

Berkshire JEWISH VOICE

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

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Middle East Update 2019

Kenneth M. Pollack of AEI to speak on the region's upheavals in the era of Trump on November 10

LENOX – On Sunday, November 10 at 2 p.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires' Middle East Update 2019 will feature Kenneth M. Pollack, resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) who works on political-military affairs, focusing in particular on Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and the Gulf countries.

The program will be held in the Elaine Bernstein Theatre at Shakespeare & Company in Lenox, and is free and open to the public.

About the Speaker

Kenneth Pollack began his career as a Persian Gulf military analyst at the CIA, where he was the principal author of the CIA's classified post-mortem on Iraqi strategy and military operations during the Persian Gulf War. He is the author of ten books, including *Unthinkable: Iran, the Bomb, and American Strategy* (named one of the "Best Books of 2013" by *The Economist* and one of the "100 Notable Books of 2013" by *The New York Times*); *A Path out of the Desert: A Grand Strategy for America in the Middle East* (one of *The*



Kenneth M. Pollack

Washington Post's "Best Books of the Year" for 2008 and an editor's choice of *The New York Times Book Review*); and *The Threatening Storm: The Case for Invading Iraq*, a *New York Times* and *Washington Post* bestseller in 2002.

His most recent book, published in 2018, is *Armies of Sand: The Past, Present, and Future of Arab Military Effectiveness*, an analysis of why Arab armies have historically underperformed despite considerable monetary investment and extensive training by Western interests.

Before joining AEI, a public policy think tank in Washington, DC,

MIDDLE EAST UPDATE, continued on page 6

Always in the Last Place You Look

Medieval Jewish treasures hidden for centuries on view at The Met Cloisters



The Colmar Treasure was uncovered in 1863 in Colmar, a city by the Rhine River, in modern-day France. While renovating a confectionery shop on the rue des Juifs (Street of the Jews), workmen stumbled upon a cache of medieval jewels and coins, which will be on view at The Met Cloisters in Upper Manhattan through January 12, 2020. According to the online catalogue, the 14th century wedding ring shown here is "the most technically accomplished example of goldsmith's work in the Colmar Treasure. Its miniature dome and supporting arches mimic the imagined form of the lost Temple in Jerusalem, metaphorically connecting that site to the newlyweds' home. Hebrew letters spelling out 'mazel tov' (good luck) set a congratulatory tone, enhanced by red and traces of green enamel." For more on the Colmar Treasure, please see page 20.

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In Good Times Prepare for Crisis

Former World Bank economist Ira Lieberman explains why financial crises happen at November 8 Knosh & Knowledge

GREAT BARRINGTON – On Friday, November 8 at 10:45 a.m., Knosh & Knowledge welcomes former World Bank expert on debt crises, Ira Lieberman, who will talk about his book, *In Good Times Prepare for Crisis*, published by Brookings Institution Press.

This Jewish Federation of the Berkshires program will take place at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, and will be followed by a catered lunch. Prepaid (\$11) lunch reservations required in advance. Thanks to a generous underwriter, lunch will feature an enhanced menu. Email federation@jewishberkshires.org, or call (413) 442-4360, ext. 10, to RSVP.

Ira Lieberman worked for the World Bank from 1994 to 2003, helping resolve financial crises in Mexico, East Asia (primarily Korea), Turkey, and Argentina. He worked with the Troika—the European Central Bank, the European Commission, and the IMF—on crisis resolution in Portugal in 2013 and in Portugal and Spain on crisis resolution in 2015. He also worked on the initial pro-market economic



Ira Lieberman

reforms in Russia from 1992 to 1995. Based in the Washington, DC area, Lieberman and his wife, Phyllis, have a home in Stockbridge.

Lieberman's book, *In Good Times Prepare for Crisis*, is a sweeping historical analysis of the reasons why nations, in good times, don't really do enough to prepare for the next crisis. It also explores the consequences of the economic unrest this inaction ultimately visits upon financial markets

LIEBERMAN, continued on page 4



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OF THE BERKSHIRES

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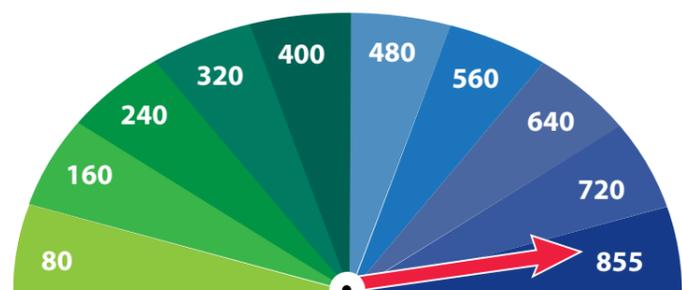
**We are almost there,
but we need your help!**

If you have not yet made your gift to the 2019 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!

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In My View

What's Coming Up for Our Jewish Community? A Peek Behind the Scenes

By Dara Kaufman



As busy and crazy as life sometimes gets, I am extremely grateful that Judaism makes time for us to take a "break." Whether it is the deep breath we take as we enter Shabbat or the deep dive of thoughtful reflection to which we commit during the High Holy Days, this time, set apart from the daily grind, helps us to recharge and replenish our souls for the work ahead.

Our recent Fed360 listening tour, focus groups, and community survey have been an unbelievable opportunity to take a moment out of our "doing" to breathe deep and really listen to what is most important to each of you in regard to Federation and our Jewish community. People were honest about their concerns, and people

were thoughtful and constructive about ways we can do things better and be stronger together. Many themes began to emerge and we will report on them in future articles, but one thing is for sure – the Berkshires is a community in which people support one another and lift one another up in so many meaningful ways. We have great challenges ahead, but the new year fills me with hope.

Thank you to everyone who participated. Thank you for embracing what it means to be a community and for sharing your voices, your ideas, and your generosity with Federation. We have so much strength to build upon.

Over the fall and winter, our strategic planning task force will be reviewing the information we have gathered in order to create a meaningful path forward for the Federation – a path that will continue to strengthen us as a responsible and thriving Jewish community.

Federation is a busy place filled with passionate people including our hard-working board, staff, and volunteers, all of them pursuing important work

The Berkshires is a community in which people support one another and lift one another up in so many meaningful ways. We have great challenges ahead, but the new year fills me with hope.

for our community. As we embark upon this New Year of 5780 together, here is a "behind the scenes" update about what we will be working on in the coming months.

Federation President Judy Usow, Vice President Josh Bloom, and I will be attending FedLab, a new initiative sponsored by the Jewish Federations of North America. This 3-day laboratory will bring together leadership from Jewish communities across North America for a deep dive into some of the most important and complex issues facing the Jewish community through three main lenses: The Anti-Semitism and Anti-Israelism Agenda, #EngageJewish, and Action for Good in the 21st Century.

On December 8, Jewish teens and their parents will have a chance to hear a Holocaust survivor speak and tour the new *Auschwitz. Not Long Ago. Not Far Away* exhibit at the Jewish Heritage Museum: A Living Memorial to the Holocaust in New York City. This bi-annual trip is sponsored by the Jewish Women's Foundation of Berkshire County with support from the Federation.

Josh Bloom, who is one of the Berkshires' lay leaders on the Partnership2Gether Committee, will be traveling to Israel in January with leaders from other Southern New England coalition (SNEC) communities to learn more

about the initiatives we support through our Afula-Gilboa partnership. There Josh will meet with local beneficiaries and the Israeli steering committee members as we plan our partnership opportunities for the future. He looks forward to sharing more about his trip when he returns.

Susan Frisch Lehrer, Federation's volunteer coordinator, is looking for a

few good men and women to help fill in as friendly visitors for a number of local residents whose current visitors are flying south for the winter. If you are reliable, compassionate, and a good listener with an hour to spare each week, you can bring some joy and connection to an isolated community member.

In response to the numerous inquiries I have already received (and it is still only October as I write this), we will once again be lighting up the Berkshires with a community Chanukah celebration at Naumkaeg's Winterlights Festival on December 29. Hundreds of people, young and old, joined us last year for this bright and joyous evening of singing and celebration.

And finally, as part of the Federation's ongoing efforts to support and enhance Jewish communal security in the Berkshires, we will be offering a free STOP THE BLEED® training next spring with specialists from Berkshire Medical Center's trauma program. STOP THE BLEED is a national awareness campaign and call-to-action intended to encourage bystanders, like you and me, to become trained and empowered to help in a bleeding emergency before professional help arrives. This free training can save lives and I encourage you to participate.

Of course, it is all of you who make the Federation's work possible. Thank you for showing up with such energy, passion, and commitment. We are off to an excellent start this year and we are so excited about the work ahead.

Dara Kaufman is the executive director of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. Please see page 9 for more on Fed360.

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ISRAEL TRAVEL & STUDY GRANTS FOR YOUTH

The Michael Nathaniel Shute Endowment Fund provides grants to Berkshire area youth for educational travel or study in Israel.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Awards are made within 45 days of receiving the application. Additional funding is available through the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

Download an application at jewishberkshires.org or pick one up at the Federation's office
196 South Street, Pittsfield, MA



CORRECTIONS

In our last issue, **Lee Rogers** should have been credited as the photographer for Federation's summer concert. We regret the omission.

Our last In My View column should have noted that the services of Jill Goldstein, LICSW, are contracted by the Federation on behalf of the Berkshire Jewish community through Jewish Family Service of Western MA (JFS) in Springfield.

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Berkshire Jewish Voice e-mail: astern@jewishberkshires.org
Phone: (413) 442-4360, ext. 11 Fax (413) 443-6070

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Rabbi Reflection

Going a Step Beyond Our Comfort Zone

By Rabbi Levi Volovik



Welcome to a new year. The past month of Tishri, with its High Holy Days, brought with it a wide range of emotions, carefully packaged in 30 glorious days. Like a ride on a roller coaster, we soared upward and around, reaching greater heights. We went from soul-searching introspection to resolve, from the solemnity and awe-inspiring days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur to the joyful days of Sukkot and the ecstatic dancing of Simchat Torah.

We experienced the full gamut of expression of body and soul through our prayers, hearing the stirring sounds of the shofar, and through the joy in fulfilling the mitzvot of sukkah, etrog, and lulav. And as we leave the month and enter the

new month of *MarCheshvan*, which has no holidays of its own, we are off on the start of a new year.

It is our hope that we all earned a *shana tovah*, a good and sweet new year for ourselves, just like the good years we wished for one another. A look at the word "*shana*" (year) tells us that it shares the same three-lettered Hebrew root as the word "repetition." And if the yearly cycle is repetitious, what makes it a *new* year? The answer is that the word "*shana*," with one different vowel, also spells the word for "change." It's the personal positive change that we are going to make in our lives that will now start us off on a truly new year.

It's going a step beyond our comfort zone. It's breaking an old habit, taking on a new mitzvah, sharing an act of kindness, and the recommitment to our values and our traditions to achieve goals above and beyond the past year.

The month of Tishri is the catalyst for starting off with reinforced strength and determination, and the personal changes it will take, to make the year ahead what it should be – better, brighter, and fresher in every area of our lives. Now is the time to "unpack" our bag of inspiration, which includes Tishri's feeling of oneness with G-d, of unity with others and the joy that we garnered during the entire month, to infuse any and all spiritual lethargy with renewed energy.

