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 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 new jews’ 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.

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 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.

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!

Donate online at jewishberkshires.org

THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

Doing Extraordinary Things
Your Impact is Real

2019 Annual Campaign
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 whom are pursuing important work ing Jewish community. Federation – a path that will continue to strengthen us as a responsible and thriving Jewish community. We have so much strength to build upon.

Thank you volunteers Ellen Rosenblatt and the BJV delivery team, Michael Albert, Roman Rozenblum, and Colin Ovitsky for their support.

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CORRECTIONS

In our last In My View column should have noted that the services of Jill Goldstein, LICSW, Federation’s summer concert. We regret the omission.

Susan Prisch-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 we 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 Naumkeag’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 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.

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.

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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 new level of community and bringing honor to G-d and glory to G-d in 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 acumen in fulfilling the wishes of the One Above and his mission in uplifting the world through loving-kindness, we, too, forge ahead toward a brighter and better world. We recognize that sometimes it floods us with problems and challenges. Abraham’s outlook empowers us not to simply swim with the tide, but to lift our eyes to see the hope in every situation, 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 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, to 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 mission 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 the most beautiful story 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 a Jewish 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 with creativity, activity, and a Judaism that is alive and vibrant. We see a community forming the future for ourselves and for our children through our commitment to Torah learning and Jewish education. We see ourselves unified as a Jewish community, as do thousands of Chabad emissaries respectively around the globe.

Reading the recent Torah portions of the week, we are further inspired by our ancestor, Abraham, in the portion of Lech Lecha. 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 destiny uncertain, Abraham was nevertheless quick to respond to G-d’s command. Abraham baled 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 to G-d in the difficulties.

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 mission 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 the most beautiful story that is alive and vibrant.

Standing in Support of Essential Legal Services in Berkshire County

Dear Jewish Women’s Foundation,

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 chug and loved spending time with my friends.

Sincerely,
Ellie Caine Richardson

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 chug and loved spending time with my friends.

Sincerely,
Ellie Caine Richardson

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. The Boys and Girls Club of the Berkshires, an organization that is alive and vibrant.

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.

Sincerely 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 Shabbat 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! Because of my special needs, I wasn’t always able to play because of camp being able to become really close with my counselors. In my bunk, there was 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,
Alina Munch Lenox
and the general population. A lack of memory about, or an incomplete understanding of, a past financial crisis will lead policymakers to ignore the signs of impending crisis. This is something Lieberman and others fail to adequately apply the lessons learned in the aftermath of the 2008-2009 credit crunch that created a vicious cycle in which yesterday’s unresolved crisis plan failed to protect tomorrow’s economic calamine.

What’s more, given today’s international global financial marketplace, one nation’s financial or sovereign debt crisis can quite quickly spill over to 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 whole new view of how financial crises occur and inevitably recur. Put in the simplest possible terms, a sovereign debt crisis occurs when a borrower nation has borrowed money that it promised to repay, and then the nation that it can repay. At the end of World War I, economically-advanced nations put into place a monetary order designed to mitigate the economic consequences of financial upheaval, its success hinges on the ability of the central banks and multinational financial institutions to prevent a crisis spiraling into catastrophe. In Good Times Prepare for Crisis and Bad Times, Lieberman paints an internal view of how a national monetary order came to be and continues to operate. Having a view of how it might seem daunting to the general reader, Lieberman writes in an engaging prose about economics, and logically connects the historical dots among the financial crises to illuminate monetary policies in the 20th and 21st centuries. Having held high-level positions at the World Bank, Lieberman has worked with governments, corporations, banks, and financiers that 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 health care, that can be lots of imports. 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 money not in their own currency but in a foreign exchange. (The burgeoning dollar is usually tied to trade, but often borrowing becomes a short-term debt that is not tied to trade and is often known as what is now known as a non-tied loan and the currency that it was linked to is often known as a hard currency. So that’s 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 (Ginnie Mae and Freddie Mac) that had the biggest problems. Leverage was enormous problem and no one was regulating the investments that were occurring. It was the Federal Trade Commission, that was more or less the regulatory side, not the Federal Reserve, not the Federal Reserve, or the Federal Reserve, any of these agencies. Some of the biggest banks went “regulatory shopping” and looked their way into getting their own regulators. At one point of crisis, the large banks’ regulators, for example, the Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac regulators exceeded 50 percent of mortgage financing in the country, and that’s what the mortgage regulators.

