

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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NEW TOV NETWORK, PGS. 2 & 16 BIBLICAL OMBIBLUOSNESS, PG. 19 12/7 VISIT TO MUSEUM OF JEWISH HERITAGE, PG. 7

March of The Living Launches Massachusetts Chapter

Group to Recruit Teens, Starts New Endowment to Aid Educational Trips to Eastern Europe and Israel



MOTL teens and family visit Auschwitz-Birkenau before flying to Israel

BOSTON – The March of the Living, an international education program that brings Jewish teens in 11th and 12th grade from all over the world to Poland and Israel, has launched a new Massachusetts chapter.

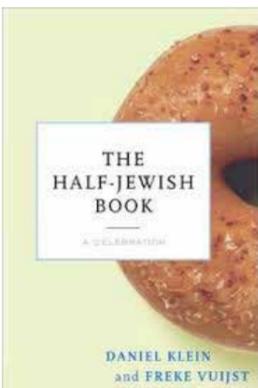
Making the announcement is community activist and chapter chairman Irv Kempner of Sharon, MA, who says the Bay State chapter has three primary goals: to recruit Massachusetts teens for the 2016 March of the Living to Eastern Europe and Israel; to raise funds to provide financial

assistance to teens who want to make the pilgrimage in future years; and to teach participants the lessons of the Holocaust and inspire them as future leaders who vow 'Never Again.'

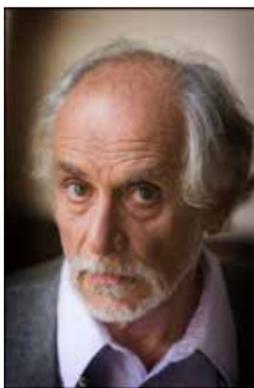
Long active in the Brotherhood of Temple Israel of Sharon and other communal activities, Kempner is a retired Vice President of Sales at The Gillette Company.

Kempner says the new MOTL Massachusetts chapter has already begun
MOTL, continued on page 8

Knosh & Knowledge, November 7 – “Half Jewish” with Daniel Martin Klein & Freke Vuijst



Freke Vuijst



Daniel Klein

Daniel Martin Klein and Freke Vuijst, authors of *The Half Jewish Book: A Celebration*, are a married couple who have spent more than a decade exploring the transformation of what it means to be half-Jewish in America. While some people may hold that one is either Jewish or not – with nothing in between – the authors emphatically disagree.

On Friday, November 7, join Klein and Vuijst at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire ‘HALF JEWISH’,
continued on page 9

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ISRAEL POPULATION NEARS 9 MILLION



Spurred by a rise in births and an increased number of olim (immigrants), Israel's population neared 9 million in 5774 (story on page 15).

Neshama Carlebach and Her Band at the Mahaiwe November 8 with Special Guests Rev. Milton Vann and members of the Glory to God Singers



Neshama Carlebach will perform with gospel artists at the Mahaiwe

and *Higher* (2011), which was nominated for a Grammy Award. Daughter of Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach, whose spiritually resonant melodies are beloved throughout the Jewish world, Neshama has dedicated herself to preserving her father's legacy, bringing people together and healing suffering in the world through music. The concert will honor Reb Shlomo on this 20th anniversary of his passing.

Neshama's collaboration with Rev. Milton Vann and the Glory to God Singers work to express true harmony and peace among the world's cultural and religious traditions. By collaborating, the performers intend to inspire during these troubled times, and hope to provide an opportunity to deepen interfaith connections.

Milton Vann is a gospel recording artist and Associate Pastor of Strait Gate the Church at Westchester in Mamaroneck, NY. A dynamic and powerful voice in Christian music, Milton is an

incredible minister, singer, songwriter, and performer. In addition to his work with Carlebach, Vann is currently traveling and performing with 2014 Oscar Award winning singer Darlene Love and Grammy, Stellar, and Dove award winning gospel artist Donnie McClurkin. Additionally, Vann was handpicked by mega songwriter and singer Carole King to sing at the Gershwin Award Concert at the White House

Rimon Resource Center for Jewish Spirituality presents a concert by the international Jewish music star, Neshama Carlebach with special guests, Rev. Milton Vann and members of the Glory to God Singers. The performance will begin at 8 p.m. on Saturday, November 8th at the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center in Great Barrington.

Neshama Carlebach has seven albums to her credit including *Higher*

CARLEBACH, continued page 6

In My View

Finding Our Power While Searching for Answers Together

By Dara Kaufman



When I was a kid, there was this great book that seemed to have all the answers about being Jewish. I can still picture the blue cover, but for the life of me can't remember the name. While other kids would be running around the JCC gym during break time at Hebrew school, I would go to the old library cart in the corner and look through that book. In it were all the answers to the strange particulars of Jewish life: Why do we bless two loaves of challah? Why do we separate meat and milk? Why do we wear yarmulkes?

Growing up, that book made me feel secure in knowing there is always an explanation, a "because" to each "why." For a time, there was nothing I could wonder about my life as a Jew that couldn't be summarily answered by that book.

As I grew older I realized that life, including Jewish life, is a bit more complicated. Ready answers to our questions aren't always available. In general, we are much better at raising issues and questions than we are at finding definitive answers. But although answers can be elusive, shouldn't we pursue them nonetheless?

There is a verse in *Pirkei Avot* (Ethics of our Fathers), that reminds us that we are not obligated to complete the work of repairing the world, but neither are we free to desist from it. I suggest that we are not required to have all the answers in life, but neither are we free to abstain from pursuing them.

I spend much of my time thinking about how to make our Berkshires Jewish community stronger now and for the future. What we do today matters, and I believe that we have an obligation to ourselves and those who will follow us to make our world a better place. The answers on how to accomplish that may sometimes be elusive. We may not always agree on the best course of action. What's more, we will most certainly make mistakes.

Still, I believe seeking answers can empower us. Seeking answers is important for us as individuals, and also as we participate collectively in Jewish causes and organizations. We cannot change the fact that the needs and interests of our Jewish population are evolving – changing interests, preferences, and demographics are outside of our ability to control. Our ability to adapt and thrive may very well lie in the Hebrew word "*kulanu*" (all of us). By definition a community is "all of us," – interconnected institutions and individuals bound by common values and goals. Our choices are to thrive together or to struggle apart.

This past year, the presidents, leaders and rabbis of our region's Jewish organizations have started ongoing conversations about ways we all can work together to truly harness the power of "*kulanu*" in pursuing answers to common issues we face in our community.

Our first effort has been to mobilize the Jewish community, through the new Tikkun Olam Volunteer (TOV) network, around the real and present issue of hunger and food insecurity in the Berkshires. On page 16 is a list of ways each of you can get involved. I hope that in the future our new TOV network will find more ways to connect volunteers with opportunities to make a difference.

We will look at ways we can build leadership within our organizations and strengthen the network of lay leaders and volunteers whose work keeps our Jewish institutions vibrant and strong. The answers on how to do this may be elusive and we may not always agree on the best course of action – but together we will seek solutions.

As we begin our new year, I encourage each of you to choose this time to give, volunteer, or become involved with something that is important to you. You don't have to have all the answers, but I assure you that in the seeking you will grow as a person. Not only that, but our world and our Jewish community will be stronger for it.