Reading the recent Torah portions of the week, we are further inspired by our ancestor, Abraham, in the portion of *Lech Le'cha*. And always, guided by our past, we find our road map for the future. Abraham was faced with one of his many tests, having to leave the land and the home he was accustomed to for 75 years of his life and go to the place that G-d would show him. His destination uncertain, Abraham was nevertheless quick to respond to G-d's command. Abraham blazed a trail. He looked at the world, searched for the Owner and

found truth. His eloquent testimony to the existence of a Creator was shared with all those he encountered, and he was dedicated to his mission of elevating humanity and bringing honor and glory to G-d's name. Despite the difficulties, Abraham complied with every request, and he passed every test with flying colors.

Abraham's directive "to go" is still continuing through us. Inspired by his faith and motivated by his alacrity in fulfilling the wishes of the One Above and his mission in uplifting the world through lovingkindness, we, too, forge ahead toward a brighter and better world. As we resume mundane life that sometimes floods us with problems and challenges, Abraham's outlook empowers us to not simply swim with the tide, but to lift our eyes to see the ray of hope in every situation, and to know that every difficulty leads to a more purposeful, productive, and meaningful life.

The Midrash relates a rabbinic narrative that took place when Abraham set out to fulfill the most difficult of his trials, taking his beloved son, Isaac, to the altar. As he approached his destination from afar, accompanied by Isaac and his servants, he turned to his beloved Isaac and said, "My son, what do you see ahead? Do you see what I see?" And Isaac responded, "I see a magnificent, blossoming mountain, reaching the heights in its full glory and majesty." And then Abraham turned to his servants and asked the same question. "We see nothing ahead," they answered, "only wasteland, desert, and desolation." Abraham then proudly walked ahead with Isaac, who shared his vision of a promising future, leaving his pessimistic servants behind.

Although today's pundits want to tell us that the world is coming to an end in 10 years, here at Chabad of the Berkshires, we share Abraham's mis-

sion and his vision, knowing that Torah is eternal, and our existence as a people is eternal – *Am Yisrael Chai!* We are thankful to our Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, for giving us the opportunity to share that vision with our special community, as do thousands of Chabad emissaries respectively around the globe.

Encouraged by the support of our many friends of Chabad, we see a beautiful path ahead, blossoming and flourishing with creativity, activity, and a Judaism that is alive and vibrant. We see a community ensuring the future for ourselves and for our children through our commitment to Torah learning and Jewish education. We see ourselves unified as one people, no matter what our background and affiliation, working together toward higher ideals and goals in life. With change in the right direction on the part of every one of us – and, indeed, everyone has room for improvement – there is no limit to what we can accomplish for our families, our people, our community, and our society at large.

Rabbi Levi Volovik is co-director of Chabad of the Berkshires in Pittsfield

We see a beautiful path ahead, blossoming and flourishing with creativity, activity, and a Judaism that is alive and vibrant

Letters to the Editor

Standing in Support of Essential Legal Services in Berkshire County

Dear Jewish Women's Foundation,

The Jewish Women's Foundation of Berkshire County's \$3,150 grant will have a meaningful impact on clients of the Berkshire Center for Justice (BCJ). We are grateful for your support, and proud to be chosen from a large field of deserving applicants. Your contribution is profoundly meaningful to us.

In addition to your generous grant, may I add that on a personal level, it is extremely gratifying to know that BCJ is supported in our community. Thank you for standing in support of our unique and essential services that are so beneficial to our community.

With gratitude for your generosity,
Eve Schatz, Esq., Executive Director
Berkshire Center for Justice
Great Barrington

Camp – A Really Important Jewish Experience

Dear Jewish Federation of the Berkshires,

Thank you for helping to pay for my experience at Camp Ramah in Palmer. It was a really important Jewish experience, and I felt that I got to connect with other Jewish people my age. I had a good time in my *chugim* and loved spending time with my friends.

Sincerely,
Ellie Caine
Richmond

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Women's Foundation Grant Helps Handicapped Youth Learn, Exercise, and Thrive

Dear Jewish Women's Foundation,

On behalf of our board of directors, staff, and volunteers, I extend heartfelt appreciation to you and all the members of the Jewish Women's Foundation of Berkshire County for your tremendous support of our recreational therapy program for youth with special needs at the Boys and Girls Club of the Berkshires. But more so, I thank you on behalf of all the kids who come into our club and benefit from this wonderful program, which provides a place where handicapped youth can learn, exercise, and thrive.

The Jewish Women's Foundation contribution makes it possible for our community's youth to benefit from all aspects of recreational therapy. With school in session, our special needs youth are taking full advantage of the club's programs and opportunities.

Sincerest thanks to all of you!
Kathleen Phillips, Marketing & Resource Development Director
Boys and Girls Club of the Berkshires
Pittsfield

An Unexplainable, Energetic Feeling of Joy and Happiness That is Very Contagious

Dear Jewish Federation of the Berkshires,

Thank you so much for helping to provide me with the opportunity to attend Crane Lake Camp for three weeks this summer; it was an incredible experience!

At camp, there is an unexplainable, energetic feeling of joy and happiness that is very contagious. I think one of the reasons that the atmosphere is so amazing is because every kid at camp knows that everyone else is just like them – Jewish.

My favorite parts of camp were either Maccabia or the daily and Shabbat services. Even though my team (White Phoenix) lost during Color War, it was still an incredibly amazing experience and I really felt like part of a huge team! I also really loved the services. To me, a large part of camp was the fact that I could really show my Jewish identity. During services,

the energy level was sky high and very contagious. It was impossible to feel anything less than energetic when the whole camp is up and dancing to classic Jewish songs.

Also, since I enjoy sports so much, getting to play them every day was amazing! Another really cool part about camp was being able to become really close with my counselors. In my bunk, we had an international counselor, which was really cool because we got to learn about different cultures from around the world!

Again, thanks for helping to provide me with this amazing opportunity of a lifetime.

Sincerely,
Aliza Munch
Lenox

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Your Federation Presents

LIEBERMAN, *continued from page 1*

and the general population. A lack of memory about, or an incomplete understanding of, a previous financial debt crisis will lead policymakers to ignore the signs of impending crises, writes Lieberman. A failure to adequately apply the lessons learned in the aftermath of these upheavals creates a vicious cycle in which yesterday's unresolved crisis plants the seeds for tomorrow's economic calamity.

What's more, given today's interdependent global financial marketplace, one nation's financial or sovereign debt crisis might quickly morph into a regional or worldwide emergency, in the manner of the 2008 recession that rocked advanced economies in North America, Europe, and Asia.

Per the book's subtitle, "From the Great Depression to the Great Recession: Sovereign Debt Crises and Their Resolution," Lieberman provides a long view of how financial crises occur and

(including George Soros), and shares his first-hand experience of how recent crises have been handled.

At the November 8 Knosh & Knowledge, Lieberman says he will draw on his experience as an economist and historian to explain how financial crises arise, why the early 21st century has been so economically volatile, and what the future might hold. In September, he spoke to the BJV's Albert Stern; this is an edited version of their conversation.

A high-level question – what is a sovereign debt crisis?

The crises I'll be talking about through historical periods, all of them more or less went into sovereign debt crises. But they could have started as a stock market crash or real estate crash or a financial crisis with banks getting in trouble. So crises can manifest themselves in many ways. A sovereign debt crisis

Each of the historical crises started with a bust of a mania of some kind

inevitably recur. Put in the simplest possible terms, a sovereign debt crisis occurs when a debtor nation has borrowed more money from a creditor nation that it can repay. At the end of World War II, economically-advanced nations put into place a monetary order designed to mitigate the economic and political consequences of financial upheaval, its success hinging on the ability of "lenders of last resort" such as national banks and multilateral financial institutions to prevent a crisis from spiraling into catastrophe. In *Good Times Prepare for Crisis* explains how this international monetary order came to be and continues to operate.

While a book of this scope may seem daunting to the general reader, Lieberman writes in clear, jargon-free prose about economics, and logically connects the historical dots among the financial crises to illuminate monetary policy in the 20th and 21st centuries. Having held high-level positions at the World Bank, Lieberman has worked with governments, corporations, banks, and financiers

is when a country becomes so highly indebted that it really can't finance its basic needs. It can't finance its budget or pay for public goods – that can be education, that can be food subsidies, that can be health care, that can be lots of important things.

So when we talk about a sovereign debt crisis, we talk about a country being highly indebted, and usually the reason it becomes a crisis is they owe that money not in their own currency but in a foreign exchange. [The borrowing] is usually tied to trade, but often borrowing becomes short-term in nature. When short-term debt not tied to trade accumulates, often that's tied to waste and very often linked to corruption, so countries that have been known to be corrupt and have borrowed abroad then begin to run out of foreign exchange. They can't pay their external debts and they get into what's known as a sovereign debt crisis.

Can you explain the role of a "lender of last resort"?

In the 19th century, the English economist Walter

Bagehot came out with his famous work on the role of the lender of last resort. His view was that a country's central bank should be in a position to save the financial system by following certain basic rules; and so the first concept of a lender of last resort was that of a national central bank in an economy. That was the role that the US Federal Reserve played together with the US Department of Treasury and Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation in the recent crisis. The three of them got together and they collectively became the lender of last resort to the US banking system, and the non-bank financial system – for example,

entities like General Motors Acceptance Corporation (GMAC) and the investment banks Lehman Brothers and Goldman Sachs. They all had to lean on [a lender of last resort] to bail them out.

As the global economy expanded, it became clear that many countries did not have a central bank that was

sufficiently robust or strong enough to deal with the kind of bad debts incurred. So then there comes the need for what we know as an international lender of last resort. For emerging market countries, it's become the International Monetary Fund (IMF), supported by the World Bank, and regional development banks like the Asian Development Bank or the Inter-American Development Bank. For the Euro Zone countries, the European Central Bank might have been able to play that role on its own, except the Germans and other countries in the region did not want it to go on their own to bail out what they call the weaker countries in the region. So the European Central Bank developed this troika with the IMF and then the European Commission to become the lender of last resort.

You quote several noted economists about the root causes of the US financial crisis of 2008. Joseph Stiglitz wrote: "The crisis has made it clear that self-regulation [by the

financial industry] doesn't work." Nouriel Roubini observed: "In the end the significance of government action was dwarfed by the significance of government inaction." Henry Paulson's view is that "we were living beyond our means – on borrowed money and on borrowed time." Timothy Geithner wrote: "The fundamental causes of this crisis...began with a mania – the widespread belief that devastating financial crises were a thing of the past."

While we have a low growth/low inflation situation, we have a high debt, a weak political environment, and laws that don't support dealing with a crisis

And finally, Alan Blinder, who wrote: "The US financial system...had grown too complex and far too fragile for its own good – and had too little regulation for the public good." What is your take on it?

All of the above. When I give my presentation, I'll share little chart which shows that each of the historical crises started with a bust of a mania of some kind, like the famous 1929 stock market crash. In this case the speculation was in real estate, much of it is associated with soft money in the economy at very low cost for a long time. That [kind of debt] accumulates very quickly. But the regulatory issues are the ones that shocked me – and it's still a big problem in this country – because much of the accumulated debt was not in the conventional banking system. All the conventional banks had their problems, as well, but it was investment banks and other non-bank financial institutions and the government-backed institutions Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac that had very little equity. Leverage was enormous problem and no one was regulating the investment banks except the Federal Trade Commission, but that was more on the corporate side, not on financial leverage or financing. Some of the biggest banks went "regulatory shopping" and lobbied their way into getting their own regulator. At one point of crisis [Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac] represented 50 percent of mortgage financing in the country...and they had their own regulators.

