tumblr page of the same name, “Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg” is the first-ever museum exhibition focused solely on this judicial icon.

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The Gifts of Chanukah

May being more in each other’s presence be among our holiday presents

Chanukah Cooking with Chef Michael Solomonov of the World-Famous Restaurant Zahav

On Wednesday, December 2 at 8 p.m., join Michael Solomonov, executive chef and co-owner of Zahav – 2019 James Beard Foundation award winner for Outstanding Restaurant – to learn to make Apple Shrub, Abe Fisher’s Potato Latkes, Roman Artichokes with Arugula and Olive Oil, Poached Salmon, and Men’s with Cinnamon and Sugar.

Register for this live virtual event at www.tinyurl.com/FedCooks. The event link, password, recipes, and ingredient list will be sent before the event.

Chef Michael Solomonov was born in Gnaat Yehuda, Israel, and raised in Pittsburgh. At the age of 18, he returned to Israel with no Hebrew language skills, taking the only job he could get – working in a bakery – and his culinary career was born.

Chef Solomonov is a beloved champion of Israel’s extraordinarily diverse and vibrant culinary landscape. Along with Zahav in Philadelphia, Solomonov’s village of restaurants include Federal Donuts, Dizengoff, Abe Fisher, and Goldie.

In July of 2019, Solomonov brought another significant slice of Israeli food culture to Philadelphia with K’Far, an Israeli bakery and café. In November of 2019, Solomonov opened Merkaz, an Israeli pita sandwich shop, and in February of 2020 opened Laser Wolf, an Israeli skewer house.

SOLOMONOV, continued on page 4

Notorious RBG, continued on page 4

Our eagerness to put the dismal year of 2020 in the rearview mirror cannot be overstated, so here’s a wish that all of us may bound into the joyous holiday of Chanukah with the grace of a winged gazelle, like this fantastical creature on a circa 1960 poster issued by the Israel Postal Company. It’s from the online collection of The Palestine Poster Project Archive – visit their fun and fascinating website at palestineposterproject.org.
As the days turn colder and the evenings descend upon us earlier, Federation has been busy planning special opportunities that are sure to bring some much-needed light and warmth to our community this Chanukah.

On December 2, join James Beard Award-winning chef Michael Solomonov for a live Chanukah cooking demo. In celebration of the holiday, Chef Solomonov will be making Abe Fisher’s potato lakes, Roman artichokes with arugula and olive oil, poached salmon, and sfenj (Moroccan doughnuts) and apple shrub (which you can enjoy with or without the bourbon, depending on how toastey you want to be).

Families with young kids can join us for an evening of wacky virtual fun at Chanukah LIVE! presented by our friends at mainstages educational theater on December 6. In addition, FJ Library families will be receiving a special Chanukah package filled with “glowing” fun and treats for the entire family.

On December 7, we will meet up virtually for a steamy tea tasting and discussion with master tea blender Michael Harney. A special Harney tea sampler will be mailed out to the first 50 registrants!

This newspaper is filled with additional opportunities to connect and learn through the coming months. Visit jewishberkshires.org to explore them all and to register.

Federation is also gearing up to help our community move safely through the wintertime.

**Editor’s Note**

**Thank You for Supporting the Berkshire Jewish Voice!**

Volunteer subscriptions reach unprecedented highs

By Albert Stern / BJV Editor

A hearty thanks to all of you who responded to our call for volunteer subscribers this autumn.

- The response was overwhelming.
- Within two weeks, our readers contributed as much to the BJV as they had the entire previous year.
- Seventeen honorary publisher slots have been filled -- eight of them by donors contributing at the $360 and above level for the first time.
- As we went to press in early November, we raised nearly 175 percent as much money as we had in the past 12 months -- and new subs are coming in each day.

To say that all of this was unexpected would be a colossal understatement. We composed our appeal over the summer, at a moment of great uncertainty for the paper, due to reactions to the pandemic, we were unable to publish our revenue-generating Berkshire Jewish Summer publication, and many local businesses and arts organizations had to pull the seasonal advertising the BJV relies on year after year. We also wondered whether our donors would be able to support the BJV with an additional gift, considering the economic uncertainty everyone is experiencing.

Apparently, we made our case that this newspaper is a meaningful resource for our Jewish community, and hope that we continue to do so in the year ahead by publishing relevant stories as this pandemic (we hope) winds down and we all begin to live our lives (again, we hope) on surer footing.

We also want to thank everyone (rabbis, essay writers, visual artists, lay leaders, young people) who shared perspectives and experiences over the last nine months in the BJV -- your voices helped reassure others that, in this time of separation, we are a still a strong, vital, and united Jewish community. We're glad you think the paper is worthy of the time and effort you put into telling your stories.

All of you who support the BJV, I'm sure, have your own reasons for contributing — I want to share a bit of the kavanah (intention) I apply to my work in hopes that it may enhance your own engagement with Federation.

Before moving to the Berkshires nearly ten years ago, I had become more interested in my Jewish journey. I grew up Modern Orthodox, but lost my connection to but never my interest in the Judaism my late parents worked so hard to instill in me. I decided to reconnect by doing a better job with the Fifth Commandment. My father had been a burgeoning Jew, and so in my memory, I showed up in shul. My mother had been a community Jew, and in her memory, I pledged that when someone from my Jewish community asked me to get involved, if I thought I could do the job, I would say “yes” and see where it took me.

I've lived here for about a year when Ellen Massie, one of our community's stalwarts and now a dear friend, asked me if I wanted to be Federation's Super Sunday chair. I said yes. The next year, our former executive director Arlene Schiff informed me that I had again volunteered for the job. I joined the board of directors and then the executive board, and when the opportunity arose to edit the newspaper, I took it.

I've mostly enjoyed this job — it enables me to talk to and write about some really interesting people while working for an organization with a mission I believe in. It has also helped me understand the complex network of Jewish philanthropy, and its importance in protecting the interests and wellbeing of the Jewish people in the United States, Israel, and throughout the Diaspora. It never ceases to amaze me how well organized we are, and how many smart, dedicated people are out there working for causes important to us.

Among those organizations is one of this Federation's longtime partners, Meir Panim, which each year provides nearly 500,000 meals to the needy in Israel’s capital and beyond. Since the pandemic began, Meir Panim mobilized to deliver meals on wheels to those who need them, but in normal times, the group operates dining rooms in several cities where anyone can eat for free. Volunteers serve the food restaurant-style, ameliorating the discomfort some of its patrons might feel at having to rely on a soup kitchen for sustenance.

Every year, the BJV publishes the thank you letter to our Federation for its donation. Several years back, they sent the photo reproduced on this page to appear alongside that letter. I enlarged it and tacked it up on a corkboard beside my desk. Since then it has served as kusnosh for my job — when I need to, I take a few moments to look at it and consider that something that I do, something that this Federation does, something that we all do together, helps to put a frankfurter on that gentleman's plate.

In the broader scheme of things, supporting the Jewish people is a massive challenge — the people are diverse and far-flung, the logistics complex, the needs great, the history ancient, the passions deep, the politics heated, the threats real, and the future brighter than ever. It’s hard to keep track of all that we do, all that we are, and all that we still might accomplish.

That frankfurter, however, is something we can all sink our teeth into. I look at the photo on my corkboard and see one man eating one meal in comfort and with dignity, and appreciate the meaning of my work and our work together through Federation. That’s my kusnosh, something that makes me feel grateful.

Again, thank you for supporting the Berkshire Jewish Voice and the rest of Federation’s important work in the Berkshires and beyond. Going forward, we still need our readers’ generosity to help mitigate revenue lost during this challenging time. I hope you will continue to support your local Jewish newspaper.
In a typical year, this week would find many of us making preparations for the Thanksgiving holiday: shopping, preparing meals, and planning travel around the region or across the country, as we look forward to gathering with family and friends. And yet, with the pandemic raging and case numbers rising, we find ourselves adjusting, as our plans, downsizing, and finding ways to celebrate the holidays in a markedly different way than we otherwise would.

As Jews, this isn’t new for us—we’ve been to this rodeo before. Over the past nine months, we’ve experienced two full holiday seasons—Passover in the spring and the High Holidays and Sukkot in the fall—under the restrictions of social distancing. We’ve perfected Seders, services, and sermons over Zoom and YouTube and found that even though the mode is new, we can still have profoundly powerful and connecting experiences. We learned over the course of this year that even though we are forced to endure a measure of distance from each other, we can still be together and connect with the holidays’ themes. And yet, a holiday like Thanksgivukkah, with no real ritual other than football games and gathering with those we care about, makes the distancing especially poignant.

The central theme of Thanksgiving—giving thanks, or gratitude—reminds us to take stock of the goodness we have been lucky enough to benefit. During this time of loss of freedom, normalcy, and for some of us, of loved ones, it is particularly important to reconnect with the blessings we have received. In the Jewish tradition, gratitude—of hoda’a in Hebrew—is held up as a core value, something we are invited to experience in our daily lives. The first words of the morning liturgy are words of gratitude—“modah ani”—I am grateful for the gift of life that is renewed within me each day.” The Amidah, the central prayer of the liturgy recited three times each day, also contains a section dedicated to gratitude, the Modim prayer. The text invites us to thank God for all of the miracles, great and small, that we enjoy each day, from the gift of our lives to seemingly minor ones, as well. Classically, in this prayer, we are invited to bow at the waist when we say these words and to bend our knees and bow at the waist for the concluding blessing of this section.

The way we bow in prayer is worth exploring. In the Babylonian Talmud (Bava Kamma 16a), there is a passage in which we read the following: “...the snake walked in the Amidah. One position holds that when bowing, a person should do so “until all the vertebrae in the spine protrude.” That means a person should bow in such a way that she essentially bends and curves her body completely. If you don’t bow that much—don’t worry! This is just one opinion, and we don’t have to bend that much if we are not able.) The bow is a deep bend, as we bring our heads down toward the ground. It’s a gesture of submission, turning down and inward, as we take up increasingly less and less space, expressing with our bodies the sense that we must be flexible. As human beings with bodies based around the spine, we spend most of our time upright. Except for the times we hunch over our smartphones and lie in our beds, our bodies are erect. It is a position of power and control. With straight backs, we can see both far away and up close to move our arms to manipulate the world around us and defend ourselves from attack. With calm alertness, our straight backs allow us to be in control, to dominate, and to protect ourselves.

In the course of the Talmud (Bava Kamma 16a), there is a passage in which we learn that seven years after a person’s death, his spine will metamorphose into a snake. Somewhat surprising to learn of this (and also, perhaps a bit skeletal), a challenge arises in the text, so the claim ends up being qualified. Not everyone’s spine turns into a snake, we learn (perhaps) only those who do not bow during the blessing of gratitude in the Amidah. Mythically, the snake often represents the force of evil, a force that seeks to sow discord. As in the story of the Garden of Eden, the snake walked upright and ended up crawling on its belly.

By contrast, a person who knows when and how to bow knows when and how to receive. That person knows that there are times when it is appropriate to express gratitude. Those are times when we say to each other, to the universe, to God, that we continue to receive so much, and it means so much to us. That even when we suffer or lose that which is important to us, even as we mourn it, we can still be grateful for what we still have.

In Jewish thought, gratitude is often associated with acceptance. At a time when we are forced to accept so much that is beyond our control, we can also turn our gaze inward and examine how we might just be grateful for what we have. 

Rabbis Seth Wax is the Jewish chaplain of Williams College in Williamstown.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

The Berkshire Jewish Voice is the community newspaper of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, serving the Berkshires and surrounding NY, CT and VT.