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 a short chart that shows each of the historical crises started with a bust of a mania of some kind, like the famous 1929 stock market crash, but 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’s why this just happens and stalling. But the regulatory issues are that once we’ve started and it’s still a big problem in this country, there have been the regulators, the government had their problems, as well, but it was investment banks and other non-bank financial institutions and the government-backed institutions (Ginnie Mae and Freddie Mac) that had the biggest problems. Leverage was an enormous problem, and no one was regulating the investments that were occurring. It was the Federal Trade Commission, that was more or less the regulatory side, not the Federal Reserve, or the Federal Reserve, any of these agencies. Some of the biggest banks went “regulatory shopping” and looked their way into getting their own regulators. At one point of crisis, the large banks regulators, for example, the Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac regulators exceeded 50 percent of mortgage financing in the country, and that’s what the mortgage regulators.

Can you explain the role of the “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 then the first concept of a lender of last resort was that of a national central bank in an economy. That was the role of the US Federal Reserve played together with the US Department of the 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—bailout programs like General Motors Acceptance Corporation (GMAC) and the investment banks Lehman Brothers and Goldman Sachs. They all had to be bailed out or at least bailed out or too big to fail. As the global economy became clear that many countries did not have a central bank that was sufficiently robust or strong enough. When the bad debt occurred, there was no one to deal with the kind of bad debts incurred. So then there comes the need for what was known as an interna- tional lender of last resort. For emerging market countries it is the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which supported by the World Bank, and regional development banks like the Asian Development Bank or the International 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 euro, the Eurostraw. So the European Central Bank developed this tool 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 cri- sis 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 liv- ing beyond our means—on borrowed money and on borrowed time. Timothy Geithner wrote: “The fundamental causes of this crisis…began at the end of the 20th century — 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

Lakkes, 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, 15 Crissey Road, Great Barrington. Meet in the lounge. Right: Sarah Areoeste Blaugrund frying up some

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

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and the general population. A lack of memory about, or an incomplete understanding of, a past financial crisis will lead policymakers to ignore the signs of impending crisis. This is something Lieberman and others fail to adequately apply the lessons learned in the aftermath of the 2008-2009 credit crunch that created a vicious cycle in which yesterday’s unresolved crisis plan failed to protect tomorrow’s economic calamine.

What’s more, given today’s international global financial marketplace, one nation’s financial or sovereign debt crisis can quite quickly spill over to 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 whole new view of how financial crises occur and inevitably recur. Put in the simplest possible terms, a sovereign debt crisis occurs when a borrower nation has borrowed money that it promised to repay, and then the nation that it can repay. At the end of World War I, economically-advanced nations put into place a monetary order designed to mitigate the economic consequences of financial upheaval, its success hinges on the ability of the central banks and multinational financial institutions to prevent a crisis spiraling into catastrophe. In Good Times Prepare for Crisis and Bad Times, Lieberman paints an internal view of how a national monetary order came to be and continues to operate. Having a view of how it might seem daunting to the general reader, Lieberman writes in an engaging prose about economics, and logically connects the historical dots among the financial crises to illuminate monetary policies in the 20th and 21st centuries. Having held high-level positions at the World Bank, Lieberman has worked with governments, corporations, banks, and financiers
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 Knesset Israel, 16 Colt Road in Pittsfield is part of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires’ Connecting With Community series. Linda Novick says: “Chair Yoga is appropriate for people of all levels of mobility. It is a series of breathing and 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 is now a regular presenter, offering programs that combine painting and yoga. She’s the author of the book, The Painting Path: Embodiment Spiritual Discovery through Yoga, Brush and Color.

IF YOU GO
Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires / Connecting With Community
Venue: Knesset Israel
Date & Time: Thursday, December 5 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 18).

Donate ~ Volunteer ~ Make a Difference

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

YOU CAN AFFORD JEWISH SUMMER CAMP
The Jewish Federation Can Help
The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires is dedicated to making a Jewish summer camp experience affordable and accessible for every child.

Tuition assistance is available through:
Jewish Federation of the Berkshires Camp Scholarship Fund
Dr. Arthur & Helen Maiden Camp Scholarship Fund
Jewish Women’s Foundation of Berkshire County

APPLICATION DEADLINE: JANUARY 16
Download an application at jewishberkshires.org or pick one up at the Federation’s office, 196 South St., Pittsfield, MA

Additional funding is available from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation (hgf.org)

FREE DAY TRIP FOR JEWISH TEENS
Museum of Jewish Heritage
Sunday, December 8, 2019

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 Dana 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.
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 was not just not even the kind of more deliberate and determined way that Obama did in Iraq. It was just not to say it, but Obama kind of understood what he was doing and was trying to do be deliberately 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, and not understanding 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 think 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 very low level war against Iran across all 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, if they could do it, would not want to try to see them do. This is not going to end well for them, for us, for anyone.