As I read your conclusions, you seem to imply that the lessons of the last financial crisis have not really taken root in the culture of the financial industry. What do you see happening in the future if crises are not resolved in a meaningful way?

The Dodd-Frank Act did a lot to strengthen the banking system – not everything, but a lot. Some of the basic tools to resolve crises were either taken away or not provided, however. So the strengthening was forcing the banks to increase their capital base, which they're constantly fighting because increasing capital means less return on equity. So they're constantly fighting

because they want to give more to shareholders, but it also means that the guys who run these institutions, who earn most of their compensation on return on capital, don't get the same very large paychecks. Greed knows no boundaries.

Another weakness is the Federal Reserve is no longer able to do a banking bailout without coming to Congress. The Treasury is precluded from using an emergency fund for bailouts, so the whole concept the bailouts would

imply going to Congress. Now, can you imagine going to this Congress in time of extreme crisis and getting consensus from the Congress? Many of the economists I know say this is at the crux of our problem now – we don't believe the political system is such that we could do what we did during the Bush and Obama years. Leading up to Obama's election, they had to deal with McCain and Obama, who were running for office – but those guys agreed to play ball and not politicize the crisis or the solution. Can you imagine Trump not politicizing it?

So I don't think we have the will, I don't think we have the leadership, and, by the way, the central bank is still overloaded. Its balance sheet is very indebted because of quantitative easing – the soft money that was given to the banking system in terms of long-term bonds in order to keep interest rates from rising dramatically. So while we have a low growth/low inflation situation, we have a high debt, a weak political environment, and laws that don't support dealing with a crisis. And of course, we have high deficits.

If we were to have a series of events together – namely, if the Chinese trade negotiations fail and Trump moves to impose heavy tariffs on China; if we have Brexit; if we have continued conflict in the Straits of Hormuz and oil shipments are threatened; if we have a failure of a big oil nation like Venezuela – now, we don't have to have them all, but if we have a series of events like this, that will erode confidence. A large-scale world crisis is more than likely – the people I read and talk to, that's what scares them.

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires

Date & Time: Friday, November 8 at 10:45 a.m.

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

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

Advance lunch reservations and prepayment required for this event.

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

Latkes, Donuts, Ho-Hum – How About Bimuelos Instead?

GREAT BARRINGTON – On Saturday, December 7 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at Berkshire South Regional Community Center, PJ Library and Federation families are invited for a Sephardic-inspired Chanukah celebration, and to cook this delicious Chanukah delight - bimuelos! Join together with PJ Library Family Connector Sarah Aroeste Blaugrund to fry some dough, enjoy an arts-and-crafts project, and read *The Hanukkah Moon*, a Sephardic story. A short havdalah will be included.

And it's all FREE! Children of all ages welcome. RSVP by December 4 by calling (413) 442-4360, ext. 10, or by emailing federation@jewishberkshires.org. Berkshire South Regional Community Center is located at 15 Crissey Road, Great Barrington. Meet in the lounge.

Right: Sarah Aroeste Blaugrund frying up some bimuelos



Your Federation Presents

Easy Chair Yoga for Flexibility, Mobility, and Peace of Mind

On Thursday, December 5 at 10:45 a.m., join Linda Novick for "Easy Chair Yoga for Flexibility, Mobility, and Peace of Mind." This free program at Kneset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield is part of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires' Connecting With Community series.

Linda Novick says: "Chair Yoga is appropriate for people of all levels of mobility. It is a series of breathing and stretching exercises done in a chair, which increases mobility of the joints, flexibility, strength and stamina. Some of the exercises are performed standing behind the chair, while holding on. Participants will learn breathing techniques to enhance lung capacity, as well as easy stretches and yoga postures. Yoga is good for *all bodies*. Beginners are welcome."

Linda Novick, MFA, is an author, teacher, artist, and professional level Kripalu Yoga teacher. She currently teaches yoga at Berkshire West Fitness Center and Kimball Farms, and all over the Commonwealth with the Massachusetts Housing Authority.

She explains that her approach to yoga encourages everyone to listen and love their body. Her yoga classes



encourage gentle stretching, proper breathing, strength and balance. She attended Pratt Institute in Brooklyn and has a BFA in art education, and has taught art for 50 years.

She's been teaching yoga since 1997, and lately has been focusing on easy yoga for elders. She taught on staff at Kripalu Center for 7 years, and is now a regular presenter, offering programs that combine painting and yoga. She's the author of the book, *The Painting Path: Embodying Spiritual Discovery through Yoga, Brush and Color*.

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community

Venue: Kneset Israel

Date & Time: Thursday, December 5 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 18).

Living in a Time of Climate Change – Responding to the Crisis

On Thursday, November 7 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires presents "Living in a Time of Climate Change" with three speakers tackling different aspects of this issue in our community. This free program at Kneset Israel, 16 Colt Road, in Pittsfield, is part of the Federation's Connecting With Community series.

The presenters:

Stu Besnoff has a BS and a master's in Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He is a Navy Veteran and has taught science and technology. Through his business, Alpine Solar, he has been advising clients and building solar installations for the past ten years. He is a climate activist and has been a member and coordinator of 350Mass-Berkshires.

Judy Eddy has worked with non-profits for over 30 years, primarily in land conservation and environmental protection. She has worked for Hudson Riverkeeper and the Berkshire Environmental Action Team (BEAT), and she has freelanced extensively for non-profits of all kinds. Now a climate activist, Judy works with Living the Change Berkshires, 350Mass-Berkshires and the newly-formed Berkshire chapter of



Extinction Rebellion (XR).

Pat Konecky works as a capital project manager in New York City, focusing on energy-efficient, low-impact buildings. She has also worked against the expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure, particularly hydrofracking in the Marcellus Shale in New York. More recently, she has been a coordinator with 350Mass-Berkshires and a member of the 350Mass State Steering team. Pat is a member of the Green Committee for the town of Egremont, and of the Public Transportation Advisory Committee working for improved bus service throughout the Berkshires.

From our presenters: "Our objective in this program is to actively engage with participants about the climate crisis

and to share concerns and questions, as well as information, about some options for engagement in our area. We will break down recent reports about the climate crisis in order to better understand the various ways it will increasingly impact life on earth. We'll discuss some local efforts to encourage a broader public response, that is to press our leaders to actively address this global emergency."

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community

Venue: Kneset Israel

Date & Time: Thursday, November 7 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 18).

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Sunday, December 8, 2019



Auschwitz. Not Long Ago. Not Far Away. A Day of Holocaust Education for Teens and Their Parents

7th and 8th grade Jewish students from across the Berkshires are invited, with a parent chaperone, to join us for this meaningful day of learning.

You will have an age appropriate guided tour exploring life during the Holocaust followed by a survivor speaker who will share his/her personal story.

FREE for Jewish teens in 7th and 8th grade

No affiliation required. Includes bus transportation, admission for teens and parents, guided tour, speaker and lunch.

To register contact your congregation's school administrator or Dara Kaufman at dkaufman@jewishberkshires.org.

This trip is made possible thanks to the generosity of the Jewish Women's Foundation and the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires.

Your Federation Presents

MIDDLE EAST UPDATE, *continued from page 1*

Pollack was affiliated with the Brookings Institution, where he was a senior fellow at the Saban Center for Middle East Policy. Before that, he was the center's director and director of research. He served twice at the National Security Council, first as director for Near East and South Asian affairs and then as director for Persian Gulf affairs. Dr. Pollack has also worked on long-term issues related to Middle Eastern political and military affairs for the Joint Chiefs of Staff when he was a senior research professor at the Institute for National Security Studies at National Defense University.

The Middle East in the Trump Era

In early October, Kenneth M. Pollack spoke with BJV editor Albert Stern about his upcoming talk in the Berkshires. What follows is an edited version of their conversation condensed for space and clarity.

Let's start by revisiting some of your remarks from your 2017 talk at our Middle East Update. One of the things you said would be essential was for the United States to engage in the Middle East with much greater resources. Do you feel as if that has happened in the last two years?

No, unfortunately, I don't. What I see is the Trump administration effectively

There's an overarching sense of [US] neglect, which in many ways is even more dangerous and certainly more frightening to our allies in the Middle East

just walking away from the Middle East – not even in the kind of more deliberate and determined way that Obama did. It seems strange to say it, but Obama kind of understood what he was doing and was trying to be very deliberate about it. I think what he did was problematic, but at least there was a kind of a conscious thought being directed to it. What I see with Trump is just neglect, where he's not understanding what he's doing – making decisions on the spur of the moment, not responding when things happen over there that affect American interests. And so there's an overarching sense of [US] neglect, which in many ways is even more dangerous and certainly more frightening to our allies in the Middle East. I think it creates even

more opportunity for our adversaries in the region and that's exactly what I'm seeing – I see our allies terrified that the United States just isn't playing the role that it once did, despite the fact that President Trump keeps talking incredibly tough.

How is that manifesting itself now?

At the most basic level, our greatest adversary in the region, Iran, has made very significant gains in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Yemen. And our allies are being forced to make choices about dilemmas that they never wanted to confront. The Israelis have become even more aggressive, and they're not only striking Iranian targets in Syria with abandon, they're now going after running targets in Iraq, as well. And there have been clashes up near the Golan. The Israelis feel like they are fighting a low-level war against Iran all across the region, and of course that's been their choice. But it's not something that they wanted to do, and it's something that I would argue we should not want to see them do. This is not going to end well for them, for us, for anyone.

The Saudis and the Emirati, our [Persian] Gulf allies, face the same dilemma, but of course they don't have the military capability that Israel commits. So, what they've seen is the failure of the United States to help them

defend themselves, and let's remember that for 75 years, the United States has had an informal alliance – but a very important alliance – with Saudi Arabia that expanded to include the other Gulf states. They would provide a stable oil market, which was and continues to remain critical to our economy, and in return we would defend them from external threats. Well, Trump has thrown that out the window.

The Saudis have been repeatedly attacked by the Iranians, and not only is the United States doing nothing, but we have made statements which are outrageous to them, saying that we don't regard any threat or any attack on anyone but American stuff (whether it's people or just our toys, like the drone) as a threat to our

vital interests. That, again, is just a wild reversal of 40 to 75 years of American policy. They've looked at the situation and said that 'without the Americans, we can't fight the Iranians, we simply don't have the capacity to do so.' So, they're being forced at least for the moment to accommodate the Iranians – they have felt that they have to go and kiss the ring in Tehran to try to get the Iranians to stop attacking them. We need to recognize that this state of affairs is one where the Iranians are being emboldened. I think that we are likely to see more attacks and more support to their allies and our adversaries across the region. At some point, I think the Gulf states in particular are going to decide that 'if the Americans won't defend us, we're not going to be able to fight the Iranians in the conventional level and the only resort we're going to have is to acquire nuclear weapons.'

Is this retreat from engagement a tougher line that reflects that the idea that countries have to do more to defend themselves, similar to what Trump has said to our NATO allies, for example?