Dara Kaufman is the Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires.

Rabbi Reflections

The Paths of Peace

By Rabbi Joshua Breindel



This year, the conclusion of the High Holy Days leaves me with conflicted feelings. Certainly, I feel a sense of relaxation. The holidays flow from one into the next in a glorious – albeit intense – cascade of celebration. By the time I reach Simchat Torah, I'm glad for a change of pace! However, I now feel the desire to answer a new call to action.

One the greatest challenges of the festival season only begins for me once it has drawn to a close. Will I remember the promises that I made during the *Yamim Nora'im*? Will I have the strength to live up to my convictions? Will I find the wisdom to uncover new sparks of holiness in my world? In many ways, this essential work, inspired by the *chagim* (holidays), only begins once I've returned to the normal cycle of my life. This

year, we have been presented with a new path to accomplishing this holy task.

During several community conversations throughout the summer, it became clear to the leadership of many of our Federation's satellite organizations that we were united in a common struggle against hunger in Berkshire County. Many of us enhanced our High Holy Days experiences with special workshops and food drives to address this very issue. This is hardly surprising – instructions to care for the needy abound in our texts. At Yom Kippur, we read Isaiah's call to social justice and "to share your bread with the hungry" (58:7).

Now that the holidays have concluded, our Federation is offering us a new blessing: the opportunity to fulfill the mitzvah of caring for the hungry as a Jewish community. Elsewhere in this paper, Dara Kaufman will explain some of the specifics of her new

and very beautiful initiative, the Tikkun Olam Volunteer (TOV) network. I'm grateful to her for proffering a vision of all of us working in concert for this worthy cause.

One of the most beautiful aspects of Jewish tradition is that it extends my obligation to care for the needy to all people, regardless of their background or religious affiliation. Our Sages teach that when I extend myself to my fellow human being, I bring peace into our troubled world.

Our Rabbis have taught: We give support the poor of non-Jews as with the poor of Israel. We visit the sick of non-Jews along as with the sick of Israel. We bury the poor of the non-Jews along with the dead of Israel. This is for the sake of darchei shalom, the paths of peace. (Gittin 61a)

In times as turbulent as these (I sometimes take a fortifying breath before reading the headlines), it's important for me to walk these "paths of peace". Offering food to those in need may seem like a simple act, but it is of critical importance to many in our immediate vicinity. While the principle "Think global, act local" may be secular in origin, it's of great value in spurring me to fulfill this very Jewish value. Although I can't bring peace to our world as a whole, I can contribute to its health by caring for my neighbors with a full heart.

As we step together into 5775, I feel a great sense of uplift. What a gift to enter the New Year in the spirit of unity and hope! Together, we're doing the work of *tikkun olam*, striving to bring balance to our world by alleviating hunger in our shared Berkshires home. May we travel together the *darchei shalom* – the paths of peace – in strength, in wholeness and in blessing!

Rabbi Joshua Breindel is the spiritual leader of Temple Anshe Amunim.

DEADLINES

The next Berkshire Jewish Voice (Vol. 22, No. 9) will cover the period December 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014. The following edition (Vol. 23, No. 1) covers January 1, 2015 through February 12, 2015. The deadline for press releases and other written submissions, all of which are subject to being edited, is December 2, 2014. Because of limitations of space and time, please be so kind as to not submit lengthy articles without first contacting the editor. Advertising deadline is December 9, 2014. For a complete Berkshire Jewish Voice schedule, contact (413) 442-4360, ext. 11, or e-mail jfb.berkshirevoice@verizon.net.

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Jewish Federation®
OF THE BERKSHIRES

The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires wishes to acknowledge and thank David Verzi for his ten years of service as the Editor of the *Berkshire Jewish Voice* and wishes him well in his retirement!

During his tenure the *Berkshire Jewish Voice* grew in quality and readership and has become a publication our community is proud of.

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. 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: jfb.berkshirevoice@verizon.net.

Letters to the Editor

Camper Roundup

Federation Thanked for Camp Support

Dear BJV Editor,

I would like to thank the Federation for its continued help and support of our family. Without the Federation's generosity, my boys Caleb and Cormac Duffy would not be able to go to camp. They start looking forward to going back

to camp the next year on the day I pick them up at the end of the summer!

It gives them a chance to be a part of a larger Jewish community of their peers, which is so valuable.

Eve Edwards

Camp: My Second Home

Dear BJV Editor,

I would like to thank the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires for helping me get to my second home, Camp Ramah. It means the world to me that you help me see my friends and have great experiences while being surrounded by other Jewish teens.

I have memories that will last forever and friends that I will hold dear. Because of you I can have all these wonderful things and so I thank you all.

Sincerely,
Caleb Duffy



Caleb Duffy (black shorts) enjoys Ultimate Frisbee at Camp Ramah

At Camp: The Best was Seeing Everyone

Dear BJV Editor,

Thanks so much to the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires for the helping to get Caleb and me to Camp Ramah. Camp was fun. My favorite part was the first day when you saw everyone. Camp was the best. So thank you again – can't wait for next year.

Cormac Duffy



Cormac Duffy wonders what's in store on his first day at Camp Ramah

At Camp: The Federation Provides Favorite Things

Dear BJV Editor,

Thank you so much for the scholarship to go to Eisner Camp. I had a great summer! Some of my favorite things at camp were the lake, going to Cape Cod, and the counselors.

The activities I did this year were running, photography, yoga, pottery, aerobics, tennis, and more. I also liked spending Shabbat with my friends and counselors. Some of the things we did on Shabbat were a song session and Israeli

dancing. I also had fun at the Fourth of July carnival, even though it rained. We got to go camping one night and we had a camp fire.

I was so sad to leave camp this year, but I had such a good time this summer that I want to go full summer next year. Thank you so much for helping me go to camp every year.

Pailey Feakes

Stop the Sirens Gift Appreciated

Dear BJV Editor,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$5,000 to The Federations of North America for the Stop the Sirens Campaign to help support the residents of Israel living under the threat of missile attacks.

Throughout history, we have built our community to uphold our traditions, nourish our spiritual and physical welfare, and care for those in need. Your generous gift allows us to help our sisters

and brothers in Israel when they need us most. Your gift reminds them that we stand as One People, with One Destiny. Together, we work to repair the world and build our homeland in the State of Israel.

Thank you again,
Gerrald Silverman
President and CEO, The Jewish Federations of North America

Making Lifetime Memories

Dear BJV Editor,

Thanks so much to the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires for your wonderful scholarship this year! As a 6-year camper at Crane Lake Camp, I learned more about who I am as a person and how Judaism affects me in certain ways as a teenager.

During my camp experience, I learned more about how to share and enjoy services every morning, as well as on Shabbat. I also learned more about how important food is to our religion and about

Judaism's place in the history of religion.

During my short stay at Crane Lake Camp, I made new friends and made the bonds between me and my returning friends stronger. I am very thankful to you all for giving me the scholarship that helped me to go to camp. I'm sure the memories will last a lifetime!