Published nine times a year by the

The Jewish Transportation Network
Discount Taxi Vouchers

for Jewish residents aged 65 years and older

Purchase $50 worth of taxi vouchers for $5

($6 if requested via mail)

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

Some restrictions apply. Limit 10 voucher booklets per person/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

Thank you volunteers Ellen Rosenblatt and the BJV delivery team. Mitch Greenwald and Roman Roszenlyum.

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

Phone: (413) 442-4360, ext. 11 Fax (413) 443-6070

Deadline: December 9, 2020 Advertising deadline: January 1, 2021 to February 7, 2021
“Virtually Limitless: Our Shared Shelf”
New online book club for women sponsored by Federation

The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, in collaboration with the JPA’s National Women’s Philanthrophy and the Jewish Book Council, is pleased to offer a monthly women’s book and author series entitled “Virtually Limitless: Our Shared Shelf.”

This series is free and open to all women donors to the Federation, at any level. Interested participants may register via the calendar event listing on jewishberkshires.org. Participants need only register once and will receive an emailed invite and a link to each monthly event.

In support of local business, participants may purchase the book online at bookshop.org/shop/jewishberkshires and a portion of the proceeds will be donated back to The Bookstore in Lenox.

On Wednesday, December 16 at 8 p.m., the featured book will be Hidden Recipes: A Holocaust Memoir, by Eva Moreimi.

Your Federation Presents

Stretch Your Children’s Imaginations with Chanukah LIVE! with “mainstages”
An online morning of wacky fun for the whole family

On Sunday, December 6, from 10 a.m. to 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires and PJ Library present Chanukah LIVE!, an online morning of fun with mainstages, an educational theater company driven by the core principles of imagination, connection, improvisation, and character.

Grab your energetic children and join our friends from mainstages for an engaging, value-based virtual performance, which will include tons of interactive games and activities guaranteed to stretch your kids’ imaginations and give their bodies moving, while simultaneously offering Chanukah fun for the whole family! This is a live participatory show.

This Jewish Federation of the Berkshires program will be presented via Zoom. Please type jewishberkshires.org/mainstages in your Web browser to access the registration page. You must register by December 4.

For more information, please contact Susan Frisch Lehrer at slehrer@jewishberkshires.org.

About mainstages
mainstages is an educational theater company for children. For the last 10 years, mainstages has run theater classes and productions at sleep-away and day camps across the nation. Since April, it has provided interactive virtual programs and entertainment through platforms such as Zoom. With a network of talented performers nation-wide, mainstages is uniquely positioned to deliver unique theatrical programs and fun social experiences that so many people need right now.

mainstages Virtual Performances feature engaging hosts, fun games, and wacky characters that go beyond your typical virtual experience! Each virtual performance is designed to feel like a tele-vision show that viewers can participate in from their homes. Whether you are there to play or there to watch old friends and new ones have fun, everyone will leave feeling the warmth of their shared community!

NOTORIOUS RBG, continued from page 1
icon, whose image graces mugs, t-shirts, posters, and bobbleheads. The exhibit is a vibrant exploration of Justice Ginsburg’s life and her numerous, often simultaneous roles as a student, wife, mother, lawyer, judge, women’s rights pioneer, and internet phenomenon. Whether you’re a fan or a legal scholar, don’t miss this block-buster exhibit!

The virtual Notorious RBG exhibit is a video presentation of curator Arielle Weininger discussing the history of RBG and the exhibition, complete with embedded audio, video, and photographs of artifacts as seen in the exhibition.

This exhibition was developed by associate curator at Los Angeles Skirball Cultural Center, Cate Thurston, in partnership with Ira Carmen and Shana Knizhnik, co-authors of the New York Times bestselling book, Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Briefs and documents by RBG, including some of her famously fearless dissenting, are woven throughout the exhibit. In keeping with the spirit of Chef”, and in 2019, Zahav was James Beard Award winner for “Outstanding Restaurant.”

SOLOMONOV, continued from page 1
Chef Solomov is the 2011 James Beard Award winner for “Best Chef: Mid-Atlantic,” a 2016 James Beard Award winner for “International Cooking,” and “Book of the Year” recipient for Zahav: A World of Israeli Cooking. In 2017, he won the James Beard Award for “Outstanding Chef,” and in 2019, Solomov was James Beard Award winner for “Outstanding Restaurant.”

Grant Arrived in Time
Dear Jewish Women’s Foundation of the Berkshires,

The Berkshire Center for Justice is grateful for your grant, which we will apply toward hiring part-time office help. Now that the moratorium against eviction and foreclosure is terminated, we are expecting a deluge of eviction, divorce, bankruptcy, and credit legal matters. Our increased ability to hire office help goes a long way to ensure that we can keep up with demand and take more time-involved cases.

Thank you for your generosity.

Warm regards,
Eve Schatz, Founder & Executive Director
Berkshire Center for Justice, Inc.
Great Barrington

Letters to the Editor

This Year, A Tenfold Effort on the High Holy Days Made Smoother with Federation’s Help

Dear Jewish Federation of the Berkshires,

On behalf of Rabbi Jodie Gordon and myself, and our congregation broadly, allow me to offer our thanks to you for your support this year in making the High Holy Days happen.

I found myself saying often that this was a High Holy Days like none other. The circumstances around COVID required that we create new sanctuaries for the Sacred Bevies. In a typical year of health and wellbeing. Again, I send gratitude for the ongoing partnership between Hevreh and the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires.

Sincerely,
Rabbi Neil P.G. Hirsch
Hevreh of Southern Berkshire
Great Barrington

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Tea Tasting with Master Tea Blender Michael Harney

On Monday, December 7 at 6:45 p.m. join master tea blender and buyer Michael Harney of Harney & Sons Fine Teas in Millerton (NY) as he shares his love of tea and knowledge about its history, cultivation, production, and marketing.

This Jewish Federation of the Berkshires program will be presented via Zoom. Please type jewishberkshires.org/harneyteas in your Web browser to access the registration page.

Harney will discuss the history of tea, an aromatic beverage commonly prepared by pouring hot or boiling water over cured or fresh leaves of the Camellia sinensis, an evergreen shrub native to East Asia. He’ll explain what makes each variety unique.

Harney & Sons offers over 500 varieties of the high quality, Fair Trade Certified™ teas sourced from the finest tea regions around the world.

Michael Harney has been the tea taster, master tea buyer, and blender at Harney & Sons for 30 years. He has traveled around the globe looking for the best teas to deliver to his customers. His years of exploring and tasting fine wines have also served him well as a tea taster with a discriminating palate.
Your Federation Presents

Take a Curated (Virtual) Tour of The Jewish Museum
“Chagall, Lissitzky, Malevich: The Russian Avant-Garde in Vitebsk, 1918-1922”

On Monday, November 23 at 4 p.m., learn about artwork from The Jewish Museum in New York City without leaving home. Educator Jenna Weiss presents a talk titled “Chagall, Lissitzky, Malevich: The Russian Avant-Garde in Vitebsk, 1918-1922.” This Jewish Federation of the Berkshires program will be presented via Zoom. Please type jewishberkshires.org/jewishmuseum in your Web browser to access the registration page. Please note: Registration is limited for this program, and slots will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Explore the bold and innovative work of Marc Chagall, El Lissitzky, Kazimir Malevich, and others, produced during a little-known but influential chapter in the history of modernity and the Russian avant-garde. An exhibition of their paintings was on view at the Jewish Museum from September 14, 2018 to January 6, 2019, and Jenna Weiss will base her talk on those works. Jenna Weiss currently serves as manager of public programs at the Jewish Museum. She is responsible for the conception and implementation of diverse and rigorous temporary exhibitions and collection-related programming for adult audiences. Weiss previously held positions at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Philadelphia and the Rose Art Museum at Brandeis University. She has taught courses in painting and drawing at Tyler School of Art, Temple University, and Caldwell College. She holds a BA in Studio Art and Art History from Brandeis University and earned her MFA in Painting at Tyler School of Art, Temple University.

The Jewish Museum is a museum at the intersection of art and Jewish culture for people of all backgrounds. Founded in 1904, the Museum was the first of its kind in the United States and one of the world’s oldest Jewish museums. The Museum maintains nearly 30,000 works of art, ceremonial objects, and media reflecting the global Jewish experience over more than 4,000 years.

Knish!
A Call to Consciousness

On Monday, November 30 at 6:45 p.m., join Laura Silver, author of Knish: In Search of the Jewish Soul Food, which was hailed by the New York Times as “a whimsical, mouth-watering, and edifying odyssey through New York neighborhoods and beyond.”

This Jewish Federation of the Berkshires program will be presented via Zoom. Please type jewishberkshires.org/knish in your Web browser to access the registration page.

It may look like a simple lump of potatoes wrapped in dough, but the knish, that quintessential Ashkenazi Jewish comfort food, embodies centuries of human experience. Round or square, fried or baked, the knish is packed with stories of struggle, survival, and triumph.

The humble pastry has links to Eleanor Roosevelt, American politics, feminism, and the hills of Western Massachusetts. Want to know more? Join us for a lively, interactive program to test your knish IQ. You’re invited to share recollections, nations and recipes. Silver will talk about history and how the knish can help us make modern-day connections across cultures and communities.

To enhance your knish experience, you may order knish in your Web browser to access the registration page.

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

A virtual workshop from The Jewish Food Society

On Monday, December 14 at 6:45 p.m., join us for a virtual workshop presented by The Jewish Food Society—“Preserving Your Family’s Culinary Heritage.” Three presenters will share strategies and help you document your family’s treasured recipes and the history behind them, the same way JFS does in its archive (visit jewishfoodso-
ciety.org). This Jewish Federation of the Berkshires program will be presented via Zoom. Please type jewishberkshires.org/cul
genary in your Web browser to access the registration page.

About the workshop

Family recipes carry with them the memories of who we were, how we celebrate, mourn, endure, and love. The presenters will offer guidance on interviewing family members, translating recipes from one generation to the next, and a how-to of this, and a ‘bissel this, and a bissel that’ into a polished keepsake for gener-
ations to come. They will also discuss why family recipes matter more than ever right now.

The format consists of an introduction to the Jewish Food Society archive led by JFS Editorial Director Devra Ferst, who writes that “Now, more than ever, it’s not only important to document your family’s history, but also to reach out and connect with older generations.” Part 2 will instruct you on how to pick a recipe and document a story. This portion of the program will be led by JFS Editorial Director Devra Ferst, who writes: “Sometimes, it’s not about the recipe that’s served on the table, but rather the one that tells the best story. Using examples from our archive, we’ll walk you through the process of picking a recipe, what ques-
tions you’ll ask, how to record your interview, how to prepare the

person you are going to interview, and what to do if your ideal subject is sadly no longer with us.” Part 3 will be a cooking session and a demonstra
tion of how to document your recipe lead by JFS Culinary Director Arielle Nir, who writes: “Using images from our past cooking sessions, we’ll walk you through how to hold your own cooking session, whether that’s in-person or over the phone. We’ll give you the tools you need to transcribe an oral recipe, document ingredients, and approximate measurements, make common substitutions, estimate yield, and what to photograph along the way.”

The presenters share work-
sheets that give you the tools you need to conduct your interview and turn an oral recipe or recipe notes into a working recipe. Inspired by the workshop, you can go back to your own family and use the workshop tools to preserve your family’s culinary heritage!