He may tell himself that that's what he's doing – I'm not at all convinced that that is the case. I just don't think he's terribly interested in foreign affairs or any of this stuff. The only thing he seems to be interested in the Persian Gulf is what goes on with Israel, which I think has clear domestic ramifications for him, and what goes on with Iran, which he has pitched as 'Obama has got a terrible deal I can get a better one.' Over the last four months, he's been fawning all over the Iranians trying desperately to get them back to the table, not understanding that his own policies have made it close to impossible.

Trump misunderstands oil markets. I think that's a commonplace belief that because of US shale oil production and some other changes in the structure of the oil market, we no longer need to worry about oil from the Persian Gulf. And that's not really correct. What many Americans and, I suspect, the president himself do not recognize is that the world economy still is heavily dependent on Persian Gulf oil – about 30 percent of all the exported oil in the world still comes from the Persian Gulf, and that is expected to remain true for at least 10, if not 20, years down the road. If there were a major disruption

a Persian Gulf oil, all the fracking, all of the strategic reserves, all of the increased production from places like Iraq, could not compensate.

It seems that the Trump administration is putting a lot of faith in and devoting resources to Israel, which sometimes seems predicated on the idea that Israel can take care of itself and will do so as the dominant power in the region. Is that a fair observation?

I know that that is a very common American perception and I can certainly understand why, but if you were to speak to any Israeli they would tell you that that is completely mistaken. And I think that they're absolutely right. Because while it is true

The real strategic issues that Israel faces in the long term are enormous problems that Israel cannot possibly handle on its own

the Trump more or less allows the Israelis to do whatever they want, what the Israelis understand is that they can't solve their own problems. They have no ability to solve the Palestinian issue by themselves, they have no ability to solve the threat from Iran by themselves, they have no ability to deal with the fact that the Sunni Arab states are extremely fragile and that they desperately need help to reform themselves and strengthen themselves. Israel can't deal with any of those problems, and those are the real problems that Israel faces.

It's nice for a right wing Israeli government to be told by the United States, 'you know we will move our embassy to Jerusalem and recognize your control over the whole city of Jerusalem and acknowledge your annexation of the Golan Heights.' But the bigger problems that Israel faces – the real strategic issues that Israel faces in the long term – are enormous problems that Israel cannot possibly handle on its own. It desperately needs the United States to lead an effort to deal with them, and they are furious and frustrated and terrified that the United States is making zero effort to do so.

Also, Trump hasn't actually put forward his peace proposal on the Israeli/Palestinian issue. What we've seen from him so far are efforts to kind of buy Palestinian tolerance or acquiescence to what seems like what's going to be a very pro-Israel peace

agreement. We don't know if Jared Kushner's plan will be mutually beneficial, mutually tolerable, or even mutually intolerable. All of this is very worrisome to the Palestinians, who don't believe that they're going to get a peace deal that actually recognizes balanced and fair terms for their side of the deal. What the US seems to be offering them is money – 'We'll buy you off in return for you agreeing, more or less, to what the Israelis want.' That's very disconcerting to the Palestinians, and of course the fact that the Trump administration keeps saying that the deal is going to be forthcoming and yet it never comes forward is also disconcerting to a lot of people who are worried that this is not a deal that's going to fly under any set of circumstances.

Your most recent book, *Armies of Sand*, explores why Arab armies have been historically ineffective. Why did you choose this topic, and how does it relate to some of the things we've been talking about this morning?

[Pollack, in an article for Foreign Policy, identified overarching problems as fraught civil-military relations of the Arab world that has caused many Arab rulers to be so "frightened of being overthrown by ambitious generals that they purposely hobble the armed forces to keep them weak"; a lack of full industrialization in the Arab world, with the result that "Arab personnel often failed to get the full potential out of their weapons and invariably failed to maintain them properly"; and "Arab cultural-educational practices [that have] conditioned too many of their personnel to remain passive at lower levels of any hierarchy and to manipulate information to avoid blame," thus undercutting the effectiveness of junior officers in making battlefield decisions.]

I started out as a Middle East military analyst and what you learn as a Middle East military analyst is that the most important element of the very stable military balance that we've had in the region over 70 years has been the utter ineffectiveness of the

MIDDLE EAST UPDATE, *continued on page 7*

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Your Federation Presents

MIDDLE EAST UPDATE, *continued from page 6*

Arab armies. This has allowed Israel, the United States, and other countries like Russia to completely dominate. It took them 30 or 40 years but the Arab states figured out 'we just can't defend ourselves and we can't attack each other, we just don't have the military capability.' [That is] an incredibly important driver of the military balance in the region. I will also say that it's just kind of a fascinating mystery. This is been going on for so long, and they are so bad, so incompetent, that it's a just huge mystery that any number of people have sought to answer. I felt as I read other people's work that they just weren't doing so systematically or methodically. They would just offer up some kind of one-off explanation and provide one or two anecdotes as if that was evidence.

I felt like it was a very important intellectual question, but then there's also a critical strategic element for the United States which does bear very heavily what you and I have been talking about. In an ideal world, the United States could say that we've been helping the Middle East for long enough, that we've invested enough blood and treasure (and the truth is we haven't invested nearly as much blood and treasure as we think), but we've invested enough blood and treasure. We'd like to step back and we'd really like our allies in the

region to take up the burden and defend themselves. The problem is we can't do that because they simply cannot defend themselves. They do not have the ability to stand up to the Iranians, let alone to the Russians or the Chinese, if they came in. What we've seen is even when they intervene against each other – like the Saudis intervening in Yemen – their military capabilities are so limited that they tend to overstrain themselves and risk their own political and economic collapse.

That looms really large for the United States. One of things I also try to do in the book is to talk about, both in the long term and the short term, how the United States can do better in helping them overcome these problems. And there are some answers. The longer-term answers are obviously better, but even the shorter term are very useful. I've been very pleased with the responses I've gotten from the US military who have read the book who've said that what I'm suggesting we do makes infinite good sense.

IF YOU GO

The program begins at 2 p.m. and is free and open to the public. It will take place at Shakespeare & Company's Elaine Bernstein Theatre, 70 Kemble Street in Lenox.

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

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

An Evening with Mark Feuerstein

WILLIAMSTOWN – The Berkshire Jewish community is invited to an evening with critically-acclaimed actor and producer Mark Feuerstein on Thursday, November 21 from 8 to 9:30 p.m. in the Paresky Auditorium at Williams College. The event, which is free and open to the public, is sponsored by Williams College.

Feuerstein will discuss his life in the arts as a proud Jew, and as an actor-writer-director-producer who has a unique perspective on Jewish Identity in the media. He'll also talk about the importance of representation for Jews in front of the camera and in the stories we choose to tell.

In addition to speaking, Feuerstein will help lead a dialogue about the importance of how, as Jews, we represent ourselves in the face of assimilation and navigate the subtle historical tendency to "keep our heads down."

Over the past 15 years, Feuerstein has received critical acclaim for his roles in feature films, television and theater, but he is best known for his lead role as Dr. Hank Lawson in the series *Royal Pains*. Inspired by his real-life experience, he wrote and created *9JKL*, a new CBS family comedy, with his wife, executive producer Dana Klein. Most recently, he appeared on *Prison Break* as arch-villain Jacob Ness. Additional television credits include *The West Wing*, *Sex and the City*, *Once and Again*, *Fired Up!* and *Good Morning, Miami*. This past summer, Feuerstein appeared in *Wet Hot American Summer: 10 Years Later*. His feature film credits include *Defiance*, *In Her Shoes*, *Abandon*, *What Women Want*, *The Muse*, *Rules of Engagement*, *Woman on Top* and *Practical Magic*.



Mark Feuerstein

Additionally, he played the lead in the independent feature *Larry Gaye: Renegade Male Flight Attendant*, which he also produced.

The Process of Aging, with Maggie Bittman

On Monday, November 25 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires presents "Intergenerational: The Process of Aging" with therapist Maggie Bittman. This free program at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, in Pittsfield, is part of the Federation's Connecting With Community series.

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

aloneness; and engaging free will.

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

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community

Venue: Knesset Israel

Date & Time: Monday, November 25 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 18).



Therapist Maggie Bittman

Current Affairs: Contemporary American and International Politics

On Thursday, November 21 at 10:45 a.m., join Professor Steven J. Rubin for "Current Affairs: Contemporary American and International Politics." This course will meet to discuss and explore current issues that influence our lives and society at large. This free program at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield is part of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires' Connecting With Community series.

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

Steven J. Rubin is professor emeritus of international studies and former dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Adelphi University, Garden City, NY. He is the author of numerous books and articles and frequently lectures both here and abroad on such topics as international anti-Semitism, Jewish history, popular culture, and literature. His radio play "Dem Bums: The Rise and Demise of the Brooklyn Dodgers" was broadcast live on National Public Radio in December 2017 and can be currently heard online.



IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community

Venue: Knesset Israel

Date & Time: Thursday, November 21 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 18).

Educating the Community About Immigrants in the Berkshires, Then and Now

On Thursday, November 14 at 10:45 a.m., the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires welcomes Michelle Lopez, executive director of Berkshire Immigrant Center, whose topic will be "Educating the Community About Immigrants in the Berkshires, Then and Now." This free program at Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road, in Pittsfield, is part of the Federation's Connecting With Community series.

From the BIC website: "The mission of the Berkshire Immigrant Center is to assist individuals and families in making the economic, psychological, and cultural adjustment to a new land, not only by meeting basic needs, but also by helping them to become active participants in our community...The Center offers comprehensive services for individuals from more than 80 countries to promote civic engagement, facilitate cultural integration, and assist in navigating the complex U.S. immigration system."

Michelle will be discussing the history of the Berkshire Immigrant Center, its mission, and what the Center has been

doing this fiscal year. She will provide information about the scope of BIC's services, along with some data/outcomes so that attendees can get a better understanding of how BIC funds are raised, used, and distributed to those in need.

Michelle Lopez is from upstate New York and has lived in Cuba, Spain, and Mexico. She has a degree in Anthropology and a master's in Caribbean Studies. Michelle has 5 years of non-profit experience, 4 years in international education, and 2 years in higher education. Since moving to the Berkshires recently she has joined the Berkshire County Complete Count Committee and the Berkshire International Club in order to help serve the community.

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community

Venue: Knesset Israel

Date & Time: Thursday, November 14 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 18).

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Visit jewishberkshires.org and select **Community & Events**>**Berkshire Jewish**

Voice for links to highlights of current and past issues.

Your Federation Presents

The Sacred Music of Jewish Istanbul

Ethnomusicologist Joseph Alpar on Jewish music in Turkey and former Ottoman territories at the December 6 Knosh & Knowledge

GREAT BARRINGTON – On Friday, December 6 at 10:45 a.m., Knosh & Knowledge welcomes ethnomusicologist Joseph Alpar, whose topic will be “The Sacred Music of Jewish Istanbul.”

This Jewish Federation of the Berkshires program will take place at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire at 10:45 a.m., and will be followed by catered lunch. Prepaid lunch reservations required in advance. Email federation@jewishberkshires.org, or call (413) 442-4360, ext. 10, to RSVP.