The Saudis and the Emiratis, our [Persian] Gulf allies, face the same dilemma, but of course they don’t have the military capability that Israel has. And they’ve seen 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 not doing nothing, but we have made statements which are outrageous and have condemned as, ‘We don’t regard any threat or any attack on one but American stuff (whether it’s people or just our toys, like the drone) as a threat to our national interests. That again, is just a wild reversal of 40 to 75 years of American policy. There was no American policy that suggested that Iran and America were at war, and that’s what they said and 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 rings of the Americans and get the Iranians to stop attacking them. 

We need to recognize the fact that there 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 adversar- iers 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 this kind of low level war, 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 they don’t want to more to defend themselves, similar to what Trump has said to NATO allies, for example?

He may tell himself that that’s the case. But I’m not at all convinced that that is the case. I just don’t think he understands that the Saudis with foreign affairs or any of this stuff. The only thing he seems to be interested in is that what the United States can do is what’s going 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 gone to a terrible deal I can get a better one.’ Over the last four months, all across the world, all over the Iranians trying desperately to get them back to the nuclear deal, thinking that his own policies have made it close to impossible.

Israel is in a very tough situation. I think that’s a constellation 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 we have done and, I suspect, the president himself do not recognize is that the world economy still is heav- ily dependent on Persian Gulf oil – about 30 percent of all the oil that the world still comes from the Persian Gulf. And that’s not going to remain true for at least, if not 20, years down the road. If there were a major disruption of the Trump more or less allows the Iranians to do whatever they want, what the Israelis understand is that they can’t solve their own problems. They have an agreement with the Israeli/Palestinian issue by them- selves, they have no ability to deal with these problems by themselves, they have no ability to deal with the fact that the Saudi 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 Israel 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 mak- ing zero effort to do so. Also, Trump hasn’t actually put forward his peace proposal on the Israeli/Palestinian issue. What he receives from him so far are efforts to kind of be more generous or appease or acquiesce 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 tolerable. 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 the 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 concerning to the Palestinians, and of course the fact that the Trump adminis- tration 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.
An Evening with Mark Feuerstein

WILLIAMSTOWN - The Berkshires 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. at 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, completely dedicated to acting, and how his deep Jewish roots led him to produce and direct his television show, "9JKL." His experiences on the set will be shared, as well as his love for having Jewish roots. Feuerstein will help lead a dialogue about the importance of Jewish community and how we represent ourselves in the face of assimilation and navigation of the subtle histories that are woven into our everyday lives. An opportunity to speak will be provided.

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 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.

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 informative atmosphere.

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

The Berkshires / Connecting With Community

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires
Venue: Knesset Israel
Date & Time: Thursday, November 21 at 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch (see page 18).

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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 are 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 hazzanim (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 their 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!
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.

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?”

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

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

“Considering Jewish life in the Berkshires, what is our Jewish community doing well?”
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Berkshire Jewish Congregations & Organizations

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

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

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

BERKSHIRE JEWISH CONGREGATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS

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

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

B’nai Brith Lodge, No. 326
Chabad of the Berkshires
450 South St., Pittsfield, MA
(413) 499-9899, jewishberkshires.com

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

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

Hevreh of Southern Berkshire
Reform
270 State Rd., Great Barrington, MA
(413) 528-6578, hevreh.org

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

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

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

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

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

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 “greeting 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.
Thank you to our supporters!
The Berkshire Jewish Voice extends a very special “thank you” for the generosity extended thus far by 160 households as of 11/4/19 who have sent in their contributions for voluntary subscriptions to the paper.

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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.

Cheshvan/Kislev 5780 Berkshire Jewish Voice • jewishberkshires.org Page 13
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 Wagendonk.

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 Wagendonk report on American politics and culture for Dutch media. Their podcast, Double Dutch, is listened to by Dutch-speaking people throughout the world.

Freke Vuijst is a Dutch 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 lived in Great Barrington for 40 years.