Yours Truly,
Ari Drayman

At Camp: Connecting with a Counselor

This summer, I went to Camp Ramah in New England for the first time with the help of a grant from Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. I was expecting camp to be kind of strict, but I was happily surprised that camp was actually relaxed and everyone was really friendly.

I was a bit worried that my Hebrew would not be good enough for camp. There were a few Israeli counselors who would mostly speak in Hebrew to us, but no one was at all unhappy that I (and a lot of other campers!) could not speak Hebrew well. I ended up learning the most Ivrit from these Hebrew speaking staff members.

I had an Israeli counselor in my bunk, and that helped me and my bunk feel a connection with the war in Gaza. We all felt

for my counselor who had friends fighting in the war and it made me feel more empathetic towards Israel's struggles.

The Jewish traditions at camp were a lot of fun and made me feel more connected to myself, God, and the Jewish community. Havdalah at camp was particularly wonderful. We would gather as a whole camp in the pine grove and each eidah circle would sing the songs together while five members of the eidah held the spice bags, candles, foil, and grape juice. As a result of my experiences at camp, my family is now doing havdalah at home.

I am already looking forward to next summer!

From,
Talia Caine



Talia Caine pictured with her favorite Israeli counselor, Shoham

Thanks Federation for Eisner

Dear BJV Editor,

Thanks so much to the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires for helping me get to Eisner Camp. I had a great time. I did archery and climbed a rock wall and so

much more. I'm so glad I was able to go. I made a ton of friends. Thanks again!

From,
Charlotte Adelson

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Dara Kaufman: Publisher and Managing Editor

Michael Albert: Honorary Publisher

Albert Stern: Interim Editor

Rose Tannenbaum: Graphic Design & Layout

Jenny Greenfeld: Advertising Sales Representative and Assistant Editor

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Berkshire Jewish Voice e-mail: jfb.berkshirevoice@verizon.net
Phone: (413) 442-4360 Fax (413) 443-6070

Traveling with Jewish Taste®

The Bridges of Addison County

By Carol Goodman Kaufman



It's a long drive up, but oh, what a beautiful one. Tree-covered mountains, verdant valleys, winding roads, and covered bridges. Vermont in late summer.

Last Labor Day, Joel and I traveled to Vermont to visit our daughter, Elana, and her professor husband, Adam, in their new digs in Middlebury. On the way, we passed through little towns with proud plaques boasting of famous residents, such as Grandma Moses and Walt Whitman. The many points of historical interest along the way would have to wait for our next trip – this time, we had children to see and nothing could deter us.

The first outing of our action-packed schedule was a stroll through beautiful downtown Middlebury, weaving among galleries and boutiques selling all manner of Vermont crafts and –

of course – maple products. The compact downtown is eminently walkable, flat terrain amidst the mountains. The town's Marble Works District is home to a marble-topped bridge spanning Otter Creek, the state's longest river, from which one can view the Otter Creek Falls. Other worthy stops are the Morgan Horse Farm, a site on the National Register of Historic Places, and Danforth Pewterers, which was originally established as a workshop in Connecticut in 1755 and that was revived in Middlebury in 1975 the founder's great-great-great-great-grandson.

On the second day of our visit, Elana brought us to the Middlebury College campus – recently ranked as one of the most beautiful college campuses in the country – where we visited Professor Adam's office and kvelled. The college is right in the center of town, a scene of beautiful, historic homes, a mix of private residences and houses reconfigured for college business.

Town life revolves around Middlebury College, originally established in 1800 as a training ground for young Vermont men to enter the ministry. While Middlebury itself does not boast a historic Jewish presence, fellow members of our tribe established communities in other Vermont towns as far back as the Civil War era. As was the story with so many other places, the Germans arrived first, followed by Eastern European peddlers. Burlington's Jewish community, known as "Little Jerusalem," thrived from the late 1800s until World War II, and Vermont Public



Exhibit at the Morgan Horse Farm



Adirondack chairs on the Middlebury campus



Pulp Mill Bridge crosses Middlebury's Otter Creek



Scenery along the Robert Frost Interpretive Walking Trail



Scenic Middlebury

Baked Macaroni and Cheese

Vermont means cheese, and nothing beats a good mac 'n cheese as comfort food. With the inevitable cold weather coming down the pike, this dish will really hit the spot. Hot and filling, this recipe is the real deal.

Ingredients:

Nonstick cooking spray
2 1/4 cups uncooked casserole-size elbow macaroni
3 cups milk
5 tablespoons butter
3 slices firm white or whole wheat bread, pulsed into crumbs in processor or blender
3 tablespoons all-purpose flour

3/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
1/8 teaspoon nutmeg
Three dashes hot pepper sauce
16 oz. sharp cheddar cheese, grated and divided into two. (Divide the second pile further into thirds.)

Directions:

Preheat oven to 375°F.

Coat a 9-by-13-inch baking dish or coat with cooking spray.

Cook macaroni in a large pot of boiling salted water for 5 minutes after water returns to boil. Drain and rinse under cold water; set aside.

In saucepan over medium-high heat, heat milk to just below simmer.

In the pot you used for pasta, melt butter over medium-low heat.

Pour 2 tablespoons of butter into bowl, add breadcrumbs and blend together thoroughly; set aside.

Reduce heat to low, add flour to butter remaining in saucepan and whisk over heat for 2 minutes, being careful not to let it color.

Add milk in small amounts at first, whisking until smooth after each addition; continue stirring until sauce thickens and comes to simmer.

Cook, stirring often, for about 3 minutes.

Remove from heat and whisk in salt, pepper, nutmeg, hot sauce and half of cheese.

Stir in drained pasta.

Spread one-third of pasta mixture over bottom of prepared baking dish.

Scatter one-third of remaining cheese on top.

Spoon another one-third of pasta on top and add another one-third of cheese. Top with remaining pasta.

Mix remaining cheese into breadcrumbs and scatter evenly over top.

Bake uncovered for 25 to 30 minutes, or until golden on top and bubbling throughout.

Let stand for 5 minutes before serving.

Serves 8

Television has produced an award-winning film documenting the rich heritage of the Jews there.

Today, Jews figure prominently in Vermont life. Among those with the greatest name recognition: Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield of ice cream fame, Senator Bernie Sanders, and diplomat and former Governor Madeline Kunin.

Jewish activity in Middlebury centers on the Havurah of Addison County, located in a house at 56 North Pleasant Street. The congregation also serves Jews from both Chittenden and Rutland Counties, and bills itself as "an inclusive, non-denominational Jewish community," probably a necessity due to the tiny Jewish population and the wide diversity of backgrounds. (The entire state of Vermont has only about 5,200 Jews.) At the High Holidays, the Havurah co-sponsors services with Middlebury College, whose Hillel director, Rabbi Ira Schiffer, also runs the Havurah's Hebrew School.

For those who keep kosher, the pickings are slim, as most local Jews are secular. However, Vermont Kosher caterers, under supervision of Chabad and located at University of Vermont, provides dinners at the Redstone Campus Center Sunday through Thursday, and provides grab-and-go meals to six other dining halls on campus for the 150 kashrut-observing students.

Eager to show us everything Addison County, the kids took us up into the mountains of the Green Mountain National Forest, where we visited the campus of the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference. Although Bread Loaf had already closed for the season, it was enough to amble among the mustard yellow bungalows, under large shade trees dotting an emerald green expanse – and dreaming of all the Great American Novels written there.