Presenters

Naama Shefi, Founder and Executive Director: With over a decade of entrepreneurial experience promoting Jewish and Israeli food programs, Naama is a leading expert in the field. After moving to New York City in 2005, she became the director of Public Programs at the Israeli consulate, where she started a new culinary department. In 2013, she launched the hit pop-up restaurant, The Kubbeh Project, which for three weeks drew hundreds of diners to a small bakery in the East Village to sample a taste of Jewish-Iraqi comfort food. In 2017, she founded The Jewish Food Society, a non-profit organization that works to preserve, celebrate, and revitalize Jewish culinary heritage through an online digital recipe archive of family recipes and dynamic public programming.

Arielle Nir Mayime, Culinary Director: Arielle worked as a project manager at The MP Shift, a hospitality design studio, and most recently as the branding and marketing manager for chef Ignacio Mattos at his restaurant group, Matter House. She is a graduate of the International Culinary Center’s Professional Culinary Arts Program. Arielle lovingly brings her family’s diverse Jewish background of Moroccan, Persian, and Israeli roots and her passion and knowledge of Jewish food, to her role at The Jewish Food Society.

Deva Ferst, Digital Recipe Archive Editor: Deva is a Brooklyn-based food writer, editor, and cooking teacher. Her work has appeared in Bon Appetit, Food & Wine, Eater, Tasting Table, NPR, and Vogue. Deva writes and edits all narrative stories on The Jewish Food Society digital recipe archive.

PJ Library Brings Warmth and Comfort to At-Risk Children

As chilly weather returns to the Berkshires, the PJ Library Pajama Drive conducted by the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires also returns to help the many children in our community who may lack the comfort of warm sleepwear. Last year’s effort collected more than 150 pairs of pajamas from individuals, groups, and local businesses. We want to build on that success.

This year, we have teamed up with Carr Hardware to offer drop-off of brand-new pajamas (sizes newborn to teen) at these convenient locations across Berkshire County:

- Carr Hardware, 256 Main Street in Great Barrington
- Carr Hardware, 489 Pittsfield Road in Lenox
- Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, 196 South Street in Great Barrington
- Carr Hardware, 179 State Road in North Adams

The Pajama Drive runs from November 10 through December 16.

Donations will be received by the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families for distribution to local families. PJ Library, in collaboration with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, is made possible in the Berkshires through the generous support of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, the Spitz Tuchman Family Fund, and the Jewish Women’s Foundation of the Berkshires.

Welcome to the Jewish Berkshires

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

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

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

JEWISHBERKSHIRES.ORG

BERKSHIRE JEWISH CONGREGATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS

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

Berkshire Hills Hadassah
P.O. Box 187, Pittsfield, MA (413) 443-4386, berkshirehillshadassah@gmail.com

Chabad of the Berkshires
450 South St., Pittsfield, MA (413) 499-5899, jewishberkshires.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, chibew.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) 477-6722

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

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

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

Your Federation Presents

Jewish Women’s Foundation of the Berkshires Awards $38,700 in New Grants To Benefit Berkshire Residents In Need

PITTSFIELD – The Jewish Women’s Foundation of the Berkshires (JWF) recently announced grant awards totaling $38,700 for 12 local organizations. Recipients needed to demonstrate the ability to maintain their programming during the pandemic and/or respond to newly-identified needs. The grants range from $8,200 to $8,500 and run for one year. Funded programs fall into three of JWF’s priority areas:

Increasing access to food, housing, and other essentials for Berkshire residents

Berkshire Baby Box, Berkshire Community Diaper Project, Berkshire Hills Regional School District Project Connection, Berkshire Grown, Construct, Roots Rising (Formerly The Alchemy Project)

Promoting self-sufficiency

Berkshire Community Foundation for Justice, Berkshire Immigrant Consent, Literacy Volunteers

Empowering Youth and Families

Berkshire Community Foundation, Israel Philatelist Society, New Jewish Adults of the Berkshires, The Jewish Women’s Foundation of the Berkshires, Women’s Fund of the Berkshires Awards

JWF celebrates its 9th anniversary in 2020, and has granted more than $38,000,000 to community organizations. JWF is committed to the Jewish mandate of Tikkun Olam – helping to repair the world and making it a better place. JWF carries out its mission by providing funding, volun-
teers, mentoring, and support services to local agencies. JWF has nearly 150 members who are passionate about giving back to the Berkshires community.

For information about the grants program, please contact Lauren Spitz, chair of the Grants Committee, at LaurenSpitz@gmail.com or visit www.jewishberkshires.org/jewish-womens-foundation.
Our Ancestors Need Us!

By Nan Bookless

Ahabath Sholom was an Orthodox Jewish congregation in Pittsfield founded in 1911 that closed in the 1990s—it should not be confused with the still-vital Congregation Ahabath Sholom in Great Barrington.

The congregation established the cemetery at 1297 Churchill Road in 1912. After the shul shut down, the congregation continued essentially as a burial society. Some families contributed $25 a year for maintenance costs, but as generations passed away, there was little, if any, money coming in.

Today, there is no formal entity “running” the cemetery. Judith Cook of Pittsfield, whose family has been in the Berkshires for more than a century, has been doing a mitzvah by hiring and paying for general clean-up through an account set up by Harris Aaronson and Don Sugerman. A few years back, Susan (Schechter) Peled, a native of Pittsfield who made aliyah to Israel, visited her parents’ gravesite at the cemetery and noticed the need for more intensive upkeep. The terrain is very uneven, stones are hardly readable, and some need stabilizing foundational work.

This cemetery is where our community’s first residents rest—both adults and children. To honor and respect our ancestors, Susan proposed that we reach out to family and friends of those buried there and the community at large to raise funds. I volunteered to be the stateside facilitator.

Susan obtained a quote of $5,000 from Rich Avers of A&A Cemetery Service, who has been doing this work at the Nessert Israel Cemetery on Pecks Road. This amount will cover all of the initial work needed—including cleaning the headstones. Given the ongoing need for seasonal clean-up, snow removal, and future stonework, we hope to raise even more. Every dollar will help!

For information on how to contribute, contact me at (413) 329-5726 or email at nan.21944@icloud.com.

For a list of those buried at Ahabath Sholom, visit bit.ly/3j1UWYv. A key to the cemetery is available at the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires.

Chanukah on Ice

A celebration in the Berkshires to spread a message of light, unity, hope, and Jewish pride

PIITTSFIELD — On Sunday, December 13, beginning at 4 p.m., Chabad of the Berkshires will host “Chanukah on Ice,” an outdoor celebration of the Festival of Lights on the fourth night of the holiday.

This event is free and open to all and will begin at 4 p.m., Chabad of the Berkshires, 196 South Street in Pittsfield.

Social distancing and all CDC and local protocols will be strictly observed. At press time, gatherings in Pittsfield were limited to 50 people.

Check the Chabad website or Federation’s calendar of events for updates. This event is free and open to all and will be illuminated.

Hosted by Chabad of the Berkshires, this event is being sponsored in part by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, Haddad Auto Dealership, and the Wasserman-Streit YDIYAH Memorial Fund.

The purpose of this event is to bring the community together for Chanukah,” said Rabbi Levi Volovik, co-director at Chabad. “Chanukah is a holiday of light and freedom, where few overcame the many, and light triumphed over darkness.

Especially in recent months where we’ve been through challenging times, we need to strengthen our Jewish pride and spread light and goodness to combat this darkness. This event demonstrates this most powerfully!

In addition, the program will feature:
• Hot drinks
• Free raffles and prizes
• Fresh hot fried doughnuts and latkes
• Dresdels
• Chocolate gelt
• Heaters and tents will be set up for the event.

For more information about “Fire on Ice,” please call (413) 499-8999 or visit www.Jewishberkshires.com.

Mah Jongg Cards to Benefit Hadassah

Mah Jongg players can order 2021 Mah Jongg cards through Berkshire Hills Hadassah, which receives part of the proceeds for each order placed through them.

The cards will be sent by the National Mah Jongg League directly to those who purchase cards and cost no more than if purchased elsewhere. Standard cards are $8.00 and large print cards are $10.00 each. (Please note the new price.)

The deadline for purchase is January 15, 2022. Please contact Helen Radin (413) 443-1349 or hradin1@gmail.com for more information on ordering cards for yourself and your friends. Checks should be made payable to BERKSHIRE HILLS HADASSAH and sent to Helen Radin, 53 Zeff Drive, Pittsfield, MA 01201.

Eight Nights of Light with Hevreh

GREAT BARRINGTON — Hevreh of Southern Berkshire will host Chanukah programs both online and in person, safely distanced.

Eight Nights of Light with Hevreh

From Thursday, December 10 to Thursday, December 17 at 6 p.m., Hevreh will light candles in a ceremony shared on Zoom. Each night will be hosted by another Hevreh family, with the chance to share the blessings for candle lighting together, songs, and stories over the course of the eight nights.

Zoom links will be sent in advance. Email info@hevreh.org to be added to the congregation’s listserv.

Chanukah Drive-In Candle Lighting and Havdalah

On Saturday, December 12 at 5 p.m., drive in to the Hevreh parking lot for a special Chanukah celebration, featuring Havdalah and candle lighting. An RNVP invitation will be sent in advance — email info@hevreh.org to be added to the congregation’s listserv.

Ongoing Events at Hevreh

All via Zoom — to get the Zoom link each week, email info@hevreh.org.

Kabbalat Shabbat Service – Fridays at 6 p.m., November 27, December 4, 11, 18, and 25

Join Rabbi Jodie Gordon and Rabbi Neil Hirsch, the traditional Reform service is welcoming and musical. Our services often feature congregant reflections and a student intern, Gabe Snyder.

Shabbat Morning Services – Saturdays at 10:30 a.m., November 28, December 5, 12, 19, and 26

Join Hevreh for a contemplative Shabbat morning experience. On some weeks, participants engage in Torah study and discussion; on some weeks there is a Shabbat morning service.

Weekly Lunch N Learns – Wednesdays at 11:40 a.m., December 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30

Join Rabbi Neil Hirsch each week as he continues to be a guide on the path of sacred learning. All are welcome, and Rabbi Hirsch says “make sure to bring a friend!”

Tot Shabbat in your PJ’s – Saturdays at 10:30 a.m., December 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30

Join the rabbis and student cantor Gabe Snyder for a lively Shabbat experience each month. All are welcome to get the Zoom link and be added to our families listserv. Email Jodie Friedman at jfriedman@hevreh.org.

Mah Jongg tiles

An ice menourah from Wisconsin

A&M Cemetery Service, who voluteered to be the stateside facilitator.

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For a list of those buried at Ahabath Sholom, visit bit.ly/3j1UWYv. A key to the cemetery is available at the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires.
HAPPY HANUKKAH!

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Elite or Lieber's Chocolate Coins
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December 4-10, 2020  |  Sale prices with your Stop & Shop card only.
A Unique Opportunity to Engage with Great Works of Modern Jewish Literature

AMHERST – The Yiddish Book Center is near the end of registration for its 2021 Great Jewish Books Book Club, which offers readers around the world a unique opportunity to read and discuss great works of modern Jewish literature together in real time. Now in its fifth year, the Book Club sends four books over the course of a year — works selected from the vast trove of modern Jewish literature, focusing on Yiddish literature. (All selections are in English.) Book Club members read selections together. The idea is to have people across the country, and around the world, reading the same book at more or less the same time — and meeting up to talk about it online.

Together, the four books offer a range of genres, themes, and diversity in the authors and backgrounds of the works. According to Mindl Cohen, the Center’s academic director, “We’re always going to pick books that make us ask complex questions about Jewish identity, history, and experience. In each book, we hope readers will find perspectives and experiences that are both familiar and relatable, as well as totally new and eye-opening.”

Act now — the deadline to register for the 2021 Great Jewish Books Book Club is November 29, 2020.