In this talk, ethnomusicologist Joseph Alpar will discuss ongoing transformations in the sacred musical repertoires practiced by *h'azzanim* (synagogue cantors) of Istanbul and their synagogue congregations. While many try to maintain the community's local music heritage, others attempt to expand their repertoire with music from Israel, the United States, and Chabad Hasidic Judaism. Dr. Alpar will trace the path of today's Turkish Jews as they broaden the scope of their religious and musical experiences.

This presentation will include musical performances.

Dr. Joseph Alpar is a scholar, performer, and educator whose research centers on musical and religious practices in Turkey and former Ottoman territories. He is a visiting faculty member in ethnomusicology and music history at Bennington College for the 2019-2020 academic year. Alpar earned his Ph.D. in ethnomusicology from The Graduate Center, City University of New York in June 2019, having completed a dissertation titled, “Music and Jewish Practice in Contemporary Istanbul: Preserving Heritage, Bending Tradition.”

Dr. Alpar is also an accomplished vocalist and multi-instrumentalist of Turkish, Greek, and Sephardic music, playing santouri, piano, darbuka, and frame drums. He is the director of David's Harp, an acclaimed Philadelphia-based Sephardic music ensemble. He has taught previously in the music departments of Swarthmore College, Temple University, and CUNY, Hunter College.

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires

Date & Time: Friday, December 6 at 10:45 a.m.

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

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

Advance lunch reservations and prepayment required for this event.

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



Jewish Women's Foundation Receives \$1,000 From Verizon Wireless Zone in Great Barrington

The Jewish Women's Foundation was the winner of Verizon Wireless Zone's August contest, in which customers voted for their favorite non-profit with the winner receiving a \$1,000 donation to celebrate the store's new ownership and commitment to the local community. Foundation co-founder Jane Glaser (along with Jewish Federation of the Berkshires Executive Director Dara Kaufman) accepted the check on behalf of the Foundation during the grand opening ribbon cutting celebration. Thank you to all Foundation supporters who voted!



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Hearing Your Voices as We Plan For the Future

We were humbled and inspired by the openness of so many caring community members who joined us at Federation's recent FED360 listening tour. Your feedback, gathered through asking five key questions, marks the beginning of Federation's strategic planning process that will help chart a course for a vibrant and strong Berkshire Jewish community in the future. Thank you for sharing your hopes, concerns, and ideas with us. We will continue to gather community input through additional

focus groups, interviews and a community survey. If you could not be with us but would like to share your thoughts on the questions that appear on this page, please email Dara Kaufman, Federation's executive director, at dkaufman@jewishberkshires.org.

Over the next few months we will be analyzing what we are hearing, sharing what we are learning, and determining where the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires can make a difference in the future.



"Considering Jewish life in the Berkshires, what is our Jewish community doing well?"



"When you think about the future of the Jewish community, what gives you hope? What concerns you?"



"What do you think gets in the way or could get in the way of us creating a more vibrant Jewish community in the future?"



"When you think about a vibrant Jewish community, what do you imagine it to look like?"



"In what ways, if any, do you feel connected to Judaism, Jewish practice, Jewish institutions, and the Jewish community?"



Local Educators Train for A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE® Implementation

As the Federation-supported A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE Anti-Bias Peer Training program expands to ten more local middle and high schools this fall, educators from across Berkshire County came together for an interactive training on the program in preparation for working as advisors in implementing the program in their respective schools.



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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

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 (413) 229-3618, berkshireminyan.org

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

B'nai B'rith Lodge, No. 326

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 450 South St., Pittsfield, MA
 (413) 499-9899,
jewishberkshires.com

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

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

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Your Federation Presents

Beeing There

Just before Rosh Hashanah, PJ Library and Federation families gathered at Mill River Farm's Berkshire Wildflower Honey in New Marlborough to see how honey bees make one of our favorite and most important holiday foods! The dozens of kids and parents who attended got to see a hive up close with all the wax and nectar, and then saw a demonstration of how all the raw elements get pulled and turned into honey. Thanks to Sarah Aroeste Blaugrund for her work in organizing this special event.



PJ Library, a program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, is funded locally by the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires with support from the Spitz Tuchman Family Fund and the Jewish Women's Foundation of Berkshire County. The program provides free monthly books and music with Jewish content to children ages 6 months through 8 years of age.

Security Training for Local Jewish Organizations



As the importance of security continues to grow, the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires wants to make sure our area synagogues and institutions have the tools and resources they need. In late August, Federation sponsored

a safety and security preparedness training facilitated by the Secure Community Network. Staff and leaders of Jewish organizations from across the Berkshires had the opportunity to hone their skills on situational awareness and

active shooter preparedness, learning how to incorporate security into their "greeters and ushers" programs. Thank you to all who came

together to discuss this crucial topic. The Secure Community Network is the national homeland security initiative of The Jewish Federations of North

America and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

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

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Winter fuel assistance in the Berkshires will get a boost...

...thanks to the efforts of the Jewish Women's Foundation of Berkshire County. More than \$2,200 was raised at their card and mah jongg party held at Berkshire South Regional Community Center in September. More than 70 members and guests, including a table of men, enjoyed a delightful afternoon of games, along with a delicious boxed lunch prepared by The Great Barrington Bagel Company.

The monies raised will benefit eligible households with help in paying winter heating bills through emergency fuel assistance programs run by the Berkshires Community Action Council (BCAC), Construct, Inc. and the Northern Berkshire Community Action Council. Guests also brought a plethora of canned food items for donation to the local food pantries.



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This program is funded by the Jewish Women's Foundation of Berkshire County and administered by the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires

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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 PJ Library is running a community-wide pajama drive.

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



Drop off your brand new pajamas (sizes newborn to teen) at any of these convenient locations:

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- Hevreh of Southern Berkshire
- Congregation Beth Israel

Questions? Contact Susan Frisch Lehrer (413) 442-4360, ext. 14
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Thank you for your Support!



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

LOCAL NEWS

Double Dutch: A Discussion about Immigration in the Berkshires, the US, and Europe

GREAT BARRINGTON – On Sunday, November 17 at 2 p.m. Congregation Ahavath Sholom presents “Double Dutch: A Discussion About Immigration in the Berkshires, the US, and Europe.” Presenters will be two Berkshires-based and renowned Dutch journalists, Freke Vuijst and Reinout van Wagtendonk.

Based on research as well as personal experiences with immigrants, their talk will include the need for immigration laws and the human rights violations in practice today.

Vuijst and van Wagtendonk report on American politics and culture for Dutch media. Their podcast, DoubleDutch, is listened to by Dutch-speaking people throughout the world.

Freke Vuijst is an American correspondent for the Dutch magazine, *Vrij Nederland*. She is an award-winning documentary film maker and the author of four books. Her latest book *Alias Fortezza: A Hacker’s Odyssey* was released by Audible this year. She has



Freke Vuijst and Reinout van Wagtendonk

lived in Great Barrington for 40 years.

Reinout van Wagtendonk is a freelance journalist. He recently wrote the series called “Accents: The Stories of our Immigrant Neighbors” in *The Berkshire Eagle*. He was the US correspondent for BNR

Nieuwsradio and other Dutch radio outlets.

Admission is free for CAS members, \$10 for non-members. Congregation Ahavath Sholom is at 15 North Street in Great Barrington. For more information, please call (413) 528-4197.

ReThink the Conversation: #Letsstarttalking: A Conversation for Teens and Parents around Mental Health

GREAT BARRINGTON – On Sunday, November 10 at 9 a.m., Hevreh of Southern Berkshire welcomes Joanne L. Harpel, MPhil, JD, and Rabbi Geoffrey A. Mitelman for an important morning of conversation around mental health and depression aimed at teens and their parents.

Ms. Harpel and Rabbi Mitelman are a brother and sister who lost their brother, Stephen, to suicide in 1993, and have since dedicated

much of their professional lives to helping others have open, honest, and productive conversations around mental health and depression.

The morning will feature the opportunity for parents and teens to learn together, as well as break-out time for separate conversations.

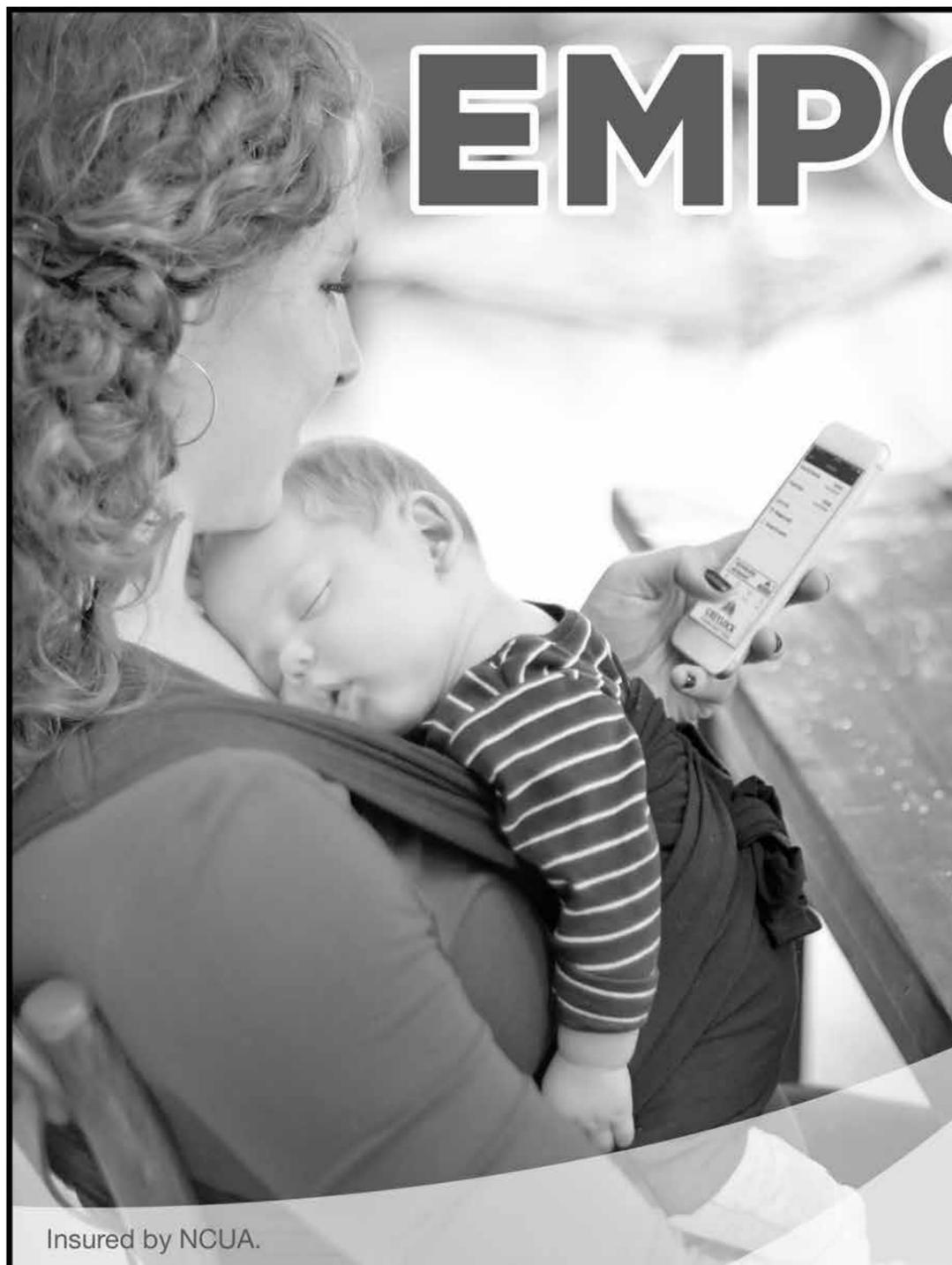
Hevreh is located at 270 State Road in Great Barrington. For more information, please call (413) 528-6378.