The Forest itself is enormous, covering over 600 square miles. We explored the Robert Frost Walking Trail, with its selection of the poet's works strategically posted along the way, along with

Legacy Giving

Going From Strength to Strength

By Beth Laster-Nathan



Our family is grateful for all the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires has done for us and this community, and our legacy gift to this effective organization is our way of showing our appreciation.

When my husband Michael, daughters Melissa and Andrea, and I moved to this area in 1992 and connected with the local Jewish community, it impressed me that the Federation's mission was to keep 90% of the money raised through its annual campaign in the Berkshires. Then and now, these funds have been directed toward supporting our seniors with the Older Adult Kosher Lunch program, to putting on adult education programs, and to reaching out to the greater Berkshire County secular community. The Federation has always emphasized the importance of educating our Jewish youth, making sure camp is affordable with generous scholarships and also supporting our religious schools with yearly allocations. I am not sure the schools would survive without these yearly gifts.

As a past president of Hevreh of Southern Berkshire (2005-2009), I participated in the Federation's presidents and rabbis meetings, which unite our congregations through joint programming, Shabbat Across the Berkshires, Passover seders, a com-

munity calendar, and so much more. This forum allowed local leaders to discuss key issues, such as how to address incidents of anti-Semitism, how local schools can show sensitivity to the Jewish Holiday calendar, and how to address global Jewish news.

More recently, I had the honor of sitting on the Federation Board of Trustees and the Allocations Committee. Again, I was impressed with how decisions were made affecting our local and global Jewish communities. I experienced firsthand the mechanics of allocating the Federation's yearly budget – every program and initiative was thoughtfully evaluated and debated, and then funded to the best of the Federation's ability.

I also learned quickly the importance of our yearly pledge supporting the Federation's work.

I want to reiterate how grateful our family is to the Federation. Our children, Melissa (now living in Brooklyn) and Andrea (a resident of Tel Aviv), benefited from Jewish camp, travel to Israel scholarships, and stipends to their Hebrew school at Hevreh. They both developed a strong Jewish identity in the Berkshires because they were part of a welcoming and caring community that offered joint youth programming and encouraged them to pursue their camp and Israel experiences.

For all these reasons and more, I felt it was important to show my appreciation and guarantee that the Federation remains financially solid for generations to come. My gift alone will not be enough, but I hope to be an example for others to consider making a legacy gift. *May we go from strength to strength...*

Beth Laster-Nathan lives in Stockbridge with her husband, Michael.

As my parents planted for me before I was born, so do I plant for those who come after me. – Talmud

Thank you to these individuals who through their gift to the Legacy Circle will ensure that the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires thrives long into the future. May your name be a Blessing, and may the example you set inspire others to create their own Jewish Legacy.



Anonymous (9)
Ed Abrahams
Norman Avnet
Barbara Bashevkin
Robert Bashevkin
Linda J. L. Becker
Robert Berend
Shelley Berend
Helene Berke
Lawrence Berke

Lee & Sydelle Blatt
Betty Braun
Cipora Brown
Barbara Cohen
Mark Cohen
Mimi Cohen
C. Jeffrey & Judith Cook
Gerry & Lynn Denmark
Jonathan & Lara Denmark
Sheila K. Donath
Melva Eidelberg
Monroe England, *in memory of*
Monroe B. & Isabel England
Steven Feiner
Diana & Stanley Feld
Stuart M. Fischman
Lynn & William Fogle
Elaine Freidman

Eiran Gazit
Jeffrey Goldwasser & Jonquil
Wolfson
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Howard & Nancy Kaufman
Lawrence Klein
Sarah Klein
Arthur Kriger, *of blessed*
memory
Fred & Brenda Landes
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Jerome Silverberg
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Greenfield Simons
Mark & Elisa Snowise
Harold Sparr
Lisa Fletcher-Udel

Edward Udel
Michael & Joan Ury
Mark & Judy Usow
Henry & Beate
Voremborg, *of blessed*
memory
Alexandra Warshaw
Florence Wineberg
Rabbi Deborah Zecher &
Rabbi Dennis Ross



Jewish Federation
OF THE BERKSHIRES

Guest Columnist: A Post-Rosh Hashannah Report

By Abigail Pogrebin

Excerpted from the Jewish Daily Forward blog "18 Holidays: 1 Wondering Jew"

I remember, as a kid, feeling that the *Unetanetokef* prayer ("Who will live and who will die") didn't apply to me.

"Who by sword" seemed archaic; "Who by water" remote.

But that prayer becomes alarmingly vivid as we get older. This year it felt as if every peril leapt off the page.

"Who shall see ripe age and who shall not..." My childhood friend, Dan, died a few weeks ago while swimming in the ocean.

"Who shall perish by fire..." Six members of a New Jersey family – related to Rhonda, who works the counter where I get breakfast – died in a fire on Father's Day.

"...and who by water." *The New York Times* reported five days ago that, left unchecked, global temperatures will ultimately flood coastal cities.

"Who by sword..." Steven Sotloff, James Foley.

"...and who by beast..." Just three days before, a 22-year-old hiker was mauled by a bear.

"Who by earthquake..." Napa last month.

"...and who by plague." Ebola.

The litany rattled me last week, as I stood with my congregation, Central Synagogue, in Avery Fisher Hall – the massive concert space at Lincoln Center where we hold High Holy Day services to accommodate our numbers.

But I'm also hyper-aware of how comforting it is to look out from my vantage point – from the first tier balcony – upon rows and rows of yarmulkes and familiar faces.

JEWISH TASTE, *continued from page 4*

apple trees, blueberry and huckleberry bushes, and a stunning display of wildflowers. The trail is accessible to wheelchairs, so nobody needs to feel left out of the fun.

On the way back down the mountain, we stopped for dinner at the Waybury Inn. Remember Larry, his brother Darrel, and his other brother Darrel from the 1980s TV sitcom, "The Newhart Show?" Well, the 1810 Waybury Inn, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is the actual, real-life place, and was used as a location for exterior shots of the fictional Stratford Inn owned by Bob Newhart's character.

As for those covered bridges, Addison County is home to five of the state's 100 or so that have survived either modernization or the huge flood in 1927 that destroyed many of these picturesque icons of rural life.

Two self-evident facts are suddenly, atypically moving: 1. We made it here another year. 2. Look how many of us feel it's important enough to come.

Whatever the Pew Center Report portends about synagogue attrition, there are still glowing pockets of connectivity and attention.

Journalist and television producer Abigail Pogrebin is the author of Stars of David: Prominent Jews Talk about Being Jewish. Her Jewish Daily Forward blog is called 18 Holidays: 1 Wondering Jew (<http://wonderingjew.forward.com/>).

Jewish Federation of the Berkshires Presents

Knosh & Knowledge

Friday, November 7, 10:45 a.m.

Daniel Martin Klein and Freke Vuijst
The Half-Jewish Book: A Celebration

LOCATION: Hevreh of Southern
Berkshire 270 State Rd, Great Barrington

COST: \$11, includes program and
seasonal farm fresh buffet lunch by
Freund Farm Market and Bakery.
Program only is \$5.