The cost for the one-year membership is $78 (which includes four books and shipping within the US). International shipping is available for an additional fee. Gift memberships may be purchased. For more information and to register online, visit register.yiddishbookcenter.org.

A New Radiocast Tells the Story of Russian Revolution ary Klara Klebanova

A 12-part episodic audio series, based on the memoir of Klara Klebanova, is now available. Klebanova’s memoir, translated from the Yiddish by Caraid O’Brien, tells the story of a middle-class Jewish teenager who becomes a Maximalist revolutionary fighting for the rights of peasants and factory workers during the first Russian Revolution of 1905.

As a Maximalist revolutionary, Klebanova was a gifted speaker who spent ten years conducting propaganda, smuggling dynamite, and “expropriating” capitalist resources from banks. Her memoir, which she began writing in 1914 after she moved with her husband, another Maximalist leader named Līpa Katz, to Boston, recounts the extraordinary details of that time and is marked by Klebanova’s sharp dialogue and keen observations.

Klara Klebanova

Klebanova’s memoir was first published serially in 1922 in the Forverts (Forvard), the world’s most widely read Yiddish newspaper, under the title Di blutige teg (The Bloody Days). The serial publication of Yiddish works before their publication as full-length books was a popular practice in Yiddish newspapers in the early to mid-twentieth century. Yiddish radio was also a popular and dynamic medium for Yiddish literary and theatrical expression, with a diverse range of programming. The Last Maximalist draws on these traditions in Yiddish culture, bringing them into the present. More radiocasts of Yiddish works in translation are planned for the future.

Twelve episodes of the serialized radiocast are being released weekly — the series started in October — and made available to listen to or download free of charge at yiddishbookcenter.org/maximalist.

Supporting the Arts, Culture, Environment, and Social Needs in the Berkshires Since 1984

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Financial Assistance Available

No one could have anticipated the financial impact this pandemic would have. The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires has provided a safety net for our Jewish community for more than 80 years and we are here to help individuals and families through this difficult time.

The Federation is offering one-time financial assistance to help Jewish community members struggling with essential needs such as food, utilities, mortgage and rent. Additional critical needs may be considered. Interest free loans are also available.

Any Jewish community member who has been impacted financially by the pandemic may be eligible. You do not have to belong to a synagogue or be part of the Federation to apply. Requests will be assessed on a case by case basis and are per household. All inquiries regarding assistance will be kept strictly confidential.

To inquire about assistance please visit jewishberkshires.org/covid19-assist

The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires
The Strength of a People. The Power of Community.
Life Can Present Challenges
Sometimes, a little help along the way can make things easier

Our community social worker, Jill Goldstein, LCSW, offers case management, information/referral and consultation to help Jewish community members find support and access to services to help with such needs as:

- Coping with life’s transitions
- Aging and caregiving issues
- Relationship difficulties
- Adjustment to new living situation
- Living with illness
- Grief and loss
- Depression or anxiety

If you are struggling with one of these or other issues, Jill can help you find community resources to assist you. Jill has a Master’s degree in social work (MSW) and is licensed as an independent clinical social worker (LCSW).

If you or someone you know needs a little help, give us a call:
Jill Goldstein, MSW, LCSW
(413) 442-4360, Ext 17
j.goldstein@jfswm.org

All services are free and completely confidential

Villages of the Berkshires

Bringing a national grassroots movement fostering interpersonal connections to the Berkshires

Villages of the Berkshires is a local non-profit organization that is a part of the national Village-to-Village network, a grassroots movement of older Americans who wish to remain active and in their homes as they age. Operating on a membership and volunteer model, each local Village – there are 2,730 nationwide – addresses the specific needs of its community, providing interpersonal connection and access to resources and services to those who join.

Howard and Shirley Shapiro of Lenox started Villages of the Berkshires (villagesoftheberkshires.org) in 2019. The couple has long been active in the Jewish community, and Howard (by training a clinical psychologist and who worked in the non-profit sector as president of United Ways in Michigan and New Jersey) has held leadership roles at Temple Anshe Amunim and the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. Shirley worked in learning disabilities teacher consultant, and professional advocate. The Shapiros say they undertook the Villages project because they recognized that there was a clear need for it in Berkshire County, where approximately 40 percent of the population is 50 years of age or older. They’ve worked to obtain grants and other funding sources, partner with local groups, and engage with the community to obtain new members and volunteers.

The BJV spoke with Howard and Shirley Shapiro about Villages in the Berkshires in October. The interview has been edited for length and clarity.

BJV: Part of your motivation for starting The Villages of the Berkshires came from reading the book Being Mortal by Atul Gawande. What about the book affected you?

Howard Shapiro: The book dealt mostly with fundamental medical kinds of issues of how we live our lives as we grow older from the perspective of illnesses or end-of-life concerns. Gawande also writes about his father, who lives in Athens, Ohio, having contracted cancer and his recovery. After he came home, the family learned about a ‘Villages-to-Village’ in Athens, which is how I found out about the concept. The first one was in Boston, Beacon Hill Village. Shirley and I looked into this and it was at a time when we were thinking to ourselves, What are we going to do? Are we staying in this house? Do we need to look for different kinds of living arrangements like assisted living or a senior residence? We really love our home and want to remain here, but we knew that we, over time, would lack the ability to manage some things, whether that was doing something in the house or perhaps driving ourselves. And so as we explored the Villages, we learned that this was happening all over the country.

Shirley Shapiro: One of the things that prompted us to think about putting together something like the Villages was that we have no young family around. Our children and grandchildren live far away, and should we need somebody [in an emergency], it’s particularly scary. But other reasons are mundane kinds of things that we all face in running a household. It’s important that we think carefully about how we’re going to structure our lives for the next few years.

BJV: Do you find that people think ahead, or mostly just live their lives until something happens that presents them from doing what they want to do?

Howard Shapiro: People don’t want to face it and we didn’t want to face it. One of the biggest issues we have about finding members is the number of people we meet who will say to us, we’re not ready for that yet. And in many ways that is probably true – but our concern was if we didn’t do something about setting up [Villages of the Berkshires] that it wouldn’t be here when we did need it.

But you know, some of that has changed a little bit since we started because of COVID-19 and the fact that people are isolated and staying at home. As such, they’ve dealt with the idea that maybe they do need something like this.

Shirley Shapiro: From our members, we’re learning more and more about many kinds of needs that had to be filled. Almost daily, people will call in and ask, ‘Do you have a person who can help me learn to develop my computer skills?’ Do you have anybody who will drive me if I have to visit a friend on the other side of the county? Is there anybody who can pick up groceries for me or medications at the pharmacy?’ A lot of needs are coming to the fore, and we are looking at each other in the early stages of this Village and saying we need some people who will volunteer. We need young people. We need our membership to volunteer in certain ways. We have to be ready with certain kinds of solutions to the needs that are being brought to our attention.

BJV: Please explain the concept of membership. I see that it’s cost-effective – $360 annually for an opportunity membership for Villages-to-Village network. We get so many questions from other communities that are interested from our membership fees. What are we going to do with that money, we will put money aside for people who can’t afford the membership fees. Beacon Hill Village was getting so many questions from other communities that they actually founded the Village-to-Village network. We joined with what is called an opportunity membership for $150, and they have a vast array of materials. It helped us save so many hours of work just following their toolkit and...

SHAPIROS, continued on next page

LOCAL NEWS

ALARMS OF BERKSHIRE COUNTY

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working through that process as well.
We decided to start with a Village that includes Pittsfield, Lenox, Lee, and Stockbridge. We envision that we will be what is known in the Village movement as a “Hub and spoke” where Villages of the Berkshires will be the hub, but other villages will develop and become part of us. We will be the administrative arm, and that’s already started a little bit in South County. We held information sessions and have a list of over 200 people who have shown interest either as volunteers, members, or both.

BJV: You developed a partnership with OLLI (The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Berkshire Community College), which led to your receiving a grant from the federal government.

Howard Shapiro: We formed a partnership with OLLI early on because we knew that most other Villages around the country were doing things in the area of education and socialization, and we knew that here [in the Berkshires], we already had an organization doing that and it didn’t make any sense to duplicate what they were doing.

A grant we received early on from the Tufts Health Plan Foundation allowed us to hire a part-time program director, and she’s beginning to get the word out, as well.

BJV: If all goes well, how do you see this developing in the next 5 years? What has to happen in order for your concept to succeed, and what is your vision of success?

Howard Shapiro: That is not an easy question to answer in light of what’s happening all around us at this point. I guess my vision would be that in five years, there would be, say, 3 or 4 villages around the Berkshires, all part of us. That we would have a membership from all those sources that numbered somewhere around 300 to 400 people. That we would have developed a sponsorship program that businesses were contributing to that would help us bring in members who had less ability to support us and that we have some regular grant funds coming in. That we would have intergenerational involvement with the Villages of the Berkshires.

Shirley Shapiro: In a way, the pandemic has created an opportunity for Villages because people will recognize that they will need some help. I hear people saying now, for example, I don’t want to ever go into a nursing home if I’m going to face the problem of a disease that could affect me that way. I’ve heard that more often since COVID-19 than I ever heard before. People are hibernating in the trustiest sense, because of their fears. It’s really an overwhelming kind of tragedy. It’s been especially tough for people who live by themselves. One of our focus groups before COVID-19 showed that one of the biggest concerns people expressed was isolation and the lack of socialization and loneliness. Isolation is one of the biggest concerns among seniors, and we have started finding ways for them to communicate with others—a simple thing that we call ‘the 6-Foot Stroll,’ where we have walks for our members where they can keep a distance from each other. Even at that distance, they are able to communicate with each other, and some tell us how wonderful it’s been to be in the presence of other people for a little bit of their day.

Howard Shapiro: You know, independence was considered the key toaging successfully for so many years. We’re not thinking like that anymore because some of that independence just isn’t going to happen for some people, but we want them to be able to talk about their own lives and how the Village can fill in some of those difficult decisions that they have to face, perhaps as they begin to live alone.

I want to talk about this as a community effort, not just for older people. There’s a role for everybody in this. We didn’t put on how old you have to be to join, as many Villages have, because we felt there were people in the long term who want to join who still have families at home. We might be able to have volunteers who could be of help once we get back to normal schooling, for example, for families with two parents who are working and might need somebody to be available to be there to pick up the kids at the bus stop and be with them until someone gets home. So that’s the other side of the kinds of things Villages could do in the future; though we have focused on services for people who are older adults, that’s not the way it has to remain. I want to encourage people to understand that there couldn’t be anything better than creating some intergenerational communication between people in this environment from a volunteer point of view.

For more information, visit Villages of the Berkshires’ website at villagesofthe-berkshires.org, or call (413) 527-4404. For information on the national Village-to-Village movement, visit vitnetwork.org.
Definitive Whim
How Hayley Sumner of Berkshire HorseWorks left Hollywood’s glamour behind and became an equine therapist in the Berkshires

By Albert Stern / BJV Editor

If there is a linear career path to becoming an equine therapy practitioner, Hayley Sumner does not seem to have taken it, though when she tells her story, somehow everything fits.

“This self-described ‘nice Jewish girl’ is the founder and director of Berkshire HorseWorks in Richmond, a nonprofit organization that since 2013 has offered workshops and programs designed to work out human issues from workday corporate team building to severe emotional trauma through interactions with horses.