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LOCAL NEWS

A Torah's Trek Across the Berkshires

By Sandy Ashendorf / Special to the BJV

Unlike the joke about “the shul I’d never go to,” the Jewish community in the Berkshires has always been a collaborative one. From Federation to Shabbat Across the Berkshires to the Berkshire Minyan’s home at Hevreh, there are many points where Berkshire Jewish life intersects. As of late August, we can add another – the gracious donation of a *sefer Torah* by Congregation Beth Israel in North Adams to the Berkshire Minyan in Great Barrington.

A few years ago, when Rabbi Kaya Stern Kaufman established Rimon in Great Barrington, she was able to borrow a Torah from CBI. When Kaya left the area to lead another congregation, CBI agreed to allow the Berkshire Minyan to extend the loan and the Torah was used as a second Torah when readings so required. During one Shabbat service, it was discovered that the Torah had some damage and upon further inspection, it was found that extensive repairs were necessary for it to be deemed kosher.

The Berkshire Minyan enlisted the services of Linda Coppleson, Berkshire County’s own

soferet. Linda is part of a small, international community of women scribes who completed the writing of the first *sefer Torah* commissioned entirely for *sofrot*. For that project, she wrote 20 of the 62 four-column pages that every Torah comprises, including the entire Book of Numbers, the last two *parshiot* of the Torah, and several columns in the Book of Leviticus. In restoring the CBI Torah, two Minyan members, Patty and Rob Fire, were able to use the opportunity to apprentice under Linda and learn more about how to repair a Torah.

On August 25, after its journey from North County to South County, the Berkshire Minyan, together with members of CBI and Hevreh, officially welcomed the restored Torah to its new permanent home. The rededication ceremony included remarks from Rabbi Neil Hirsch, Rabbi Neal Borovitz, Rabba Kaya Stern Kaufman, Patty and Rob Fire, Linda Coppleson, and David Gilberg. All in attendance had the opportunity to inscribe a letter of the Torah with the *soferet* guiding the process, thereby completing the restoration as a community.



You can now read and share *Berkshire Jewish Voice* feature stories online! Visit jewishberkshires.org and select Community & Events>Berkshire Jewish Voice for links to highlights of current and past issues.

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OBITUARIES

Merrill Roberts, 72, local science teacher

PITTSFIELD – Merrill Roberts, 72, died unexpectedly on Tuesday, September 17. He was predeceased by his wife, June Waldman.

Born August 27, 1947, Merrill was for many years, before his retirement, a middle school science teacher in the Pittsfield public school system. For most of his adult life he engaged in rigorous exercise enjoying hours of running through the streets of Pittsfield. His joy grew over the years into ultra-marathon competition in which he would run in races of as much as 24-hour durations.

Merrill and June enjoyed jazz clubs, the theater, and the various cultural opportunities offered to them in their Berkshire community. After June's death, Merrill volunteered at local theaters and cultural venues as both docent and usher. In his later years, when running outdoors was no longer practical, Merrill found the camaraderie of his local fitness center to be one of his daily pleasures. He was also an avid pool player.

Merrill is survived by his sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Dr. Linda Waldman and Rabbi Hesch Sommer; his niece and nephew, Leah and Elvys Contreras, and their children, Kaleb and Luna.

Funeral services were held on Sunday, September 22 at Temple Anshe Amunim. Burial followed in the new section of the TAA cemetery at Pittsfield Cemetery.

Philip Kaminstein, 91, former president of Jewish Federation

PITTSFIELD – Philip Kaminstein, 91, died early Friday morning, September 13 at Wingate at Melbourne Place.

Born in Bronx, NY, on June 10, 1928, he was the son of the late Sam and Sarah Lisitz Kaminstein. Educated in the local schools in Kiamesha Lake, NY, he was awarded both his baccalaureate degree and his master's degree in Sociology from New York University. Continuing his education, Phil did graduate work at Duke University.

Phil came to the Berkshires in 1962 and served as the director of staff training at Berkshire Farm for Boys. He held that position for many years prior to his appointment as the director of Archives. He retired in 2012 after 50 years of service to Berkshire Farm.

A member of Temple Anshe Amunim, Phil served as a president of the Temple and was a member of many of the

Temple's various committees. He was chairman of the Friends of the Athenaeum, and also served as both the president and a member of many standing committees for the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires over the years.

Phil co-produced the nationally-recognized radio program "Listen to Their Voices," which won an American Legion award. The program first aired on WBRK.

Based on his professional training and skills, Phil developed many audio tapes of his interviews with troubled youth, as well as a series of training tapes for child care workers. He most enjoyed teaching classes at the Community Hebrew High School. He was always very pleased when former students greeted him and remembered how much they enjoyed these classes.

He and his wife of 54 years, the former Rhoda S. Silverstein, were married January 7, 1965.

In addition to his wife, Phil is survived by his son, Daniel J. Kaminstein and his wife, Wendy, of Allentown, NJ; their two children Stephanie A. Kaminstein and Matthew Kaminstein; his sister, Carole Paskow of Del Ray Beach, FL; and 2 nephews.

Funeral services were held Monday, September 16 at Temple Anshe Amunim with Rabbi Liz P.G. Hirsch, officiating. Burial followed in the Temple Anshe Amunim Section (original section) in the Pittsfield Cemetery.

Memorial donation may be made to the Prayer Book Fund at Temple Anshe Amunim or the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires in care of the Devanny-Condron Funeral Home.

Dr. Marsha Irene Altschuler, 69, biology professor at Williams College

PITTSFIELD – Dr. Marsha Irene Altschuler, 69, biology professor at Williams College, died on Thursday, September 12 at Berkshire Medical Center.

Born April 10, 1950 in Albany, NY, a daughter of the late Samuel and Ellen Lillian (Kloo) Altschuler, she attended schools in Ravena, NY, graduating Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk High School. She graduated from the University of Rochester with a master's degree and then received her Ph.D. from Indiana University.

Dr. Altschuler was last employed by Williams College as a professor of biology from 1985 until her retirement in 2014. Prior to Williams she did postdoctoral referral appointments at Washington

University in St. Louis and Cornell University in Ithaca, NY. She was a member of Congregational Beth Israel in North Adams.

Survivors include her three sisters, Susan Perlman of Valley Village, CA, Carole Brown of Ravena, NY, and Jean McWilliams of Averill Park, N.Y. as well as a brother, Michael Altschuler of Glenmont, NY. She also leaves nieces and nephews.

Per Dr. Altschuler's request there were no funeral services. A burial took place in the Williams College Cemetery on Tuesday, September 17.

Melvin A. Goldberg, 96, beloved patriarch and all-around mensch

PITTSFIELD – Melvin A. Goldberg passed away Friday, August 30 in Pittsfield.

Born February 5, 1923, in Bronx, NY, he had a full 96 years. He graduated from high school at age 15 and got his B.S. from CCNY in 1942 at 19. He served in World War II as a second lieutenant and navigator in the U.S. Army Air Corps, where he flew 34 missions in B-24 "Liberator" bombers over France and Germany.

After leaving the military, Mr. Goldberg got his master's degree at Columbia University and had a 60-year career in television and radio research working for Dumont, Westinghouse, and ABC-TV, among others.

He married Norma Nertz in 1956, moved to Great Neck, NY in 1963, where they raised three children, and then to Lenox in 2016.

Mr. Goldberg was a devoted, loving husband for 62 years of Norma (Nertz); beloved father of Ron Goldberg and Joe Chiplock, Rick Goldberg and Judith Milch, and Joan Goldberg Munch and Bob Munch; doting grandfather to Jacob, Daniel, and Aliza Munch and Henry and Klara Goldberg; beloved uncle, cousin, patriarch, and all-around mensch.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, September 3 at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, Great Barrington. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in Mel's name to the charity of your choice.

Harold "Boots" Potler, 95, ready smile, warmth, humility, and sharp wit

LENOX – Harold "Boots" Potler, 95, former longtime resident of Margate City, NJ, passed away at Berkshire Medical Center on Monday, September 16.

Born in Atlantic City, NJ on June 3, 1924, the son of the late Nathan and Minnie (Weintrob) Potler, he graduated

from Atlantic City High School and enrolled in the University of Virginia, where he received an economics degree. His education was interrupted by World War II when he enlisted in the US Navy. After spending a year at the Harvard midshipman school, he was deployed to the Pacific theater from 1942-1945, where he was commissioned a lieutenant and served on the destroyer escort USS George E. Davis. His experience in the US Navy proved to be defining. He noted that his service gave him lifelong friends from a variety of backgrounds, an openness to new experiences, and a commitment to learning. This experience fostered an intense interest in people from all walks of life which influenced him for years to come.

After the war, Boots continued his formal education, receiving his MBA from the Harvard School of Business Administration in the class of 1947. His early professional life included an executive position for a large company in Philadelphia. From 1952-1973 he was a partner in Capitol Furniture Company of Atlantic City. Boots later founded and became president of Whalon's Furniture and Design stores in Ship Bottom, Avalon, Villas, and Absecon, NJ.

During this time he was an adjunct professor at Richard Stockton State College and also served on various Boards both corporate and non-profit.

He retired from business in 1997 but continued active service to his community, particularly CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), and later mentored school children in Pittsfield.

Boots and his wife, Arlene, spent the last 5 years at Kimball Farms Independent Life Care in Lenox. He always enjoyed the wonderful staff and interesting residents. He thought that the fine fare and good friends there made every night a dinner party. His friends would agree that Boots, with his ready smile, warmth, humility, and sharp wit contributed to the enjoyment of life at Kimball Farms.

Boots' time with his treasured family was his main interest in life, and they loved and admired him in turn. His family will forever miss him, but his spirit and example will continue to inspire them.

He is survived by his wife, the former Arlene Snyder, whom he "swept off her feet" with his Hollywood good looks and married 70 years ago; his son, Dr. Andrew Potler and wife, Marcia Powdermaker; son-in-law Martin Vega; grandson Natan Vega Potler;

granddaughter Hannah Potler Espie and husband Charles Espie; great-grandson Alexander Espie; sister Alia Sayegh; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was predeceased by his beloved daughter, Cathy Potler, Esq.

Michael Ballon, 63, farm to table restaurateur, longtime roundtable chef on WAMC

NORTH EGREMONT – Michael Ballon, chief proprietor of the Castle Street Café, died peacefully at home on Thursday, September 26 of ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) and cancer.

Born August 8, 1956 in NJ, to Marcia and Herb Ballon, his interest in food began as a child, helping his mother, who was a great home cook, and continued in the student-run dining co-ops at Oberlin College.

After beginning his cooking career in New York City, he was drawn to the Berkshires, where his parents had a summer home. His first job here was as chef of The Williamsville Inn in West Stockbridge. When the inn was sold a year later, in 1985, he returned to NYC, hoping to return to the Berkshires soon.