Jewish Federation
OF THE BERKSHIRES

Advanced Lunch Reservations Required. Contact Nancy Maurice
Rogers at (413) 442-4360, ext 15 or jfb.programs@verizon.net.

FEATURES AND LOCAL NEWS

CARLEBACH,
continued from page 1

for President Barack Obama.

This concert is supported in part by a grant from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. Co-sponsors also include Hazon, Music In Common, Unitarian Universalist Meeting of Southern Berkshire, and Grace Church, An Episcopal Community in the Southern Berkshires. This concert is a fundraiser for Rimon Resource Center for Jewish Spirituality. Ticket prices are \$54 and \$36. Group, Family and Youth discounts are available. Tickets can be purchased by calling the Mahaiwe Box Office at (413) 528-0100 or online at mahaiwe.org. For more info, contact Rimon at www.rimonberkshires.org.



Neshama Carlebach

Rimon Presents: Weekly Torah Through the Eyes of the Hasidic Masters

LENOX – On Wednesday evenings from late October through mid-December, Rimon Resource Center for Jewish Spirituality will offer a weekly Torah study class guided by the commentaries of the Hasidic Masters. Classes will be taught by Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman, MSW, and will begin “in the beginning,” with the Book of Genesis. The class will meet at The Chapel of the Church on the Hill, 55 Main St., Lenox (across from Village Center) starting at 7 p.m.

Class members are asked to read each parasha (weekly Torah portion) in English prior to the class, and with that basic grounding in the text will engage with the ideas of Hasidic masters of Jewish mysticism from the 18th through the early 20th centuries. These rabbis are a flowering of the same living tree/*eitz chayim* that begins with Torah and Tanakh, proceeds through midrashic literature, and then incorporates the

teachings of Kabbalah (Jewish mysticism). Participants will learn how each generation synthesized the learning of previous generations, expanding the tree of living Torah and forging connections to an unbroken chain of learning.

Rimon’s classes provide an opportunity to enter into this chain of revelation and explore meaning relevant to contemporary life. Each class stands on its own and does not require prior attendance. All are welcome to attend any or all of these classes.

The fee for the 8-class series is \$160, or participants may attend individual classes for \$25 per session. A reduced fee is available upon request. In the event that participants who have registered for the full series must miss certain classes, recordings will be made available.

Class schedule:

- October 22 & 29
- November 5, 12 & 19
- December 3, 10 & 17



Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman teaching

All classes begin at 7 p.m. To register or for more information, email info@rimonberkshires.org or call (413) 274-1034. Please visit the Rimon website at www.rimonberkshires.org.

B'Shalom Chorale Plans for Second Season

Calling all music lovers, singers, and organizers—the B'Shalom Chorale of the Berkshires needs you!

On August 10th, while Yo Yo Ma was working his magic at Tanglewood, and Michael Feinstein was preparing to perform at the Mahaiwe, a crowd of sixty listeners at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire welcomed another wonderful musical event: the inaugural concert of the B'Shalom Chorale of the Berkshires. Seventeen singers, conducted by Jack Brown and accompanied by Joe Rose on the piano, presented a range of Jewish music, sacred and secular, in Hebrew, Yiddish, and English. Noted clarinetist Paul Green embellished the choral works and performed several lively Klezmer tunes. The concert also highlighted the rich, melodic voices of Jack Brown and Cantor Emily Sleeper Mekler, who brought the house down with two powerful duets.

The Berkshire Chorale was imagined, created, and coordinated by Cantor Mekler, who



The B'Shalom Chorale of the Berkshires

also founded and coordinated the Greater Hartford Zimriyah and was the long-time cantor of Sinai Temple in Springfield, Massachusetts. The singers came from all over Berkshire and Franklin Counties, grateful for a chance to sing Jewish music, some for the first time. The chorus has been supported by Hevreh of Southern Berkshires, who welcomed them for rehears-

als and for the concert.

The chorus is looking for a team of people willing to organize, publicize, and fundraise, as well as more singers. Their first planning meeting was held on October 22. For more information on upcoming events, contact Cantor Mekler at (413) 531-8706 or by email at bshalomchoraleoftheberkshires@gmail.com.

20 years on, the legacy of Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach

By Maayan Jaffe/JNS.org

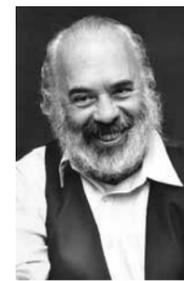
“He was part hippie, part yippie, part beatnik, and part New Age,” wrote Elli Wohlgelemer in a *Jerusalem Post* eulogy in 1994, following the Oct. 20 passing of Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach.

Carlebach – born in Germany, from where his family fled following the Nazi invasion – in March 1939 immigrated to New York from Lithuania, just six months before the Nazis invaded that country. In 1945, the family moved to Manhattan so his father, Rabbi Naphtali Carlebach, could take over Congregation Kehilath Jacob on W. 79th Street. After his father's passing, Carlebach assumed leadership of the synagogue, today known as “The Carlebach Shul.”

It was from his home base Carlebach set up the first known Hassidic outreach program, Taste and See God is Good (T.S.G.G.). According to biographer Natan Ophir, the organization was based on the idea that, as Carlebach said, “You cannot begin to talk to people about God unless you have first given them a taste of God is good.” In 1968, Carlebach established the House of Love and Prayer in San Francisco, the first Jewish commune.

Carlebach is best known for his Jewish music. “He’s universally accepted as the father of Jewish music,” said Rabbi Avraham Arie Trugman of Mevo Modi’in.

Jewish song leader Michael Hoffman described Carlebach’s music as “timeless” and noted how people have forgotten that many immensely popular *niggunim* (tunes or melodies) were in fact composed by Carlebach. For example, it was Carlebach who in 1965 invented “*Am Yisrael Chai*” for the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry movement, which was later adopted for Jewish causes as a theme of resilience and perseverance. Other famed Carlebach compositions include “*David Melech Yisrael*,” “*Od Yeshoma*,” and “*Esa Einai*.”



“Reb Shlomo”

Federation’s New Website: Blue... Bright... and... Brilliant!



Welcome to the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires.

This is where the Berkshire Jewish Community comes together to improve lives and strengthen Jewish community across the Berkshires, in Israel and around the world, now and for future generations.

- IMPROVING LIVES**
From fun teacher meals to the homebased to social services to food packages. In the FSJ we provide much needed comfort and care.
- SUSTAINING JEWISH COMMUNITY**
From educational programming to holiday celebrations to the Berkshire Jewish Title we connect people and strengthening Jewish life.
- PROMOTING JEWISH CONTINUITY**
From free Jewish books for kids to Jewish education grants to help and to get their children, teens, and young adults engaged in the next generation.
- ISRAEL & AROUND THE WORLD**
We fund innovative programs that combat poverty, fight anti-Semitism, promote Judaism & provide disaster relief.

Want to know “the” who, what, where, when, and how of living an edifying and exciting Jewish life in the Berkshires via a format that is as easy on the eye as it is to navigate? Click!

It’s www.jewishberkshires.org – the new blue, bright, brilliant, and growing website of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires.