The serene hillside ranch sits on seven bucolic acres where these human/ equine psychodramas play out is worlds away from the psychodrama that Sumner left behind with her early career in the fast-paced, high-stakes, and often cutthroat world of public relations. While still in her 20s, Sumner rose to its heights, first as an executive at the influential Howard J. Rubenstein Associates and then partnering with Dan Klores to start what is now one of the powerhouse PR firms in the United States. Sumner served as a senior vice president of the firm’s entertainment division and opened its West Coast office. “My niche was really big entertainment companies with top leaders,” she says. “I was always in the nonprofit world, so when the tech industries got hot. However, ‘My heart was broken. And I realized that I felt I was put here for.’

Nevertheless, she ‘was never really at home. I loved the corporate work but was never really a red carpet publicist person.’ She better enjoyed signing new clients, pursuing large and emerging businesses in the technology and medical sectors as those industries got hot. However, ‘My heart was always in the nonprofit world, so we would do a lot of pro bono work. I would just, you know, get that thing out, Sumner moved to the Berkshires, where she had gone to school and a water bowl. She lived then on the ocean in the Topanga Canyon section of Los Angeles County, a rugged and scenic bohemian enclave (the upscale kind) on the edge of the Santa Monica Mountains, ‘and one day just said, I couldn’t do it,’ she remembers. ‘I love the ocean and loved all of that about California and then I was done.’ She broke up with a boyfriend with whom she was building a house, purchased a big recreational vehicle, and with her dog Brando, a 125-pound rottweiller that was also a therapy dog, ‘started driving cross country in the RV, trying to think of what I wanted to do. If I didn’t want to be in PR in LA.

What it is that really gets me going in the morning, and my motto in life, is ‘definitive whim.’ Like, have playfulness in your life – definitive whim. Yeah, have playful light. Playfulness. Explore. Frolic. But make decisions – don’t waffle. And thus, Sumner set out on the winding journey east in a large recreational vehicle, with a stop to work with Brando on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in Montana, a state she says ‘is my soul.’ This cross-country trek would eventually lead her to the Berkshires, where she had gone to Camp Taconic in Hinsdale.

Sumner’s parents divorced when she was six – she recalls that her mother, a textile designer, vacationed at the hotel where her father, a school principal, preferred the mountains. In the Bronx, her father took her on pony rides in Van Cortlandt Park, and in the Berkshires, he took her to auctions, letting her hold the bidding paddle. “So I would just, you know, get that thing in your stomach.” “Those experiences, she recounts, prepared her for her first professional involvement with horses. ‘I wound up in Kentucky.’ Sumner says. ‘Mind you, I’m on heartbeat from the breakup. I have my rottweiler therapy dog and I get to this horse auction. I’ve been on the road for five months and I was still consulting with a PR firm, and I drove up to valet parking, and they’re looking at me like I’m insane. I go inside, and for the next two days, I was listening and watching people who are bidding on horses and how they were picking them and what makes sense.”

‘I’m thinking, “Oh, I can buy Kentucky-bred babies and flip them in Southern California.” I didn’t know that was called pinhooking – a sleazy business, right, but I didn’t know that – and I think. ‘Oh, that’s an entrepreneurial way to get into a different business and still say where there’s beaches and happiness. ‘So, I was looking and looking in the paddocks and listening to stories of horse owners, and by the end of this, all of these people who were there, and I saw this little six-month-old yearling. And she was a Storm Cat baby, one of his last babies. (Storm Cat was of one of the horse racing’s all-time leading sires – Ed.) The auction numbers weren’t moving really quickly and she wasn’t the prettiest, but she really looked smart.’

Sumner decided to buy the young horse and moved to Kentucky to learn about the racing business, living at first in worker’s quarters on a sprawling rusticated farm. “I call my mom, my nice Jewish mother,” Sumner remembers. “She’s like, ‘You’re out of your mind,’ and slams the phone down on me.” She broke in by walking one-year-old horses at a horse farm, the only ‘little Jewish girl from New York’ doing a job performed mostly by Mexican men who ‘didn’t know I could speak Spanish’ and who tested her by giving her the hardest to manage animals. It allowed her to bond with her own horse, which she named Definitive Whim. In Kentucky, she started equine therapy work as a volunteer for Central Kentucky Riding for Hope, and that’s where she first learned about the Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association (EGALA). The group helps people with mental health and behavioral challenges. Sumner says she got certified in EGALA therapy for her own personal growing. So, she thought Definitive Whim might want to be a therapy horse.

But Definitive Whim’s Storm Cat genes came to the fore, and she “wound up racing.” Sumner says. “She ran with crazy about ‘one of her horses’ and then ‘the sheikh of Dubai, the sultan of ‘this cross-country trek would eventually lead her to the Berkshires, where she had gone to Camp Taconic in Hinsdale.”

She got certified in EGALA therapy for her own personal growing. So, she thought Definitive Whim might want to be a therapy horse.

Hayley Sumner (left) riding her horse, Spirt, at the Berkshire HorseWorks ranch in Richmond
she fondly remembered from her days as a camper. “But as soon as I moved here, I got breast cancer,” she says. “And then my dog Brando got cancer. And my stepsister got diagnosed and her husband, all in nine days, totally random. So that was a game-changer for me. At the time, I would never even acknowledge that I had breast cancer because I didn’t want to be known as one of those people and have people in a new community treating me like that. I was so focused on getting my dog healthy. So Brando was going through chemo, I was going through radiation, we were going down to New York City for five days at a time. So I said, ‘What am I going to do? Here I went through the three surgeries, five weeks of radiation, and went through all the chemo with my dog. I lost my stepsister because her cancer spread. And I said, ‘I got to finally do what my heart has been calling me to do.’”

She made the acquaintance of Carl Dunham, then the owner of the Berkshire Equestrian Center in Richmond, who supported her ambitions by letting her use the farm’s training facility. Kismet soon struck again when her hairdresser told her about a rescue horse that was available for adoption. Sumner was smitten by the five-year-old blue-eyed “medicine hat” horse (a mostly white horse with a colored patch on its head) – “the most mystical of horses for the Blackfeet Indians,” she says – named Spirit, who originally came from Montana.

Everything about Spirit spoke to her, she says, but it took the horse three weeks to warm to her. “I would put a chair in the field, and every other horse would come up to me except that one. And that took patience. Patience is not necessarily my virtue and I work on it every day.” Eventually, Spirit came around and Berkshire HorseWorks was started in 2013.

Sumner explains that equine therapy is predicated on the ideas of cognitive behavioral therapy. “It’s a solution-focused and strength-based, which means we believe that clients have the answers if given the space to solve a problem themselves. The client referred by a mental health professional may have a clinical diagnosis and a therapeutic goal, while corporate clients may be looking to add complementary offerings at the ranch, and is working hard to develop the facility further. “Everything touches everyone here,” says Sumner about the Berkshires, “and everyone is so passionate about things. There are so many generations and my hope is that it will be like an intergenerational therapeutic camp, that people don’t look at as a place only for psychotherapy. We’re trying now to collaborate with different practitioners, and that’s to help financially sustain us through, but also, I think it was really in my business goal to be more well-rounded that way.”

That work, and the effort involved in running a horse farm generally, are labor-intensive and unremitting, but Sumner and her staff are persevering through this time of pandemic and looking forward to the future. “I don’t know how else to explain it. I love it. If I had five seconds, you’d see how exhausted I am. If I had five seconds to actually sit and appreciate and breathe, which is challenging when you’re a single person in this environment. There’s a s***load of work.”

Berkshire HorseWorks, organized as a nonprofit, has provided programs for a host of local businesses and community groups and has recently hosted workshops for healthcare workers stressed out during the coronavirus pandemic. Ultimately, Sumner wants to add complementary offerings at the ranch, and is working hard to develop the facility further. “Everything touches everyone here,” says Sumner about the Berkshires, “and everyone is so passionate about things. There are so many generations and my hope is that it will be like an intergenerational therapeutic camp, that people don’t look at as a place only for psychotherapy. We’re trying now to collaborate with different practitioners, and that’s to help financially sustain us through, but also, I think it was really in my business goal to be more well-rounded that way.”

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For more information on Berkshire HorseWorks, visit berkshirehorseworks.com, or call (413) 698-3700. Berkshire HorseWorks is at 101 Patton Road in Richmond.

**LOCAL NEWS**

**Horses** are highly intuitive: they need to know if they can trust you or not at the moment. So they are mirrors to the body, to what’s happening inside us.

During the cold winter months, many children in the Berkshires go to sleep cold, without the comfort of warm pajamas.

To meet this critical need we are running a community-wide pajama drive.

Pajamas will be distributed to families across the Berkshires by the MA Dept of Children and Families.

**PJ Library Drive**

**November 10 – December 16**

This year we have teamed up with Carr Hardware to offer drop off of brand-new pajamas (sizes newborn to teen) at these convenient locations:

- Carr Hardware, Great Barrington
- Carr Hardware, Lenox
- Jewish Federation, Pittsfield
- Carr Hardware, North Adams

Monetary donations towards the purchase of PJs are also welcome. Questions? Contact Susan Frisch Lehrer (413) 442-4360, ext. 14 slehrer@jewishberkshires.org

**Donate ~ Volunteer ~ Make a Difference**
Happy Chanukah!

**Chanukah Begins Sunset December 10, 2020**

**Sale Effective Nov. 19, 2020 - Dec. 18, 2020**

**In Our Produce Dept.**
- **Royal Gala Apples**
  - Great for Applesauce!
  - 1 lb

**In Our Seafood Dept.**
- **Vita Wild Nova Salmon**
  - 3 oz, Previously Frozen
  - 449

**In Our Bakery Dept.**
- **Zomick’s Medium Challah**
  - 12 oz
  - 599

- **Lilly’s Rugelach**
  - 12 oz, Choose from Apricot, Chocolate, Raspberry or Cinnamon

- **Zomick’s Jelly Donuts**
  - or Custard
  - or Caramel, 16 to 19 oz

- **Lilly’s Supreme Babka**
  - 16 oz, Chocolate or Cinnamon
  - 599

**In Our Grocery Aisles**
- **Manischewitz Chocolate Coins**
  - .53 oz, All Varieties
  - 3 for $1

- **Tabatchnick Soup Mix**
  - 6 oz, All Varieties
  - 2 for $4

- **Paskesz Dreidel**
  - Single Count
  - 1.29

- **Streit’s Chanukah Candles**
  - 44 Count
  - 99 cents

**In Our Floral Dept.**
- **Majestic Blooms Bouquet**
  - A soft, charming floral bouquet which exudes warmth and light in celebration of the season.
  - 12.99

**In Our Deli Dept.**
- **Acme Herring in Wine**
  - or Herring in Cream or with Dill, 12 oz
  - 4.99

- **Empire Frozen Turkey**
  - 2.99 lb

- **Manischewitz Soup Mix**
  - 6 oz, All Varieties
  - 2 for $4

**Big Y Website:** bigy.com

Use your Big Y Membership to save on all items in this ad.
Israel’s Gadfin UAV’s (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) and drone producer was the first company in the world to receive the Israeli Civil Aviation Authority permit for urban airspace deliveries this year. That permit means that Gadfin can compete for tenders that provide a glimpse into the near future. Under this vision, hospitals, laboratories and a range of organizations will send and receive supplies via drone transport networks, skipping over-congested roads and reducing risk to sensitive, refrigerated packages.

Gadfin co-founder and CEO Eyal Regev explains: “Train Gadfin means ‘two wings’ [in Aramaic],” said Regev, who has been studying Kaballahistic interpretations of the book of Zohar for 15 years on the side. “One wing represents the desires, abilities and the ego of a person, and the second represents the wisdom to use all of one’s abilities for good. If these abilities are used for good, a person can develop spiritually.”

Thus the name of the company was born. Gadfin was founded in 2018 together with Ran Kleinner, a former innovation manager at IAI, and Ilan Yuval, a leading logistics expert.