Reinout van Wagendonk 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.
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 Coppelston, 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, Rabbi Kaya Stern Kaufman, Patty and Rob Fire, Linda Coppelston, 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 jewishaerks.com and select Community & Events>Berkshire Jewish Voice for links to highlights of current and past issues.
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 Aug. 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 has been an avid jogger in rigorous exercise enjoying hours of running with the runners of the streets of Pittsfield. His joy grew over the years into ultra-marathon competitions in which he would run in races of as much as 24-hour durations.
He played a frequent role, he enjoyed jazz clubs, the theater, and the various cultural opportunities offered to them in their Berkshire community. After June’s death, Merrill volun-
teerled to run at the various full cultural venues as both docent and usher. In his later years, while his visual and auditory capacity was no longer practical, Merrill found the camaraderie of his local running partner to be one of his daily pleasures. He was also an avid pool player. Born Aug. 27, 1947, Merrill was married to his sister-in-law and brother-in-

law, Dr. Linda Waldman and Ralph Somer. He is survived by his niece and nephew, Leah and Elvy Waldman, his two grandchildren, Caleb and Luna.
Funeral services were held on Monday, September 16 at Temple Anshe Amunim. Burial followed in the new section of the Cemetery at Pittsfield Cemetery.

Phil Kaminstein, 91, former president of 
Jewish Federation
PITTSFIELD — Phil Kaminstein, 91, died early Friday morning, September 13 at Wingate at Melborne Place.
Born in Bronx, NY, on June 10, 1927, Phil was the son of the late Sam and Sarah Lisitz Kaminstein. Educated in the local schools in Riverdale, 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 director of development at the school. He retired in 2012 after 50 years of service to Berkshire Farm, president of the Temple Anshe Amunim. Phil served as a president of the Temple and was a member of many of the Temple’s various commit-
tees. 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 Berkshire over the years.

Phil co-produced the nationally-sold radio program “Listen to Their Voices,” which won an American Jewish Award. The program first aired on WBBR.

Based on his professional
philosophy, he directed his efforts to ensure that there was a voice for everyone. Phil developed many audio tapes of 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, Rose, of Westport, CT, Silverstein, were married January 7, 1965.

His wife is survived by his son, Daniel J. Kaminstein and his wife, Marcia Powdermaker; two daughters, Cheri Weiner and her husband, Joe Chiplock, Rick Goldberg and his wife, Wendy, of Allentown, NJ; Daniel J. Kaminstein and his wife, Maricia Powdermaker; four grandchildren, Natan Vega Potler, Shira Weiss, Jonathan Weiss, and Alex Weiss Potler; and numerous nieces and nephews. Phil’s spirit and example will be missed by all who knew him and admired him in turn. His interest in life, and they loved him.

Merrill and June enjoyed many standing committees for the Berkshires over the years.

Survivors include his three children: his daughter, Susan S. Silverstein, was married January 7, 1965.

His wife is survived by his son, Daniel J. Kaminstein and his wife, Marcia Powdermaker; two daughters, Cheri Weiner and her husband, Joe Chiplock, Rick Goldberg and his wife, Wendy, of Allentown, NJ; Daniel J. Kaminstein and his wife, Maricia Powdermaker; four grandchildren, Natan Vega Potler, Shira Weiss, Jonathan Weiss, and Alex Weiss Potler; and numerous nieces and nephews. Phil’s spirit and example will be missed by all who knew him and admired him in turn. His interest in life, and they loved him.

Merrill is survived by his wife, Wendy, of Allentown, NJ; Daniel J. Kaminstein and his wife, Maricia Powdermaker; four grandchildren, Natan Vega Potler, Shira Weiss, Jonathan Weiss, and Alex Weiss Potler; and numerous nieces and nephews. Phil’s spirit and example will be missed by all who knew him and admired him in turn. His interest in life, and they loved him.
with married and his wife, Julia, who first met over forty years ago, work-
ing in the kitchen at Berlin College.

Miriam was survived by Julia, who cared for him in his illness; brother David and his wife, Karin Reidel; sister Elizabeth Mariscal and her husband, George; sister-in-law Linda Balton; niece, nephews; three stepchildren, and cat Yoda. He was predeceased by his mother, Myrna Hammerling.

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

A memorial gathering will be held at a later date.

Miriam Rosenbaum, 93

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

Miriam was a first-gener-

ation American, born September 18, 1926, in Scarsdale, NY, the youngest of Abraham and Clara Heller Tauber’s four children. The family moved to Pittsfield when Miriam was a young-

ster, 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 bar and restaurant, Mother

Rabbi David Weiner, spiritual leader of Knesset Israel, officiated at the funeral.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the charity of the donor’s choice.