The site highlights the Federation’s initiatives, as well as opportunities for involvement. Try clicking on “Caring for Those in Need,” “Sustaining Jewish Community,” or “Nurturing the Jewish Future” to find out how you can help the cause.

Additional pages on Federation programs, scholarships, and Israel will be added in the future.

In addition, there are special sections devoted to the Jewish Women’s Foundation and Volunteers, as well as detailed “Com-

munity Directory,” “Berkshire Jewish Community Calendar,” and a “News & Announcements” sections.

The site proudly features links to the Federation’s many local and national partners. Visitors to Berkshire County will find full listings of Jewish happenings, as well as a menu of ways to support the Federation. Additionally, second homeowners can keep current with local Jewish news and see how our Federation works year round for this community.

A burgeoning and vital resource for the community and spotlight for the future, the site boasts a link to the Federation’s Facebook site, and even a full-color issue of the current Berkshire Jewish Voice.

The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires invites the community to visit all that’s on the Berkshires’ Jewish Horizon at www.jewishberkshires.org.

www.jewishberkshires.org

FEATURES AND LOCAL NEWS

Yachad Family Dinner Youth Group Hosts Italian Dinner

PITTSFIELD – The joint Congregation Knesset Israel and Temple Anshe Amunim youth group, Yachad, will host an Italian dinner on Sunday, November 23, from 5-7 p.m. at Temple Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield. The community is invited to eat in or take out.

Yachad is a joint youth group of middle and high school age students from Congregation Knesset Israel and Temple Anshe Amunim. All Jewish teens are welcome to join regardless of affiliation. All proceeds from sales of dinner tickets will be donated to Jewish charities.

“The dinner will be kosher style and feature lasagna, pasta and salad,” said Rachel Alemany, Temple Anshe Amunim’s Youth Group Leader.

“Why cook that evening when we will cook for you?” said Lara Denmark, Congregation Knesset Israel’s Youth Group Leader. “The lasagna is so popular, that this year we also welcome

patrons who would like to take out if they aren’t able to stay and eat.”

The pasta, lasagna, salad, bread, and dessert are prepared



by Yachad members and their parents, who are all looking forward to a great turnout. Families, couples and singles are all invited to attend, enjoy a lovely meal, and support Yachad.

No reservations are required. The price is \$12 per adult and \$6 per child, with a \$30 maximum per family. This event is partially funded by Knesset Israel, Temple Anshe Amunim, and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

For more information, please call Rachel Alemany at (413) 442-5910 or Lara Denmark at (413) 445-4872.

The Federation Sponsors.... A Day of Holocaust Education and Remembrance

From 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 7, the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires and its associate the Jewish Women’s Foundation of Berkshire County will sponsor “A Day of Holocaust Education and Remembrance” at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in Manhattan.

The program for B’nai Mitzvah and Post B’nai Mitzvah children, and other 7th and 8th grade affiliated and non-affiliated Jewish students, is free. We further extend the invitation to one parent or chaperone per family, as well as to one rabbi and one educator from each congregation.

The schedule includes:

Departure and arrival from the Lenox Price Chopper
Lunch after the 11:30 a.m. arrival at the museum

A guided museum tour

A 3 p.m. talk by a Holocaust survivor

Congregations are responsible for communicating trip



The Museum of Jewish Heritage on the lower Manhattan waterfront

details to students, obtaining accurate RSVP numbers for their respective classes, and submitting final reservation lists with names of all attendees by November 21.

All Jewish 7th and 8th grad-

ers from unaffiliated families are welcome to join this trip, with a parental chaperone. Please reserve space directly through the Federation.

For further information, please call (413) 442-4360.

Donate • Volunteer Make a Difference

Supermarket Sweeps for Federation Family Mitzvah Day

LENOX – To benefit the Lee Food Pantry, the Jewish Federation and Price Chopper are sponsoring a supermarket sweeps on Sunday, November 2 at 4 p.m., to be held at the Price Chopper located at 495 Pittsfield Road in Lenox.

Families are invited to race through the supermarket while solving riddles in order to find much needed food items for the Lee Food Pantry, which was established in 1991 and serves roughly 50 families each week.

Each registered family team



Feeding the
Community

receives a pre-paid Price Chopper card to cover the cost of their purchase. Teens 13 years old and older can register their own teams. First, second, and third place prizes will be awarded, but everyone wins because all food items will be donated to help those in need.

Price Chopper will host a free pizza party for registered teams following the sweeps race. So register your team today! Call the Federation at 442-4360, ext 10, or reach us via email at: jfb.officemanager@verizon.net.

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WONDERING JEWS
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MIXED MARRIAGE JEWS
MIXED UP JEWS
NON-JEWS
LGBT JEWS
CREATIVE JEWS
JEW BU'S
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POLITICAL JEWS
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HAVEN'T-BEEN-IN-SHUL-SINCE-MY-BAR-MITZVAH-JEWS

Sound like you? We invite you to call our spiritual leader, Barbara Cohen, at 413-528-4197, or visit us to learn more.

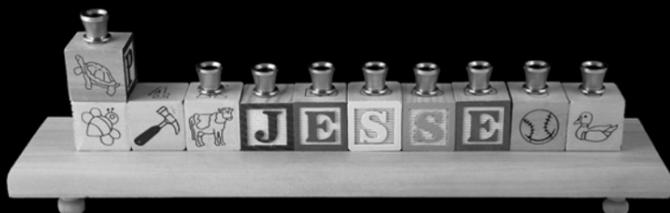
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www.jewishberkshires.org

INCLUDES A CALENDAR OF PROGRAMS AND EVENTS
SPONSORED BY THE BERKSHIRE JEWISH COMMUNITY

FEATURES AND LOCAL NEWS

MOTL, *continued from page 1*

recruiting teens and fundraising for the 2016 program. In order to include as many teens as possible, it has launched an endowment fund to provide financial assistance for Bay State teens who want to go. Thanks to a generous matching grant offer from the Kempner Family Foundation, each donation of \$1,000 will be matched, up to a total of \$15,000. Space is limited.

Kempner says, "Our goal is to significantly increase the number of teen participants from Massachusetts. This new endowment fund will provide scholarships." The New England delegation, which Massachusetts is joining, participates in March of the Living every other year. In April 2014, with help from an anonymous donor, three Massachusetts students joined the delegation. With the launch of an official Massachusetts chapter, the committee hopes to raise awareness and recruit many more students.

Jana Brenman, Director of the MOTL New England Region, states that "MOTL is the single most important experience that our teens can have to keep them engaged Jewishly as they head off to college. The experience connects them with their past, gives them skills and awareness to combat any injustices, and forges a strong and unbreakable bond with Israel." These students return to their communities and schools sharing their experiences, ready to be active leaders in the Jewish community.

Since its inception in 1988, the March of the Living has taken 250,000 teens on this life-changing experience. The trip departs after Passover and lasts 14 days, returning after Israel's Independence Day. The program consists of one week in Poland, visiting and learning about the Holocaust and the once vibrant Jewish communities, and one week in Israel, strengthening the bond to Israel.