During his time at IAI, Regev’s roles included managing research and development of large-scale UAV systems, as well as heading the vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) and multi-rotor programs. In 2006, he was the first to propose and implement the concept of delivering medical supplies via a drone. “I conducted market research and saw that this was a big potential market,” said Regev. “I established this as a department in IAI.” Later, he wanted to deepen his involvement in this field and develop new types of advanced technology that went “beyond delivering sushi to someone’s home.”

While the vision of food deliveries via drone will likely become a reality, he said, a larger problem exists in this area, described by Regev—in short, as “optimization.”

“When we look at the world, we see that most areas are in the periphery. Most peripheral areas are very much lacking the services that city centers enjoy. It’s true for Southeast Asia, it’s true for Africa. It’s true for South America, but also for the Middle East. This applies to many services. Medical tests, for example, have short lifespans and need to reach destinations quickly,” he explained.

“We brought together the best plane in the world – the best plane builders, experts in complex materials, top professors of aerodynamics, flight control and avionics – and managed to get to a platform that can stand up to strong winds, and be the only vehicle in the world in this category that takes off vertically like a UAV before folding out wings and flying like a plane. For hundreds of miles,” he said. “This is the ‘Spirit One’. No other UAV does this.”

No other UAV does this.

In March, Gadfin began its first drone delivery service in Israel, moving high-priority medicine parts from a logistics company warehouse to an HP Indigo integration line. The 91 line productivity machines need some 60 components per day on an 8-hour basis, and Gadfin installed its systems on a small UAV to begin testing out its delivery model as an alternative to land transport. The service stopped due to disruptions to clients caused by the coronavirus, but the precedent had been achieved.

The Israeli Transport Ministry has launched a program called “Na’ama,” which envisages a drone-connectivity network linking most hospitals within two years. Even a relatively short logistics route from Tel Aviv’s Sourasky Medical Center to the Em Kerem Hospital near Jerusalem could save much time if it becomes aerial since the highways and roads that link the two locations are often congested.

Gadfin has applied for a tender to supply four aerial routes between hospital in northern Israel, and is due to receive a response soon. “We hope that within two years, we can connect Israeli hospitals. This could speed up deliveries of sensitive medical supplies like bone marrow transplants. These are highly complex and expensive deliveries on land,” said Regev. “Instead of having doctors or nurses stand up to the delivery to make sure the taxi doesn’t stop on the sun, our aircraft will do that for them or hospital in minutes.”

In Africa, the need could not be more acute and includes the need to quickly transport basic medical supplies and essential donations. Far too many people in Africa and Asia die every year because of such logistical pitfalls.

“We searched for the technological breakthrough that could get through the obstacles holding ground transport,” said Regev. “The first is the ability to fly long distances cheaply, efficiently and safely electronically.”

“Electrical engines are a must, he said, since the world is moving away from noisy, polluting engines, which are in any case less reliable. Regev secured unique patents in IAI, and then a few additional patents after founding Gadfin. He put together a team to map out the breakthrough.

“We brought together the best team in Israel, possibly the world – the best plane builders, experts in complex materials, top professors of aerodynamics, flight control and avionics – and managed to get to a platform that can stand up to strong winds, and be the only vehicle in the world in this category that takes off vertically like a UAV before folding out wings and flying like a plane. For hundreds of miles,” he said. “This is the ‘Spirit One’. No other UAV does this.”

No need for personnel on the ground

All of these capabilities have been met while still upholding the most stringent safety standards, he stressed. “We are in touch with huge companies in Southeast Asia, including in Indonesia, which wants to connect its array of 13,000 islands. This is a revolution, and it’s available at very low cost.”

The company is also currently developing a larger unmanned aircraft able to carry up to 100 kilograms. This “will enable the revolutionizing of the distribution of mailbags and packages throughout Israel, reducing delivery time down to several hours – much faster than anywhere else in the world,” said Regev.

In September, Gadfin announced an investment and collaboration agreement with Israeli energy giant ENEL, the world’s largest electricity infrastructure company, through its InfraLab innovation lab. The agreement is aimed at developing powerline inspection solutions and enabling drone surveys of 800,000 km of the company’s voltage lines, starting in Brazil.

Gadfin is conducting surveys for the Aquo oil corp., searching for gas and oil leaks from pipelines. Logistics, however, is the biggest market, said Regev, estimating its worth at $90 billion.

Gadfin is currently developing robotic ground stations, which will remove packages from landing drones and refuel them using hydrogen fuel cells. “There is no need for personnel on the ground. These can be integrated into stations, extending the flight range,” he said. “A single control room can automatically manage tens of vehicles.”

“Spirit One” works with cellular network operators and SAT communications. It features an emergency parachute system that meets the U.S. safety standard for allowing drones to fly over populated areas, said Regev.

It recently completed a simulation for Walmart in Texas, showing how it can connect 26 company locations and keep them supplied 24/7.

With more contracts likely in the future, it appears as if Gadfin will continue to soar and make the reality of drone supply networks imminent.

No other UAV does this.

‘This is a Revolution’: Israeli Drone Company Plans for Worldwide Aerial-Supply Networks

Gadfin, or ‘nings’ in Aramaic – its flagship aircraft hovers like a UAV and folds out wings to fly like a plane – is hoping to connect Israeli hospitals with drone supply networks and has its sights set on providing essential services in remote Third World locations.

By Yaakov Lapin / JNS

Israel’s Gadfin UAV’s (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) and drone producer was the first company in the world to receive the Israeli Civil Aviation Authority permit for urban airspace deliveries this year. That permit means that Gadfin can compete for tenders that provide a glimpse into the near future. Under this vision, hospitals, laboratories and a range of organizations will send and receive supplies via drone transport networks, skipping over-congested roads and reducing risk to sensitive, refrigerated packages.

In an interview with JNS, Gadfin CEO Eyal Regev, a former senior manager at Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), shed light on the remarkable origins of the company’s name.

“Train Gadfin means ‘two wings’ [in Aramaic],” said Regev, who has been studying Kaballahistic interpretations of the book of Zohar for 15 years on the side. “One wing represents the desires, abilities and the ego of a person, and the second represents the wisdom to use all of one’s abilities for good. If these abilities are used for good, a person can develop spiritually.”

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Alan Morganstein, 87, never-ending commitment to helping those in need

JUPITER, FL – Alan Morganstein, 87, died on Wednesday, September 30 in Jupiter, FL. He had lived in Jupiter for two years. Alan was extremely proud to have served his country in a number of capacities. After returning stateside, he joined the first class at Columbia University to receive an International Business graduate degree.

Alan met his wife Toby through a friend on a blind date and proposed after only three dates! Truly, love at first sight. Recently, after celebrating their 60th anniversary, Alan revealed to friends and family that the secret to his “love affair” with his wife was simple: compassion, compromise, and respect – words his family knows he lived by every day of his life.

Alan built his business career, first working at Olivetti-Underwood Corporation in Hartford, CT, then moving to Rockville Centre, NY in 1960, where he worked for Xerox for 24 years. He rose through the ranks of Xerox to become the product manager of the color copier, the first of its kind in the industry. He had the vision and marketing acumen to bring this product to life. After and marketing acumen to bring this product to life. After

His endeavors and passions beyond, stand out as in the Jewish community as a hobby of stamp collecting, traveling the world, his lifelong copier industry.

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Connecting with Community

Nourish Your Body, Mind, and Soul!

In response to coronavirus guidelines...
As of press time, all in-person Connecting With Community programming has been canceled. For the most up-to-date information and details on virtual programming, please visit our website www.jewishberkshires.org to sign up for our eblasts to receive a weekly listing of online opportunities.

Meals-on-Wheels & Meals to Go – Advance Reservation Required
Kosher lunch will be prepared on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. Meals to go will be ready by noon for pickup at the Knesset Israel kitchen door, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield.
All meals-on-wheels will be delivered by Federation volunteers in the early afternoon.
Please call (413) 442-2200 no later than 9 a.m. to reserve your meal for pickup and to arrange delivery if standing instructions are not in place. All are welcome to reserve meals for pick-up, although delivery may be limited in certain circumstances.
The menus listed below are planned, but may be modified depending on availability of ingredients. When making a reservation, please inform us if a person in your party has a food allergy.

Adults 60 and over: $7 per person
Adults under 60: $10 per person
Volunteers are Vital! Volunteer drivers who can deliver meals-on-wheels are always appreciated. Please call Susan Frisch Lehrer at (413) 442-4360, ext. 14. The Federation’s kosher hot lunch program is offered in collaboration with Elder Services of Berkshire County.

What’s for Lunch?

# Dairy Free, ** Gluten Free Main Entrée
For more information on specific programs please see “Your Federation Presents” section of this paper.

**NOURISHING MEALS WITH LIFE-SUSTAINING TASTES**

NOVEMBER
Monday, 23............Stir fried chicken**#, egg drop soup, hash browns, Brussels sprouts, challah, fruit cocktail, and tea.
Tuesday, 24............Meat chill with “cheese”, brown rice, salad, corn bread, dessert TBA, and tea.
Thursday, 26............Closed for Thanksgiving

DECEMBER
Tuesday, 1............Roasted chicken**#, vegetable soup, hash browns, Brussels sprouts, challah, fruit cocktail, and tea.
Tuesday, 3............Dairy delights, salad, squash medley, Italian bread, chocolate chunk cookies, and tea.
Monday, 7............Meat loaf**#, chicken noodle soup, peas & carrots, mashed potatoes, egg bread, apricot cots, and tea.
Tuesday, 8............Beef barley stew#, mixed vegetables, potato bread, applesauce, and tea.
Thursday, 10............Fish sticks & tartar sauce#, mushroom soup, sweet potato fries, mixed vegetables, hamburger roll, pineapple, and tea.

December 14............Roasted root vegetable & goat cheese pizza, salad, tropical fruit salad, and tea.
December 15............Shepherd’s pie**#, salad, pumpernickel bread, mandarin oranges, and tea.
Thursday, 17............Apricot glazed chicken**#, celery rice soup, lattes & applesauce, roasted cauliflower & broccoli, salad, challah, brownies, and tea.
Monday, 21............Meatballs & sour cherries, zucchini rice soup, noodles, peas, farmer’s loaf, apricots, and tea.
Tuesday, 22............Turkey pot pie#, vegetable soup, rice, mixed vegetables, oat bread, grapes, and tea.
Thursday, 24............Macaroni & cheese, salad, stewed tomatoes, whole wheat bread, raspberry cookies, and tea.
Monday, 28............Stir fried chicken**#, egg drop soup, rice, Oriental vegetables, white bread, pineapple, and tea.
Tuesday, 29............Salisbury steak**#, oven browned potatoes, roasted vegetables, salad, rye bread, dessert TBA, and tea.
Thursday, 31............“Seafood” linguine, Italian blend vegetables, salad, garlic bread, baklava, and tea.

Homebound or recovering from an illness or injury?
Let us help you arrange for a kosher lunch to be delivered through our Kosher Meals on Wheels Program. Call (413) 442-4360, ext 17

The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires has teamed up with the Williams College Jewish Association to offer “Caring Pals” this winter! Interested older adults can be connected with diverse college students to develop a friendly relationship through phone calls, emails, cards, letters, and/or musical or artistic exchanges. Participation is first come, first served, based on student availability.

INTERESTED? Contact Susan Frisch Lehrer at (413) 442-4360, ext. 14, or slehrer@jewishberkshires.org
One of the great pleasures of the cockamamie summer of 2020 was that my son and I were able to play a lot of golf together. Eliot was experiencing the early terrible teens (he turned 14 in August) and we had been going at it for months, him and me – nothing beyond what can be reasonably expected at his age, but mightily painful nonetheless. On the golf course, however, we were cool.