When Michael opened the Castle Street Café in 1989, it was the only white tablecloth restaurant in a town that offered few other dining choices. The Café laid the groundwork for the incredible proliferation of other restaurants that have made Great Barrington a dining mecca. Castle Street was a place where both locals and New Yorkers felt at home, and it became a center of the community.

Right from the start, and long before the phrase "farm to table" was coined, the restaurant featured locally grown ingredients, and the backside of the menu proudly listed the sources. When the Café had the chance to expand, the Celestial Bar became the only venue in the Berkshires with live jazz every weekend, featuring the best of the area's musicians.

For seven years he was the Roundtable Chef on WAMC, where he taught cooking on the radio. In 2008 Michael published *The Castle Street Café Cookbook*, followed by a memoir, *A Chef's Life*, in 2014.

Michael enjoyed living near Mt. Washington State Forest, where he hiked and skied regularly. He also loved to travel, especially to our National Parks.

In 2017, after a long and circuitous route, he reunited

OBITUARIES, continued on page 17



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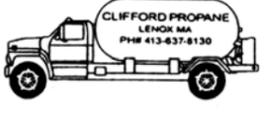
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OBITUARIES, *continued from page 16*

with and married his wife, Julia Kreilkamp, who he first met over forty years ago, working in the kitchen at Oberlin College.

Michael is survived by Julia, who cared for him in his illness; brother David and his wife, Karen Reisler; sister Elizabeth Mariscal and her husband, George; sister-in-law Linda Ballon; niece, nephew, three stepchildren, and cat Yoda. He was predeceased by his brother Jon in 2017.

Contributions in Michael's memory may be made to Compassionate Care ALS at ccals.org, or P.O. Box 1052, West Falmouth, MA 02574.

A memorial gathering will be held at a later date.

Miriam Rosenbaum, 93, enthusiastic baker of challah and all things chocolate

PITTSFIELD – Miriam Rosenbaum, 93, passed away on Thursday, October 3 at Berkshire Medical Center.

Miriam was a first-generation American, born September 18, 1926, in Scranton, PA, the youngest of Abraham and Clara Heller Tauber's four children. The family moved to Pittsfield when Miriam was a youngster, and she was raised in her parents' bread bakery on Kent Avenue. She attended Mercer Elementary School and graduated from Pittsfield High School in 1944 before enrolling in nurses' training at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City, where she met her future husband, Irving, at a dance.

Miriam worked beside Irv at the family business, the former Irv's Auto Supply, before retiring in 1981. She was an avid knitter, fearless cook, and enthusiastic baker of challah and all things chocolate. She enjoyed gardening, traveling, and watching Boston Red Sox baseball with Irv until his death in 2006.

She was predeceased by her brothers (Sam and Saul) and sister (Ethel), and is survived by sons Stephen of San Francisco, CA, and Robert

(Vicki) of Alford, MA, and daughters Susan (Martin) of Cincinnati, OH, and Nancy of Pittsfield, as well as granddaughters Rebecca (Sloane) of Denver, CO, Elizabeth (John) of Brecksville, OH, Whitney and Maggie of Boston, as well as great grandsons Arthur and Walter of Brecksville, OH.

Graveside services were held Sunday, October 6 at Kneset Israel Cemetery with Rabbi David Weiner, spiritual leader of Kneset Israel, officiating. Donations may be made to Kneset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield, MA 01201 or charity of the donor's choice.

Jay Gordon Shapiro, 74, husband, son, brother, uncle

PORT ST. LUCIE, FL – Jay Gordon Shapiro, 74 of Port St. Lucie, FL died Thursday, October 3 at his home. He was a member of Congregation Beth Israel in North Adams.

Born in Pittsfield on March 27, 1945, son of Eli and Lee (Samuels) Shapiro, Jay attended North Adams schools and graduated from Drury High School. Upon graduating from UMass, Jay served in the US Army Reserve, then moved on to Traveler's Insurance Company in Hartford, CT. After several years as an actuary, he then pursued his dream of owning his own bar and restaurant, Mother Shapiro's, in Killington, VT. Upon retirement he moved to Florida.

His wife of 24 years, Sheila Nancy (Cohen) Shapiro, predeceased him by just 6 months. Jay is survived by his sisters Miriam Weiner of Windsor, CT and Barbara Winer of Rockville, MD; his brother, Stephen Shapiro of Wading River, NY; and several nieces and nephews.

A graveside service was held Tuesday, October 8 at Beth Israel Cemetery in Clarksburg, MA. Memorial contributions may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project in care of Flynn & Dagnoli-Montagna Home For Funerals Central Chapel, 74 Marshall St. North Adams, MA 01247.

Calendar – Ongoing Events
Around the Community

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

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

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

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

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

Wednesdays at Kneset Israel, – "Enhanced Prayer Class for Adults" 10-11:30 a.m. at 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield, KI library. What are we saying when we read prayers at a service? How does the siddur language connect with my life today? How can I build my Hebrew reading fluency and practice my reading skills? How can I be more comfortable with the language and process

of prayer? Facilitated by Myrna Hammerling. Newcomers always welcome. Information: (413) 445-4872, ext. 16.

Wednesdays, 12:30-1:30 p.m. – at Chabad of the Berkshires (through June 13). Join together with fellow Jewish women in the Berkshires for inspiring Torah study, warm camaraderie, hot tea and delicious refreshments! Please RSVP to saravolovik@gmail.com or call (413) 499-9899.

Wednesdays at Hevreh, – "Lunch N Learn" with Rabbi Neil Hirsch at 11:45 a.m. is open to anyone who wants to deepen their relationship to Jewish study through text and discussion. Says Rabbi Hirsch: Currently, we are studying the Book of Judges, which tells the stories of the Israelites as they attempted to settle the Land of Israel. It's a story of one people encountering others, the tensions that exist between those parties, and the complicated, ongoing relationship of a Covenantal Nation with its God. While the study is ongoing, we welcome people whenever they may be available to join." Classes available via video conference or conference call. Email Rabbi Hirsch at nhirsch@hevreh.org to find out how to join remotely.

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

Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. – Janet Lee will continue to teach an intermediate mat Pilates class at Hevreh every Thursday. Bring a mat and water. Contact Janet Lee at jlee@hevreh.org to learn more, and check hevreh.org/calendar for any weekly changes.

Fridays, at 9 a.m. – Meditation with Rabbi Rachel Barenblat in the Congregation Beth Israel sanctuary, 53 Lois Street, North Adams, overlooking the Berkshire mountains. Silence, chanting, and meditation designed to help prepare for Shabbat. All welcomed.

Information: (413) 663-5830 and www.cbiweb.org.

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

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

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

**Kneset Israel
16 Colt Road
Pittsfield****ONGOING MINYANS**

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

CANDLE-LIGHTING

Friday, November 8.....	4:20 p.m.
Friday, November 15.....	4:13 p.m.
Friday, November 22.....	4:07 p.m.
Friday, November 29.....	4:03 p.m.

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MAZEL TOV

Mazel Tov to...

Judith Cook on being honored last month with the MICAH (Members in Community Action Honoree) Award, sponsored by the Berkshire Interfaith Organization (BIO). A member of Knesset Israel, Judy is also a board member and past president of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. She was recognized for her countless hours of service to the Jewish and wider community. The award was presented in Dalton on October 27.

*

Jackie Browner and Randy Johnson on the marriage of their son, **Evan Kenward**.

*

Roz Baron on her son, **Rabbi Barry Baron**, who was recently appointed campus rabbi and associate chaplain at Colgate University. He had retired from the Army Chaplaincy as a colonel.

*

Margo Golos on the engagement of her daughter, **Joy Reines**, to **Craig Zimmerman**.



Connecting with Community

Nourish Your Body, Mind, and Soul!

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

Programs take place on most Mondays and Thursdays at 10:45 a.m. Lunch is served Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays at noon.

Advanced reservations are required to attend lunch.

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

Adults 60 and over: \$2 suggested donation

Adults under 60: \$7 per person

Program only is free!

When making a reservation please inform us if a person in your party has a food allergy.

The Federation's kosher hot lunch program is offered in collaboration with Elder Services of Berkshire County.



Jewish Federation
OF THE BERKSHIRES

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.

NOVEMBER

Monday, 4 10:45 a.m., "In the Shadow of Two Great Hills: Literature of the Berkshires" with Michael Hoberman. 1st of 3 part series. **Lunch: Meat loaf**#, noodle soup, peas and carrots, mashed potatoes, rye bread, fruit cobbler, and tea.**

Tuesday, 5 **Stir fired chicken and broccoli#, egg drop soup, rice, white bread, pineapple, and tea.**

Thursday, 7 10:45 a.m., "Living in a Time of Climate Change: Responding to Crisis." **Lunch: Vegetarian chili and cheese, quinoa, salad, corn bread, ice cream and cookies, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.**

Monday, 11 10:45 a.m., "In the Shadow of Two Great Hills: Literature of the Berkshires" with Michael Hoberman. 2nd of 3 part series. **Lunch: Stuffed cabbage casserole**#, chicken soup, brown rice, baby carrots, salad, rye bread, mandarin oranges, and tea.**

Tuesday, 12 **Chicken Marsala,**#, noodles, green beans, salad, Challah, parve cookies, and tea.**

Thursday, 14 10:45 a.m., "Educating the Community about Immigrants in the Berkshires" with Michelle Lopez, executive director of the Berkshire Immigrant Center. **Lunch: Squash cheese pie**, stewed tomatoes, salad, farmer's loaf, baklava, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.**

Monday, 18 10:45 a.m., "In the Shadow of Two Great Hills: Literature of the Berkshires" with Michael Hoberman. Final of 3 part series. **Lunch: Salisbury steak**#, split pea soup, mashed potatoes, green beans, rye bread, parve chocolate chip cookies, and tea.**

Tuesday, 19 **Eggplant with meat and onions**#, Acini di Pepe pasta with chickpeas, pita bread, apricots, and tea.**

Thursday, 21 10:45 a.m., "Current Affairs" with Steven Rubin. **Lunch: Thanksgiving at JFB: Roasted turkey**#, mashed potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce, peas & pearl onions, salad, challah, apple dumplings, and tea.**

Monday, 25 10:45 a.m., "Intergenerational: The Process of Aging" with therapist Maggie Bittman. **Lunch: Ratatouille with cheese, rice, salad, scones, peaches, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.**

Tuesday, 26 **Fish sticks#, sweet potato fries, broccoli, salad, pumpernickel bread, applesauce, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.**

Thursday, 28 Closed for Thanksgiving

DECEMBER

Monday, 2 10:45 a.m., screening of film *Denial*. Film runs 110 minutes. Begins at 10:45, breaks at noon for lunch and continues to end at 12:45. **Lunch: Meat loaf**#, noodle soup, mixed vegetables, oven roasted potatoes Syrian style, salad, rye bread, pears, and tea.**

Tuesday, 3 **Chicken with prunes and honey**#, couscous and toasted almonds, peas, Italian bread, mandarin oranges, and tea.**

Thursday, 5 10:45 a.m., Chair Yoga with Linda Novick. **Lunch: Fish chowder, grilled cheese sandwiches, stewed tomatoes, salad, oyster crackers, pudding and cookies, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.**

You can now read and share *Berkshire Jewish Voice* feature stories online! Visit jewishberkshires.org and select **Community & Events>Berkshire Jewish Voice** for links to highlights of current and past issues.