There are two marches which

every delegation attends: The first is a powerful and somber march on Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom Hashoah) when teens from around the world march together from Auschwitz to Birkenau. The second march takes place on Israel Independence Day (Yom Ha'atzmaut) in Israel, when the group celebrates during a climatic march to the Wailing Wall (the Kotel). Kempner, son of Holocaust survivors, says the program dramatically teaches teen participants the lessons of the Holocaust and inspires them to become community activists and leaders. Last April, 14,000 teens from 45 countries participated.

The Massachusetts participants will join the New England Regional delegation, coordinated by the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island. Jana Brenman will lead the 2016 trip.

In addition to the youth trip, Friends of March of the Living has brought 3,000 adult participants on annual pilgrimages with its chief mission the perpetuation of the teens' MOTL program through financial support. The 2014 Friends of MOTL group had 40 participants including seven from Massachusetts.

One teen participant summed up her experience: "At Auschwitz I expected an extremely sad day. However, though there remained an air of solemnity, I felt pride and even joy as I walked through the Nazi death camps. As Jews, all 14,000 of us were there, marching on the same earth where we were intended to have been obliterated 70 years ago. And in that moment, we were no longer victims, for we allowed ourselves to feel victorious." After the 2014 March, Jana Brenman said, "I can think of no better way to keep kids engaged than through this singular program."

Irv Kempner said he invites the Jewish community of Western Massachusetts to get involved, too, and will look for ways to bring the MOTL message and cause to this part of the state.

Irv Kempner, MOTL Massachusetts

By Albert Stern



Kempner in Warsaw by the tombstone of great-grandfather Eliezar Freidenreich

A "punchline" is not something one would expect at the end of the story that Irv Kempner has to tell but, he asserts, the story indeed has a punchline and it will explain precisely why he became the driving force behind the new Massachusetts chapter of the March of the Living.

Kempner is the son of Holocaust survivors from Poland – his father David was 29 at the onset of World War II, and his mother Marlene was 17. Their parents were all murdered by the Nazis, as were siblings and members of their extended families. David and Marlene met during the war, and were finally liberated by the U.S. Army. The couple arrived in this country in 1949.

"It was a tough story to grow up with," says Kempner, who was born in 1950 and is named after a grandparent who perished (as is his sister). "When the war began, my mother was not fully matured. At ages 17 through 22, when most girls are thinking about proms and so forth, my mother was seeing her family decimated, the world she lived in decimated." Kempner remembers that his first consciousness of the Holocaust emerged through the prism of his parents' shattered emotions. As he grew older, however, "I wanted to learn absolutely everything I could about the history of how this thing happened." It helped that both parents were very active in Holocaust-related causes.

Kempner became a successful corporate executive, rising to Vice President of Sales for Gillette. "From furnaces to Fortune 500 in one generation," he says ruefully. After his retirement in the early 2000s, Kempner reconnected with his friend Mel Mann, a Miami resident active with Friends of MOTL.

"Mel told me that if I really wanted to understand my parents' experience," said Kempner, "I should join him on the March of the Living trip to Poland and Israel. It might be the only way I would really understand." His father had passed in 1999, while his mother is now 92 and lives in California.

Kempner went on his first two MOTL trips in 2005, and he recounts two standout experiences that changed his life.

The first occurred in Warsaw. When his mother learned he would be visiting Poland, she gave him five names (including those of her grandparents) to try and locate in the sprawling Okopowa Street Jewish Cemetery. When he arrived at the cemetery, where more than 250,000 people are buried, it struck him as larger than the sports stadium complex in Boston. "Not only that," he remembers, "the markers were huge and elaborate, and seemed to go on forever."

He located the cemetery's curator, "a Chabadnik who has the awesome responsibility of identifying

each marker and recording the names and location in a database." In 2005, just 10 percent of this massive undertaking was complete.

Not expecting much, Kempner read the curator the names. To his astonishment, "all five popped up on the computer," he recalls, his voice rising with excitement nearly a decade later. It was a busy day at the cemetery, and the overworked curator had Kempner run with him to the gravesites. "When others on the march who were there saw us running, they started running after us!" Finally, they all arrived at his mother's family section. After a lifetime of stories of decimation and loss, Kempner suddenly found himself standing amid the lonely physical remnants of his family's life in a world obliterated by genocide, graves dating from 1835 to 1939.

That night, after a ceremony at Nozyk Synagogue, the only surviving prewar Jewish house of prayer in Warsaw, Kempner called his mother with the news of what he had found.

"We cried like babies."

The second event in 2005 occurred during the remembrance marking the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. Kempner remembers seeing countless heads of state and being moved by a candle lighting ceremony, but the highlight of the day was Ariel Sharon's arrival.

"Think about it what it meant," he says. "The Prime Minister of the Jewish State landing in the middle of Auschwitz in a helicopter with a Mogen David Adom insignia." In his speech, Sharon addressed how some people will say that the Jews have the State of Israel because of the Holocaust, but that it is more correct to think that if the Jews had always had the State of Israel, there would have been no Holocaust. When Sharon concluded, Israeli fighter jets flew overhead in the missing man formation, an aerial salute performed at memorial services.

"Think what that said – planes with the Israeli Air Force insignia over Auschwitz," says Kempner, still in awe. "In front of me, an IDF soldier was standing next to a survivor from the March. The soldier started shaking and crying, and it was the survivor that started comforting him."

"The soldier sobbed, 'We were 60 years too late, we were 60 years too late.'"

"And the survivor told him: 'But you will never be late again.'"

Kempner pauses. "Now here's the punchline I promised," he says.

"I was the only person from Massachusetts who saw that. And that's why I got involved."



MOTL was 25,000 people strong at the 2005 memorial of the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz

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Your Federation Presents

'HALF JEWISH' – DILUTED OR ENRICHED?

continued from page 1

for a lively Knosh and Knowledge program – “Is a Half-Jew a Diluted Jew or an Enriched Jew?” Klein and Vuijst will share facts and statistics about interfaith marriage in this country, and discuss their often controversial ideas of how half-Jewishness is a cultural, intellectual, and aesthetic mix that is, in a variety of ways, greater than the sum of its parts.

From the introduction to *The Half Jewish Book: A Celebration*:

“This unique identity...has been ignored, maligned, and misunderstood. There's half-Jewish humor – half-Jewish/half-Catholic Bill Maher once quipped: “I come from a mixed religious background – when I went to confession, I brought a lawyer with me.” And there's half-Jewish beauty – Gwyneth Paltrow, Joan Collins, and Jane Seymour, just for starters. There are half-Jewish writers (Proust, Salinger), and half-Jewish characters in fiction by authors ranging from Philip Roth to Salman Rushdie. There are half-Jewish politicians – Fiorello La Guardia, Barry Goldwater, Dianne Feinstein. And there are

people, like General Wesley Clark, who discovered as adults that they were half-Jewish and then embraced their newfound double heritage.”

Klein is the coauthor (with Thomas Cathcart) of the bestsellers *Plato & a Platypus Walk Into a Bar* and *Travels with Epicurus*. A graduate of Harvard in philosophy, he is the author of 30 books. Vuijst, a native of The Netherlands, has been a US correspondent for Dutch media since the late 70's and has co-directed/produced many award-winning documentaries for her company Green Room Productions.