It was nice to be playing golf at all – I had been on a five-year hiatus, more or less, due to a prolonged period of being unwell. Before I understood that I was sick, my golf game got royally screwed up – I went from being a respectable golfer looking to break 90 to a bewildered hacker who could not make a decent drive and crisp iron shots.

By Albert Stern / BJV Editor

TREVINO (as quoted by Albert Stern):

Metaphorically, I was losing my grip on lots of things in the summer of 2020, but on the golf course, it was literally so. Metaphorically, I was able to put a good face on things, but on the golf course, my psychological turmoil was literally all out in the open.

I wasn’t playing golf so much as having a succession of 18-hole mental breakdowns in front of my son and golfing buddies, interspersed with traumatic practice sessions that compounded my frustration. The shame of that was that putting twice for a par.

True. On my backswing, I felt as if my hands were losing their connection to the club, and yanking the ball left – the dreaded “duck hook.”

Trevino famously observed, “You can talk to a fade,” Lee Trevino famously observed, “but a hook won’t listen.”

Next time out, however, something in my mind clicked in. Metaphorically, I was losing my grip on lots of things in the summer of 2020, but on the golf course, it was literally so. I immediately reminded myself to commit to the fix. Trusting it, I hit a pure swing with a pitching wedge to the green, then putted twice for a par.

Dr. Andrew Pattick, owner and audiologist at Greylock Audiology, is a state licensed doctor of audiology with more than 17 years of experience serving the Berkshire community. He proudly established Greylock Audiology and FYZICAL Pittsfield to meet the local need for integrated Audiology and Physical Therapy care that maximizes quality of life through better hearing, balance and overall health.

Dr. Andrew Pattick

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Dr. Trevor Marcotte is a doctor of Physical Therapy and brings highly specialized training in vestibular (balance) rehabilitation and orthopedic physical therapy. At FYZICAL Pittsfield, you will experience an individualized, supportive approach to physical therapy. We not only practice physical therapy, but we live and breathe it to ensure our expertise translates into maximum results for you.

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I knew that where he was at, a few weeks shy of his fourteenth birthday. I was such a shmeshk – in fact, the biggest. What pleased me was that he was able to observe firsthand how fragile and powerful the human mind can be, how unruly and yet tamable are our psyches, and how heavy mental shackles can be slipped in an instant via a flash of insight and one decisive action. Sometimes it happens when you let go and let God, sometimes it happens when you let go and let golf, but then suddenly, everything is different.

What also meant something is how, despite our recent tussles, he was clearly happy for me, palpably relieved that I had stopped struggling – not that he actually said anything about it, or even mentioned the change in my game. But by my lights, compassion and a guyish laconic manner are both positive traits.

In the weeks that followed, Eliot and I continued to practice and play together – both of us improving. Then, in late August, he said: "Dad, I'm hitting my drives as long as yours." "No, Eliot," I told him, "you're not." "Dad, I am." We arrived at the 13th hole, a short par 4 of 320 yards with a skinny fairyway and out of bounds all along the left side. It has always fit my eye. Eliot teed it up first. Hit it solid and straight, though from the tee, we couldn't see where it stopped. I told him it was his best drive of the day. I teed my ball up and got absolutely all of it. Right down the middle. "You smoked it," Eliot said. "But at the end, did you see how it kicked right on that bump?" I said. "I must have lost at least 5 or 10 yards of roll." "Dad! You SMOKED it!" he exclaimed, incredulous that after months of seeing me rail in anguish despite our recent tussles, he was finally able to observe firsthand how he actually said anything about it, or even mentioned the change in my game, when you let go and let God, some-
Traveling with Jewish Taste

Tunisian Jews: Traders and Farmers and Warriors, Oh My!

By Carol Goodman Kaufman

This month we’re heading back to North Africa to visit another branch of the family with a very long history in the diaspora — and some surprising twists on the typical tribal tale. Jews can trace their history in Tunisia back at least 2,000 years, and their numbers once grew to well over 100,000 individuals. Some say that the first Jews arrived 3,000 years ago, during the reigns of either King David or Solomon. Others believe that they fled to Tunisia after the destruction of the First Temple in 586 BCE. These versions may indeed be true, because many Tunisian Jews practiced pre-Rabbinic Judaism for a very long time — no Purim or Chanukkah.

But the most fascinating evidence of our people in the country comes from the period after the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 CE, when the Emperor Titus exiled some Jews to Mauritania. Many of these Jews left that country on the west coast of the continent and headed northeast to settle in Tunisia. Jews of Djerba recount that some of those refugees were kohanim, Temple priests, and that today’s island Jews are the descendants of those kohanim. A particular tradition among Jewish men on Djerba supports this belief. While the men wear the iconic red felt hat, tunic, and pantaloons seen on travel posters, Jewish men’s pantaloons feature a narrow black band along the hem, a sign of mourning for the destruction of the Temple.

As in virtually every place we have found ourselves, life in Tunisia has followed a roller coaster of fortune’s ups and downs with each and every ruler. Jewish life under 5th century Roman rule was tolerable. Aside from a special tax levied on every Jew, our people prospered. Over the next several centuries, as empires conquered and fell, Jews held position of authority and trust under some, while under others, taxes, restrictions, and persecution were the norm. This included the law requiring a special yellow head covering for Jews identifying them as such. And in one particularly egregious edict, the 8th century Muslim leader Imam Idris required the Jews not only to pay a capitation tax, but also to hand over several virgins annually for his harem. Fortunately for us, Idris was poisoned a few years into his reign (by a Jewish doctor, it is said). Then, in the 12th century, the Almohad leader granted the Jews freedom of religion for 500 years but decreed that if the Messiah did not come by the end of that period, they would be forced to convert to Islam.

You’re getting the picture. Whether Romans or Vandals or Ottoman Turks or Muslims, life has never been stable for Tunisia’s Jews. But let’s flash forward to the late 19th century. Looking for an excuse to add to its stable of colonies, France had been husting after Tunisia for a while. When a northern Tunisian tribe, the Kheoumar, crossed the border into French Algeria in 1881, Paris sent a massive army of 36,000 troops into the country. Thus began French protectorate. Although the Tunisians certainly weren’t happy with the French invasion of their country, the advent of French rule made life for Jews more than tolerable. (Remember, France had declared freedom of religion back in 1789! Jews could be found on every level of the country’s economic life, the wealthy active in trading, banking, and manufacturing, while the middle class was involved in retail and winemaking.

If the gauchos of Argentina galloping across the pampas captured my imagination (see last month’s BLV), the Tunisian boulou, or “outsiders,” bring to mind something out of a desert epic movie. Unlike any modern members of the Tribe, these Jews were an actual semi-nomadic tribe who roamed the lands between western Tunisia and eastern Algeria, making their living from agriculture, peddling, and goldsmithing. Yet other Tunisian Jews were nomadic warriors who adhered exclusively to Karaita (Tora) law.

Everything in Tunisia changed with the advent of World War II. Beginning in 1940, the Nazi-aided Vichy French seized power in Tunisia. Under their rule, the Jews of Tunisia suffered discrimination in virtually every aspect of life, from education to the professions. And as in Vichy France, they were required to wear a yellow Star of David and hand over their property, leaving them impoverished. While there were no mass deportations as in Europe, more than 5,000 Jews were sent to forced labor camps, where several hundred died. Tunisian Jews living in France, however, were sent to extermination camps in Europe.

The establishment the modern State of Israel in 1948 exacerbated the already hostile atmosphere, provoking violent anti-Zionist Arab riots and triggering the beginning of a decades-long exodus. Upon the end of the French protectorate in 1956, Arabization of every aspect of the country’s life ensued, making life even more difficult for the Jews. The Six-Day War was the final decider in favor of flight. Tunisian Jews left their home of two millennia and headed to Israel and France, leaving a population of only 1,100 today, where the roller coaster of fortunes continues.

Boulou

Makes 2 loaves

Given the length of time the French were in the country, it’s understandable that they had an enormous influence on many areas of Tunisian life, including, of course, the food. Although the name boulou comes from the French boule, the traditional crusty round loaf, this absolutely scrumptious Jewish quickbread is stuffed with golden raisins and sesame seeds, and flavored with orange and anise.

Ingredients:

- 4 cups flour
- 1 rounded tablespoon baking powder
- 1 cup sugar
- ½ teaspoons white sesame seeds
- 4 ounces almond meal or almond flour
- 1½ tablespoons orange zest
- ½ cup vegetable oil
- 2 large eggs, lightly beaten
- ½ teaspoon vanilla extract
- ½ cup golden raisins
- ⅛ teaspoon anise or fennel seeds
- ⅛ teaspoon salt
- ⅛ teaspoon cinnamon

Instructions:

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Coat two small loaf pans with baking spray (the kind with flour in it). If you don’t have that, then line the pan with parchment paper.

Whisk together the flour, baking powder, sugar, seeds, and almond flour in a mixing bowl.

Add the eggs, oil, orange zest, juice, vanilla extract and raisins, using a spatula to gently fold them just until incorporated; do not over-mix. The sticky mixture will look like a muffin or quickbread batter.

Scrape the dough into the pan with the spatula. Bake on the middle rack for 50-55 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean.

Cool completely before serving or storing.

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.
The Surprising Origin of the Dreidel
The well-known Chanukah symbol has Christmastime roots
By Rabbi David Golinkin via My Jewish Learning

Hebrew letter has a numerical based on the fact that every numerological explanations gematriot figured out elaborate had been outlawed. Others caught studying Torah, which fool the Greeks if they were with the dreidel in order to maintained that Jews played miracle happened here."

The well-known Chanukah symbol has Christmastime roots

The dreidel or sevivon is perhaps the most famous custom associated with Chanukah. Indeed, various rabbis have tried to find an integral connection between the dreidel and the Chanukah story; the standard explanation is that the letters nun, gimmel, hey, shin, which appear on the dreidel in the Diaspora, stand for nes gadol haya sham — "a great miracle happened there" — while in Israel the dreidel says nun, gimmel, hey, pey (for ‘pot’), which means "a great miracle happened here."

One 19th-century rabbi maintained that Jews played with the dreidel in order to fool the Greeks if they were caught studying Torah, which had been outlawed. Others figured out elaborate gematriot (numerological explanations based on the fact that every Hebrew letter has a numerical equivalent) and word plays for the letters nun, gimmel, hey, shin. For example, nun, gimmel, hey, shin in gematria equals 358, which is also the numerical equivalent of mashiach or Messiah!

Finally, the letters nun, gimmel, hey, shin are supposed to represent the four kingdoms that tried to destroy us [in ancient times]: N = Nebuchadnetzar = Babylon; H = Haman = Persia = Madai; G = Gog = Greece; and S = Seir = Rome.

As a matter of fact, all of these elaborate explanations were invented after the fact. The dreidel game originally had nothing to do with Chanukah. It has been played by various people in various languages for many centuries. In England and Ireland, there is a game called totum or trivet that is especially popular at Christmastime. In English, this game is first mentioned as "totum" ca. 1500-1520. The name comes from the Latin "totum," which means "all." By 1720, the game was called T-totum or tertotum, and by 1801 the four letters already represented four words in English: T = Take all; H = Half; P = Put down; and N = Nothing. Our Eastern European game of dreidel (including the letters nun, gimmel, hey, shin) is directly based on the German equivalent of the totum game: N = Nichts = nothing; G = Ganz = all; H = Halb = half; and S = Stell ein = put in. In German, the spinning top was called a "torrel" or "brautl," and in Yiddish it was called a ‘dreydel’ - a "fidget," a "coryfl," or something thrown, "shidl ein" [= put in], and "got gorin" [= all].