Like us on Facebook:

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Homebound or recovering from an illness or injury?

Let us help you arrange for a kosher lunch to be delivered through our Kosher Meals on Wheels Program. Call (413) 442-4360, ext 10



BERKSHIRE JEWISH VOICES

Traveling with Jewish Taste

Even Raging Hurricane Dorian Couldn't Dampen Maritime Provinces Excursion

By Carol Goodman Kaufman



While reading the Pulitzer Prize winning novel, *The Shipping News*, I fell in love with author Annie Proulx's descriptions of Newfoundland, with its rough coastline and unforgiving climate. The Maritime Provinces beckoned me. Well, we didn't have time to include Newfoundland, but we have just returned from a most amazing road trip to the rest of Atlantic Canada. Herein, just a few highlights.

We entered New Brunswick by way of Maine and drove up and down a roller coaster of hills, through miles and miles — and more miles — of pine forests, through the Fundy National Park and its forests, then past fields that stretched to the horizon. Houses sat vast distances from one another, making for what must be a lonely life during the winter months — and quite the trek to a neighbor to borrow a cup of sugar.

At the center of every little town along the way was a white clapboard church. I can see why that church would be so important for people living so far from their neighbors. After a week of strenuous labor tending to farming or fishing, church services on Sunday would not only be spiritually uplifting but socially necessary.

Oh, did I mention that we got caught in Hurricane Dorian while in Harvey, population 363? The wind raged around us, buffeting the house and felling trees and power lines. The power at the B&B went out and, since the place has a well, we also lost water, all of which only served to enhance the feeling of remoteness.

Jews, on the other hand, tended to settle in towns where fellow members of the tribe had congregated, establishing businesses, synagogues, and cemeteries. At one time there were large and thriving Jewish communities in the province. However, since the 1960s, large numbers of younger people have left home to pursue higher education or employment, so the communities have dwindled. Only Moncton, Saint John, and Fredericton have any Jewish presence, and the three communities count fewer than 2,000 Jews in total.

The highlight of New Brunswick has to be Hopewell Cape, where the tide goes out so far that you can actually walk on the ocean floor. In fact, twice a day the bay fills and empties over 160 billion tons of water — that's more than the flow of all the world's rivers combined — and the tide rises almost 50 feet. We visited at high tide and saw rocks that simply looked like little islands in the water. Next morning, knowing that this would be the only chance we would have to see low tide before Dorian arrived in full force, we ventured out in the rain. We found that those islands were actually rocks that rose about 80 feet above the beach. The silver lining: although we got soaked, we had the beach almost to ourselves.

Once the hurricane had passed, the 17-mile long Confederation Bridge reopened and we drove over it to Prince Edward Island (PEI). For a girl who grew up landlocked in Pittsfield, it was quite a jolt to be completely surrounded by the sea everywhere we went. And even though Dorian had passed, the wind never abated and I gave up trying to wear a hat.

Like many young girls, I had read the Anne of Green Gables novels, but the fact that the story takes place on PEI escaped my ten-year-old eyes. After all, back then I hadn't been past Brooklyn. But, Anne is so beloved on the island that much of its economy is based on that redheaded girl of Avonlea. Aside from the actual historical sites, there is the AGG Chocolate Factory, the AGG golf course, the AGG B&B, Avonlea Village shopping center ... well, you get the picture. But, the real deal is the Anne of Green Gables Heritage Place, part of Prince Edward Island National Park. There we learned about author Lucy Maud Montgomery who, it turns out, was a very prolific writer, having published 20 novels (most set on PEI), as well as 530 short stories, 500 poems, and 30 essays.

From PEI, we took the ferry to Nova Scotia and drove directly to Cape Breton Island, where we were struck by the people's strong attachment to both the Acadian and Celtic culture. Everybody we met was bilingual, and street signs, menus, and pamphlets were printed in both English and either Gaelic or French. The people of Nova Scotia are so intent on maintaining their culture that they have established the Gaelic College in order to bring back the almost-lost language to modern use in the provinces.

Caileigh (pronounced kay-lee) concerts of traditional Celtic music are a daily occurrence, and at the Celtic Music Interpretive Centre in Judique we were treated to an authentic caileigh performance over lunch, complete with fiddle and keyboard. After our meal, we toured the museum's interactive exhibits chronicling the development of the genre in Canada, and even learned a bit of Irish step dancing.

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.



And at Grand Pré, we learned about the Great Upheaval. In 1755 the British forcibly removed the Acadian population from the Maritime Provinces and northern Maine. Even though these proud people had been in the area for little more than half a century, they yearned to return to it. Given the Jews' 2000-year exile from the Land of Israel, during which we never stopped praying for a return, we certainly identified with their hopes. (If only we could embrace the Hebrew language with as much dedication.)

Fish and Potato Bake

Serves 8

With apologies to Samuel Taylor Coleridge: Water, water, everywhere/and lots and lots of fish. And, boy, did we eat a lot of it. The seafood industry forms a large part of the provincial economy, and this dish includes two quintessentially Atlantic Canadian foods: fish and potatoes. While the cod fishing industry collapsed in the last century, it has revived due to significant regulation and restructuring. And, Prince Edward Island, with its iron-rich soil and balanced sunshine and rainfall, is the perfect place to grow potatoes, and farmers on the island grow many varieties of spuds. In fact, potatoes are so much a part of the PEI community that the town of O'Leary is home to the Canadian Potato Museum.

Ingredients:

1½ lb. Yukon Gold potatoes	2 Tbsp. chopped fresh dill, or
3 Tbsp. butter	2 tsp. dried
3 cloves garlic, minced	½ tsp. salt
3 Tbsp. flour	1½ lb. cod
2 cups milk	3 Tbsp. cornstarch

Directions:

Place potatoes in large saucepan; cover with cold water. Bring to a boil. Reduce to a simmer and cook 20 to 25 min., or until just tender. Drain. Cool until comfortable enough to handle. Slice into 1/4-inch thick rounds. Meanwhile, preheat oven to 425°F. Melt butter in a pan over medium heat. Cook garlic for about 1 minute, until softened. Sprinkle with flour. Cook, stirring 2 minutes, then gradually whisk in milk until smooth. Continuing to whisk, bring just to a boil. Reduce to a simmer 3 to 4 minutes, until sauce is thickened. Stir in dill and salt. Set aside. Dust cod with cornstarch; place in 9x13-inch baking dish. Arrange potato slices on top of fish. Pour sauce over top. Bake 30 to 35 min. until the top is golden and the fish is cooked through.

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CULTURE AND ARTS

Medieval Jewish Treasures Hidden for Centuries On View at The Met Cloisters

NEW YORK CITY – “Periodic waves of persecution against medieval Jewish communities,” writes Barbara Drake Boehm in her exhibition catalogue *The Colmar Treasure: A Medieval Jewish Legacy*, “resulted in significant loss of life, the confiscation of property, or both. Across medieval Europe, Jews had good reason to hide their valuables.”

The circa 14th century artifacts in the Colmar Treasure were uncovered in 1863 by workmen renovating a confectioner’s shop in Colmar, a town along the Rhine river renowned for its wines. Jewish merchants arrived in this Holy Roman Empire “imperial city” in the late 13th century, and developed a thriving community with a synagogue, school, cemetery, and *mikveh*

(ritual bath). The community was decimated by anti-Semitic violence in the wake of the Black Plague in the mid-14th century, however, and these structures have long since been destroyed. While some Jews hung on, many fled to more hospitable locales.

The identity and fate of the family that stashed the hundreds of coins, plus gems and 14 finely-crafted rings, is unknown but their possessions attest the vibrancy and affluence of the lost Jews of Colmar. Also surviving are vestiges of Hebrew manuscripts, which were likely used in Colmar’s synagogue and school, and that were later incorporated in the bindings of Christian books.

The objects have resided in the collection of the Musee de Cluny in Paris, one of the most important global collections of objects and art from the Middle Ages, since 1923. They will be on view, along with related artifacts, at The Met Cloisters, the Metropolitan Museum of Art’s medieval collection near the northern tip of Manhattan, through January 12, 2020.

The Met Cloisters is located at 99 Margaret Corbin Drive, Fort Tryon Park, in New York City. For more information, visit metmuseum.org.



Gilded silver brooch, mid-13th century



Fastener with falconer on horseback



Sapphire ring



Dress pin with happy faces



Left: Silver key, first half 14th century. From the online catalogue: “Silver is usually deemed too soft and too valuable for keys, but this example served an exceptional function. Because it is made of precious metal, [Jewish law permitted it to] be worn as an accessory and therefore... not subject to Sabbath restrictions against carrying an object outside the home.” The Colmar key is the earliest surviving example of this practice.

Harold Grinspoon Foundation Grants Available to Berkshire Residents

The Harold Grinspoon Foundation (HGF) offers generous grants to Jewish individuals and families living in the Berkshires and Western Massachusetts to encourage and enrich participation in Jewish communal life. For full details about the available grants highlighted below – and the rules, restrictions, and deadlines governing their award – please visit hgf.org/grants-awards.

Israel Travel Grants

A trip to Israel can be life changing for those who make the journey. HGF may provide an Israel Travel Grant to Jewish adults over 18, youth applicants from age 6 through 18, and families traveling together on the same trip. To be eligible, a qualifying trip must be for at least 7 days and sponsored and organized by a Jewish organization with a set itinerary OR be a self-organized trip with a clear itinerary that includes educational tours, programs, and experiences for each day – other restrictions apply. All grants are reimbursement grants.

Year-Round Youth Experiences

Jewish youth groups, retreats, and trips can expand a young person’s sense of self and connect him or her with wider Jewish learning and Jewish community. Youth ages 6 to 18 can apply for grants to attend an event sponsored by a recognized Jewish institution, such as a national Jewish youth movement or organized by a Western Massachusetts or Southern Vermont youth group, Jewish organization, or school. Events must include highly impactful and meaningful Jewish content and values.

Jewish Overnight Summer Camping

A Jewish summer camp experience offers young people the opportunity to build lasting friendships with Jewish peers and immerse themselves in joyful Jewish living. Youth ages 6 to 18 can apply for yearly grants to camps that:

Are approved or sponsored by one of the five major Jewish movements (Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, Reconstructionist, or Renewal) or sponsored by a nonprofit Jewish organization or school

OR

Are publicly advertised as Jewish overnight camps and meet criteria listed in detail on the HGF website.

Jewish Family Camps

An immersive Jewish camp experience is one way for families to bond and experience Jewish life together. Families can rekindle the Jewish spirit as they enjoy song, stories, and rituals – all alongside new Jewish family friends. Family camps must meet similar guidelines as youth overnight camps, and participants must attend for at least two days.

Rekindle Shabbat

Rekindle Shabbat Grants encourage people to experience the magic of Shabbat together through a Shabbat meal. HGF reimburses the cost of hosting a Shabbat meal up to eight times per year, providing that a minimum of eight individuals attend each gathering. HGF will reimburse \$10 per individual, up to a maximum of \$300, to hosts approved for the grant.

Visit HGF.org/grants-awards

Harold Grinspoon
FOUNDATION