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

Jay Gordon Shapiro, 74,

husband, son, brother,

PITTSFIELD – Miriam

Rosenbaum, 93, was born

and raised in the Berkshires. Information for families who can benefit and volunteers: Rabbi Levi Volovik at (413) 459-9899 or visit www.

jewishberkshires.com.

Monthly, fourth or fifth

Sunday – Volunteers from Congregation BethIsrael, 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) – Call the Society’s Maskil (Jewish Educator) to discuss American and Israeli stamps.

Coffee and donuts. Information: Janet Hirsch at jhirsch@hevreh.org to find out how to join remotely.

Thursdays (fourth of each month) – Kadashah Book Club.

For times, locations of meetings, and further information about the books: Patti Lipman plipman@fanpoint.net.

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

Frivates, at 9 a.m. – Meditation with Rabbi Rachel Baredel. What is the Congregation BethIsrael sanctuary, 53 Lois Street, North Adams, own about the Berkshire moun-

tains. Silence, chanting, and meditation designed to help prepare for Shabbat. All welcomed.

Continuous – Chabad of the Berkshires “Smile on Seniors,” “S.O.S.,” volunteer program to serve senior citizens in the Berkshires. Information for anyone who wants to deepen their relationship to Jewish study through meditation and discussion with Rabbi Hirsch: Currently, we are studying the Books of Judges, which tells the stories of the Israelites as they attempted to settle the Land of Israel. It’s a story of one person encountering others, the tensions that exist between those parties, and the complicated, ongoing relationship of a Covenantal Nation with its God. While the story is ongoing, we welcome people whenever they may be available to join.” Classes are available via video conference or in person. Email Rabbi Hirsch a nhirsch@hevreh.org to find out how to join remotely.

Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. Temple Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield, Massachusetts:

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) 642-5910 or templeoffice@ ansheamunim.org.

Knesset Israel

16 Colt Road

Pittsfield

ONGOING MINYANS

Sunday

8:45 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Tuesday

7 a.m. and 5:45 p.m.

Friday

9:30 a.m. and evenings

approximately 30 minutes before sunset

CANDLE-LIGHTING

Friday, November 8.............12:30 a.m.

Friday, November 15...........4:13 p.m.

Friday, November 22...........2:07 p.m.

Friday, November 29...........4:03 p.m.

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Calendar – Ongoing Events Around the Community

In this weekly column, we feature a round-up of Educational, Liturgical, Social, and on-the-go events in the Berkshires, the Greater Holyoke Region, and beyond.

**Transportation**

To learn more about the various transportation options available in the Berkshires, please visit our Transportation page on JewishBerkshires.org.

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**All texts are offered in English. Free and open to the public. Information: (413) 642-5910 or templeoffice@ansheamunim.org.**

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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.

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

*b 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.

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

Zimmerman.

Joy Reines, to celebrate, Craig Reines, and Evan Kenward.

Chaplaincy as a colonel.

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

MAZEL TOV

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

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

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.

What’s for Lunch?

NOVEMBER


Tuesday, 5 ............. Stir fried 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.


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.


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


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.


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

Thursday, 28 .......... Closed for Thanksgiving

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

MV2019 11-04-19.png
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 360? 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.

Yes, 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 was to have 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 466 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 it’s much a part of the PEI community that the town of O’Leary is home to the AGG Chocolate Factory, the AGG golf course, and the AGG Village shopping center.

Fish and Potato Bake

Ingredients:

- 1½ lb. Yukon Gold potatoes
- 3 Tbsp. cornstarch
- 2 Tbsp. chopped fresh dill, or 1½ tsp. salt
- 2 Tbsp. flour
- 2 cups milk
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1½ lb. cod
- 2 Tbsp. chopped fresh dill, or 1 tsp. salt
- 1½ lb. cod
- 2 Tbsp. cornstarch

Directions:

Place potatoes in large saucepan; cover with cold water. Bring to a boil. Reduce to a simmer and cook 25 min., or until just tender. Drain. Cool balanced sunshine and rainfall, is the perfect place to grow potatoes, and industry collapsed in the last century, it has revived due to significant regulation and restructuring. And, Prince Edward Island, with its rich soil and balanced sunshine and rainfall, is the perfect place to grow potatoes, and the island on the farm 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.

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.

And at Grand Pre, 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 less 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.)
**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, “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.

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**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 two days.

**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 13 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 13 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.

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Visit HGF.org/grants-awards