When Hebrew was revived as a spoken language, the dreidel was called, among other names, a sevivon, which is the one that caught on. Thus the dreidel game represents an irony of Jewish history. In order to celebrate the holiday of Chanukah, which celebrates our victory over cultural assimilation, we play the dreidel game, which is an excellent example of cultural assimilation! Of course, there is a world of difference between imitating non-Jewish games and worshipping idols, but the irony remains nonetheless.

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Stanley Kubrick: American Filmmaker by David Mikics

New biography of a great director is also a detailed appreciation of his films

By Albert Stern / BJV Editor

Stanley Kubrick: American Filmmaker by David Mikics is a recent and worthy addition to the excellent “Jewish Lives” series of short interpretive biographies published by Yale University Press. Nevertheless, I came away from it wondering how “Jewish” Kubrick’s artistic sensibility really was, even though, in the book’s introduction, Mikics asserts that he “was a Jewish director, though he never would have said so.” I think Mikics comes closer to the mark when he writes that Kubrick had a European side and cites critic Michel Ciment’s observation that Kubrick’s sensibility “comes from eighteenth-century Europe, which dreamed of reshaping humanity along strictly rational lines. From Dr. Strangelove to 2001, A Clockwork Orange, and Full Metal Jacket, he is fascinated by schemes to radically manage or transform human nature. Kubrick, like the Enlightenment philosophers, knows that the schemes all fail, since they turn out to be dangerously extremist, and therefore irrational.” I also came away from the book wondering how much of a “life” it is. Most of its pages are devoted to Mikics’s analyses of Kubrick’s films, which is likely to be confusing and perhaps meaningless to a reader not familiar with the movies – although there was a time when every discerning moviegoer certainly was. Maybe it’s the best approach for a biographer to take with Kubrick, an obsessive who was consumed by his work, a control freak in complete command of the entire filmmaking process from the grand vision down to the minutia. If Kubrick’s films were about “mastery that fails… perfectly controlled schemes that get botched,” as Mikics puts it, the films themselves reflect an exactingly precise mastery of the medium. Which is not to say that Kubrick’s life was anything less than amazingly colorful. Born in 1928, he grew up an intellectually voracious but antisocial “mInd” (his description) on the Grand Concourse in the Bronx, son of a physician who wanted him to follow a conventional life path and a mother who encouraged him to pursue his ambitions. At a young age, his parents gave him a camera – by age sixteen, he was working for Look magazine, a bi-weekly photo journal that focused on gritty aspects of life than its more wholesome rival Life. Mikics incisively describes Kubrick’s photographic style as “stark and clean, forholding in its precision,” conveying “a sense of closed-off emotional trauma.” Much less known than his film work, young Kubrick’s photographs display an observational style already fully-formed and chilly, and I think it’s likely he would be remembered as a top-notch lensman had he pursued that career.

Married at twenty and quickly divorced, Kubrick lived a bohemian life in Greenwich Village, immersing himself in the neighborhood’s intellectual subculture, watching scores of Hollywood and art house movies, and earning extra money playing chess for quarters as “the 18th- or sixth-best player in Washington Square Park.” Still in his early twenties, he made two short films and his first feature – what we would now consider “indie” productions. Working closely with his second wife, the dancer Ruth Sokotka, he made his first mature feature in 1955, the film noir Killer’s Kiss, which Mikics describes as having “make-shift quality influenced by New York school photography and cinema verité.” It unfolds in a kinetic 70 minutes and is also the only Kubrick film that has a happy ending, though a somewhat squalid one – the washed-up boxer gets the girl, who has been a taxi dancer in a sleazy nightclub. (Kubrick stages it perfectly, as if bringing some of his photographs to life). “There is something off about them,” writes Mikics, “in the same way there is something off about certain people you know.”

Kubrick’s next film was another enjoyable noir, The Killing, about a doomed race track heist, and the one after that the director’s first masterpiece, Paths of Glory, about a doomed French army assault on a German stronghold. Then came the Hollywood blockbuster, Spartacus, about a doomed slave revolt, followed by Lolita, about a doomed (and wholly inappropriate) relationship, followed by Dr. Strangelove, in which life on Earth is doomed by mutually-assured nuclear destruction.

You get the idea – the plots of Kubrick’s films, whether set in the 18th century England countryside or in the 21st century near the planet Jupiter, all follow one arc. The surgical mercilessness with which he dispatches his characters to their fates prompted many critics to describe his movies as cold and remote. Philosophically, a film that is “cold” doesn’t bother me, truth be told, aside from the early noirs, Paths of Glory, Spartacus, and A Clockwork Orange, I don’t really “like” Kubrick’s movies. I admire the artistry, but they kind of bore me – not only the famously snarre-inducing historical drama Barry Lyndon, but even The Shining and Full Metal Jacket, Dr. Strangelove. I find boring and not funny, though Mikics holds that its “smart, sleazy black humor… aligns [Kubrick] with Lenny Bruce, Joseph Heller, and the sacred cow bashers at MAD” magazine. (Actually, I remember the MAD spoofs of Kubrick films, and they all proved ripe for parody because they were so self-serious.) I also find 2001: A Space Odyssey, which Mikics ranks as one of the two greatest films ever made, excruciating to watch. After reading Mikics’s exhaustive analyses of Kubrick’s oeuvre, I understood and perhaps appreciated the films better, but I didn’t “like” them any better.

Kubrick’s last project, Eyes Wide Shut, was inspired by the Viennese writer Arthur Schnitzler’s Dream Story, a novella that had obsessed him since he was in his 20s. His collaborator on the screenplay was the British novelist Frederic Raphael. KUBRICK, continued on next page
**KUBRICK, continued from page 22**

who ultimately “bristled at Kubrick’s determination to turn this story by a Viennese Jew into a non-Jewish film,” writes Mikics, “and thought, rather unfairly, that Kubrick was trying to escape from his own Jewishness.” One could scarcely de-Judaize a story more effectively than by casting, as the director did, Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman as his lead actors. Mikics explains that “Kubrick insisted that Raphael eliminate all traces of sparkle from his own Jewishness.” One could scarcely de-Judaize a story more effectively than by casting, as the director did, Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman as his lead actors. Mikics explains that “Kubrick insisted that Raphael eliminate all traces of sparkle from his own Jewishness.” One could scarcely de-Judaize a story more effectively than by casting, as the director did, Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman as his lead actors. Mikics explains that “Kubrick insisted that Raphael eliminate all traces of sparkle from his own Jewishness.” One could scarcely de-Judaize a story more effectively than by casting, as the director did, Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman as his lead actors. Mikics explains that “Kubrick insisted that Raphael eliminate all traces of sparkle from his own Jewishness.” One could scarcely de-Judaize a story more effectively than by casting, as the director did, Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman as his lead actors. Mikics explains that “Kubrick insisted that Raphael eliminate all traces of sparkle from his own Jewishness.”

Kubrick’s sensibility was European and genuinely highbrow. Its American aspect, as Mikics puts it, that Kubrick “wanted to do more than make run-of-the-mill house films. His goal was to speak Europpean and genuinely internationally, as aspiring to, they had to set their dramas in a non-Jewish context.”

Kubrick heard this…he commented: I know just what he means.

So why review a book about a great filmmaker whose life was not typically “Jewish” and whose films were not “Jewish” at all? Maybe because that ends up being kind of “Jewish,” too. Another reason I alluded to earlier — I’m just old enough to remember when the release of a new Kubrick film was heralded a Major Cultural Event, and if you were earnest and culturally-minded, you probably trotted down to your local cinema to grapple with each one whether you “liked” Kubrick or not.

The films were touchstones for those of us of a certain age — everyone had seen them and had opinions about them. And we experienced them as an audience in a movie theater, in the environment in which Kubrick meant them to be seen — he was even meticulous about how his films would be screened. As I write, everything is still shut down, including the movie theaters. Since you have the time, consider revisiting or introducing yourself to Kubrick’s work by binge watching the master’s movies instead of whatever it is that Netflix is serving up. If you do that, Stanley Kubrick: American Filmmaker by David Mikics would be a fine resource to have on hand.

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**winterFlicks – The Berkshire Jewish Film Festival Continues Through the Chilly Months**

The Berkshire Jewish Film Festival (BJFF) continues its 34th season virtually with “winterFlicks,” a series of outstanding films presented throughout the fall, winter, and spring. Each film will be featured for one month, and will be screened nightly at 7 p.m. Visit berkshirejewishfilmfestival.org to buy tickets and find out more about which films will be screened in November and December. You can also call (413) 445-4872, ext. 10, for more information.

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**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.
Reconciling the Spiritual Impulse Toward Unity With the Need for Political Action

(JTA) – Rabbi Art Green is a scholar of worldwide renown and one of the world’s leading experts on Hasidic Judaism. Currently, he serves as rector of the rabbinical school at Hebrew College in Newton Centre, Massachusetts. In January, Stanford University Press will publish The Light of the Eyes, Green’s translation of a series of Torah discourses by Rabbi Menahem Nahum of Chernobyl, an 18th-century Hasidic master also known as the Me’or Aynayim.

This exchange was excerpted from an interview with Rabbi Green by JTA’s Ben Harris.

JTA: We’re in a moment now when politics seems to suffuse every part of our culture. In this time when the political divide is so wide that it extends even to what the warring factions accept as truth, how can we reconcile the spiritual impulse toward unity with the need for political action in an ever more fractious culture?

One has to be careful about those narrow spaces and remember that the people on the other side of the argument also need love and also deserve to be loved. And some of them are in those places we consider ridiculous because they need love. Even the president of the United States sometimes that can happen to. And I’m not saying he’s easy to love, but we Jews have learned for a long time that sometimes we have neighbors who are very hard to love.

A core piece of Torah for me is the controversy of Rabbi Akiva and his friend Ben Azzai about klal gadol ba-Torah, what’s the most basic rule of Torah? Rabbi Akiva said the most basic rule of Torah is love your neighbor as yourself. And Ben Azzai said, I know something bigger than that. And that is when God created human beings, he created the male and female each one in his image. The image of God, tzelem Elohim, is the most basic principle. I think their argument is about two things. I think Ben Azzai is saying to Akiva, watch out. Love your neighbor as yourself can be narrowed. It can mean only your Jewish neighbor, only your frum neighbor, only your Satmar neighbor. When you see it goes back to God creating humans in God’s image, that of necessity includes everybody.

But also, love is a very hard thing to demand. We Jews know what it is to have lousy neighbors, and they’re not always very lovable. But even if you can’t love them, treat them as though they are created in God’s image. Every human being deserves to be treated like that, even the ones I find unlovable. So I’m a Ben Azzai guy.

I don’t believe in a God who governs history and makes that war happen and cures cancer. That’s not my kind of God. But if I look around at the world, I see that just at the moment when the world is recovering from this terrible blow of colonialism, the Jews, after suffering a blow where a third of the Jews are slaughtered, get put in this position where, in order to survive, they wind up establishing a state that much of the world sees as neocolonial. Is that not a moment where you say this is where our tradition is being challenged? Of course, we’re not colonialists, because we have no other country to go back to. But this challenge, to be involved in the most intractable of ethnic conflicts when the whole world needs to learn how to solve ethnic conflicts, maybe we were put there for some reason. I don’t want to say an act of God did this to us, but maybe there is some meaning in the fact that we are in this situation. And that’s our spiritual task, to figure it out, to figure out how to be human and how to treat the other as human in a situation that’s so hard and painful and fraught.