



Shalom,

Welcome to the Jewish Berkshires!

Whether you are joining us full time, on weekends, or seasonally, we are pleased that you have found a place in our community. Throughout the four seasons, and especially during the summer, our calendars are filled with opportunities for cultural experiences, outdoor recreation, dining out, and enjoying friends and family.

Our small Jewish community of just 4,000 individuals works tirelessly to keep Jewish life dynamic for year-round and seasonal residents alike. As the central connecting point, the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires is your resource for Jewish community! Through Federation, our community mobilizes to fund essential programs and services that build community, improve lives, engage our young people, and strengthen Jewish life across the Berkshires and beyond.

Whether you are new to the region or just connecting with us for the first time, you will find a diverse group of people and organizations that work collaboratively to create a vibrant Jewish community. However you chose to "do" or "be" Jewish is welcomed and celebrated!

Enclosed, you will find community information, resources, and a sampling of programs, services and opportunities to engage.

As a welcome gift, please accept a free subscription to the *Berkshire Jewish Voice*. Enclosed is the most recent copy. Complete the return form to start your free subscription. You may also sign up for our weekly e-blast of community happenings and volunteer opportunities.

Please reach out to us if you would like more information, need an introduction, or just want to connect. We are here to help!

We love that you have embraced the Berkshires and invite you to join us in Jewish community.

Sincerely,



Dara Kaufman
Executive Director, Jewish Federation of the Berkshires



Jewish Federation of the Berkshires

The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires cares for those in need and nurtures and sustains the Jewish community across the Berkshires, in Israel, and around the world. As a resource and contact point for Jews throughout the Berkshires and its environs, we seek to create a dynamic community where all who desire Jewish interaction are welcomed.

Dara Kaufman, Executive Director, 196 South Street, Pittsfield, MA, (413) 442-4360, jewishberkshires.org

CONGREGATIONS:

Berkshire Minyan

Conservative
270 State Road, Great Barrington, MA
berkshireminyan.org

Chabad of the Berkshires

Lubavitch Orthodox
Rabbi Levi Volovik
450 South Street, Pittsfield, MA
(413) 499-9899, jewishberkshires.com

Congregation Beth Israel

Jewish Renewal Movement
Rabbi Rachel Barenblat
53 Lois Street, North Adams, MA
(413) 663-5830, cbiweb.org

Congregation Ahavath Sholom

Reconstructionist
Rabbi Barbara Cohen
P.O. Box 464
15 North Street, Great Barrington
(413) 528-4197, ahavathsholom.com

Hevreh of Southern Berkshire

Reform
Rabbi Neil Hirsch
Rabbi Jodie Gordon
270 State Road, Great Barrington, MA
(413) 528-6378, hevreh.org

Knesset Israel

Conservative
Rabbi David Weiner
16 Colt Road, Pittsfield, MA
(413) 445-4872, knessetisrael.org

Temple Anshe Amunim

Reform, Renewal
Rabbi Liz Hirsch
26 Broad Street, Pittsfield, MA
(413) 442-5910, ansheamunim.org

ORGANIZATIONS

Berkshire Chapter of Society of Israeli Philatelists

(413) 499-1202
israelstamps.com/chapters-study-groups/

Berkshire Hills Hadassah

P.O. Box 187, Pittsfield, MA
(413) 443-4386
www.hadassah.org/regions/connecticut/chapters/berkshire-hills/berkshire-hills-hadassah.html

Jewish War Veterans

Louis Green Post #140
(413) 684-3679

Jewish Women's Foundation of the Berkshires

196 South Street, Pittsfield, MA
(413) 442-4360
jewishberkshires.org/jewish-womens-foundation

Jewish Religious Center – Williams College

Rabbi Seth Wax
jewish.williams.edu/religious-center/



One of the best ways to stay up to date on all that is happening in the Jewish Community is through the pages of the *Berkshire Jewish Voice*.

A vital community resource, the *Berkshire Jewish Voice* serves as a one-stop guide for all Jewish cultural and educational opportunities and it connects you with news, arts, opinions, and ideas from our community and the wider Jewish world.

Complete the form below to start your free subscription! You can also use this form to sign up for our weekly e-blast which includes lots of opportunities to connect and engage. You will also receive special e-invitations to community wide events and celebrations.



More ways to stay connected



Sign up for weekly e-blasts below



facebook.com/
JewishBerkshires



Community Calendar
Jewishberkshires.org

Yes, please sign me up for a FREE subscription of the Berkshire Jewish Voice!

Name(s) _____

Email #1: _____ Email #2 _____

I/we are in the Berkshires € Full time € Seasonally € Weekends

I/we are interested in volunteering € Yes € No € Maybe

Summer contact information

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: (____) _____ - _____

From month of _____ to _____

Winter contact information (if different)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: (____) _____ - _____

From month of _____ to _____



CELEBRATE

Shabbat, Holiday Services, and Minyans

Berkshire congregations host welcoming and culturally rich Shabbat and holiday services throughout the year. Mid-week minyans may also be arranged by contacting Knesset Israel or Chabad of the Berkshires.

Kosher in the Berkshires

Local supermarkets offer many kosher items. Stop & Shop on Dan Fox Drive in Pittsfield offers fresh kosher chicken on Thursdays and a large variety of Passover food. A full service "Kosher Store" is located at Price Chopper in Colonie, NY (1 hour away). Prepared kosher food is available for purchase from Chabad of the Berkshires.

Community-wide Havdalah Concert

Each winter, we share the light through a very special community-wide Havdalah concert organized by the Federation and our local congregations.

Community Holocaust Remembrance

Organized on a yearly basis to educate on the Holocaust and honor those who perished, this event is a collaboration between the Federation and the community at large.

Community Passover Seder

Each spring, the Federation offers a first night kosher Seder experience filled with insight and song. Some congregations offer a second-night seder as well.

Shabbat Across the Berkshires

Once a year, the extended Jewish community comes together for a Friday evening Shabbat celebration led jointly by Rabbis from across the Berkshires.

LEARN

Cultural & Educational Programs

Federation offers more than 100 cultural and educational programs to keep community members connected and informed. Local congregations also offer a plethora of relevant learning opportunities that are open to the public.

Berkshire Jewish Film Festival

Presented by Knesset Israel, this festival runs on Monday evenings during the summer and features films from all over the world.

Berkshire Jewish Festival of Books

Presented by Hevreh of Southern Berkshires, this festival features readings, discussions, and author presentations by local and national authors.

JTS in the Berkshires

Taking inspiration from various theses, eminent scholars of the Jewish Theological Seminary present this thought-provoking lecture series each summer. Sponsored by JTS and Knesset Israel, in collaboration with the Jewish Federation.

Hilda Vallin Feigenbaum Memorial Lecture

Each August, Temple Anshe Amunim hosts a prominent national speaker on a relevant topic related to politics, journalism, or social action.

Annual Middle East Update

Each fall Federation hosts a prominent Middle East expert to share insight and analysis on Israel and the Middle East.

Partnership2Gether— Afula Gilboa Israel

The Berkshire Jewish community is part of a sister city partnership that supports philanthropic and people to people exchanges between the diverse populations of the Afula Gilboa region and the Berkshires.

"For its size, the Berkshire Jewish Community's offerings of Jewish culture, arts, events and learning are truly exceptional."

GROW

PJ Library Books & Family Programming

PJ Library sends free Jewish themed books to local children aged six months through 8 years old on a monthly basis and sponsors programs that help families connect with one another and explore Jewish values and traditions.

Formal Jewish & Family Education

Knesset Israel, Hevreh, Congregation Beth Israel and Temple Anshe Amunim all offer formal Jewish education programs for ages K-12, as well as periodic tot shabbats, family shabbats, and holiday celebrations that are open to the public.

Jewish Camping & Israel Youth Travel

Federation offers tuition assistance to make Jewish summer camp and Israel travel experiences accessible for every child.

Youth & Family Volunteering

Federation offers numerous opportunities for youth and families share their values and give back to the community in meaningful ways.

“The Federation was a key starting place for our family getting connected to the Jewish community.”

CARE

Connecting with Community

Older Adult Lunch and Meals on Wheels

Warm kosher meals are served up with a side of companionship several days a week for older adults at Federation’s kosher lunch program. Kosher meals are also delivered each week by volunteers to homebound individuals.

Friendly Visitors & Holiday Care Packages

Friendly visitor volunteers are available for weekly visits and check ins with older adults aging alone in their homes. Jewish Holiday care packages are delivered to older adults across the Berkshires several times a year.

Tikkun Olam Volunteer Network (TOV)

Federation’s Tikkun Olam Volunteer Network connects folks of all ages with opportunities to make a difference in our community.

Jewish Community Social Worker

An experienced Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCWS) is available for case management and information and referral services to help community members with a wide variety of needs.

Life Cycle Events

Local Rabbis are available to officiate at life cycle events even if you are not affiliated with a congregation. Jewish burial services are offered through Hevra Kadisha of Southern Berkshire.

“Having the support of the community social worker has been invaluable in helping us and our mom navigate the systems of care available in the Berkshires”

CONNECT



Federation is here for you! Please reach out to us if you would like more information, need an introduction or just want to connect. We are here to help!

Jewish Federation of the Berkshires

196 South Street

Pittsfield, MA 01201

(413) 442-4360, ext. 10

federation@jewishberkshires.org