The program, which begins at 10:45, will be followed by lunch at noon.

IF YOU GO...

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires

Venue: Hevreh of Southern Berkshire

Date & Time: Friday, November 7 at 10:45 (lunch follows at noon)

Advance lunch reservations required for this event, (413) 442-4360, ext. 15

Cost: \$11 with fresh farm buffet lunch from Freund's Farm. Program only, \$5.

“The Process of Aging,” with therapist Maggie Bittman, October 27, November 20

Maggie Bittman, therapist, leads and facilitates a group discussion about “The Process of Aging.” Open to anyone interested in addressing this universal concern, this monthly program has addressed topics such as:

“Should I Remain in My Home or Downsize”

“Aloneness”

“Staying Active in Your Community”

Topics for discussion change from month to month and are open to suggestion based on the group's preferences.

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires

Venue: Congregation Kneset Israel

Date & Time: Monday, October 27 and Thursday, November 20 at 1 p.m.

Cost: Free with Older Adult Kosher Lunch. Program only, \$3.

“Life Experience as Legacy” with author Sharon Strassfeld, November 3

Join Sharon Strassfeld at Congregation Kneset Israel on Monday, November 3 for an interactive program of discussion and journal writing exploring ways of passing on life wisdom as legacy. Strassfeld, author of “The Jewish Catalog” and 5 other books, will lead participants in brief notebook writing, and then invite those in attendance to share the life experiences they have found most valuable.

The session will revolve around uncovering participants' founts of wisdom, and explore the impact that people and places have had on their lives. Strassfeld is also a businesswoman, with an expertise in real estate, and a former restaurant owner in New York City. She resides in Great Barrington and is a member of the Berkshire Minyan.



Sharon Strassfeld

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires

Venue: Congregation Kneset Israel

Date & Time: Monday, November 3 at 1 p.m.

Cost: Free with Older Adult Kosher Lunch. Program only, \$3.

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

Wellness: Ageless Grace with Jane Rosen, October 23

The Ageless Grace® program—21 Simple Tools for Lifelong Comfort and Ease – is a program of fitness based on the science of neuroplasticity. The movements, mostly performed in a chair, focus on the healthy longevity of the body, mind, emotions and spirit.

On Thursday, October 23, join certified Ageless Grace teacher Jane Rosen at Congregation Kneset Israel as she guides participants through the 21 Tools, which focus on different anti-aging techniques such as joint mobility, spinal flexibility, right-left brain coordination, bone density, muscle mass, cognitive function, fall prevention, systemic stimulation, balance, confidence, and playfulness.

The Ageless Grace program is ideal for individuals who want to find a regimen that will allow them to function with maximum ease and minimum effort. These exercises, based on everyday movements that are natural and come with ease, focus on the healthy longevity of the body and mind.



Jane Rosen

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires

Venue: Congregation Kneset Israel

Date & Time: Thursday, October 23 at 1 p.m.

Cost: Free with Older Adult Kosher Lunch. Program only, \$3.

“Swimming in Air”: Ongoing Qigong Classes with Jeffrey Gordon

Jeffrey Gordon is a native of Pittsfield and serves the community as an acupuncturist and Qigong instructor. His life took a dramatic turn at the age of sixteen when he suffered serious injuries in a car collision. This led him to seek alternative methods of healing and well-being through acupuncture, tai chi, qigong, and meditation. These practices had a profound healing effect on Jeffrey and he has continued with them to this day.

He enjoys teaching the simple Qigong exercises which can help improve daily life both physically and mentally. He currently practices acupuncture in Cheshire and teaches Qigong at several locations in and around Pittsfield. Qigong, similar to Tai Chi, is a simple form of exercise to strengthen physical health and calm and focus the mind. It is an ideal form of exercise for older adults and seniors, helping to enhance joint mobility, bone strength, circulation, and balance.

The monthly presentation at Congregation Kneset Israel following the older adult kosher lunch program will demonstrate the many benefits of Qigong, including a discussion and demonstration by Jeffrey, and a rare video of a legendary Chinese master who brought Tai Chi and Qigong to the United States. Practicing Qigong is often likened to “swimming in



Qigong instructor Jeff Gordon

air” and has a rejuvenating and refreshing effect on the body, mind, and senses.

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires

Venue: Congregation Kneset Israel

Dates & Time: Thursday, October 30, Monday, November 24, and Thursday, December 11 at 1 p.m.

Cost: Free with Older Adult Kosher Lunch. Program only, \$3.

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Your Federation Presents

Arts & Letters: Poetry of Sacred Time with Rabbi Rachel Barenblat, November 6

Join poet and rabbi Rachel Barenblat (author of *70 faces: Torah Poems*, *Waiting to Unfold*, and the forthcoming *Open My Lips*) for a poetry reading that dips into the wellsprings of Jewish sacred time. Rabbi Barenblat will share Torah poems, motherhood poems, and poems that engage with Jewish liturgy and with the unfolding of our festival year.

The reading, which starts following the older adult kosher lunch program at Congregation Kneset Israel on Thursday, November 6, will be followed by a question and answer session and book signing.

Rabbi Barenblat serves Congregation Beth Israel in North Adams, and was ordained by ALEPH: the Alliance for Jewish Renewal as a rabbi in 2011, and as a *mashpi'ah ruchanit* (spiritual director) in 2012. She holds an MFA from the Bennington Writing Seminars. A 2012 Rabbis Without Borders Fellow, she participated in a 2009 retreat for Emerging Jewish and Muslim Religious Leaders, and in 2014 served as alumna facilitator for that retreat.

Since 2003 she has blogged as The Velveteen Rabbi, which Time magazine named one of the top 25 sites on the internet in 2008. She has been an off-and-on contributor to *Zeek* magazine, "a Jewish journal of thought & culture," since 2005, and now serves on the board of directors of *Zeek*, as well as the ALEPH board of directors. She lives in western Massachusetts with her husband Ethan Zuckerman and their son.



Reb Rachel, a.k.a. "The Velveteen Rabbi"

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires

Venue: Congregation Kneset Israel

Date & Time: Thursday, November 6 at 1 p.m.

Cost: Free with Older Adult Kosher Lunch. Program only, \$3.

"Paths to the Interior": Poems by Stephen Rifkin on November 10

Where do poems come from? What do they signify? In a talk titled "Paths to the Interior," poet Stephen Rifkin will introduce his work and read a selection of verse from his book, *The Merit of Light*. He will also share his thoughts on the important questions posed by the nature art and experience.

Rifkin was born in Brooklyn, and attended James Madison High School and then Brooklyn College, where he majored in English. He taught in the New York City public schools and has lived in Europe, Mexico, and Istanbul. In midlife, he and his wife moved to Deer Isle, Maine, where they lived for the next 20 years. Many of the poems in *The Merit of Light* were written there or are set on the island. For the past 11 years, he and his wife have called North Adams home.

A book signing will follow the reading and discussion, which follows the older adult kosher lunch program at Congregation Kneset Israel.



Stephen Rifkin

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires

Venue: Congregation Kneset Israel

Date & Time: Monday, November 10 at 1 p.m.

Cost: Free with Older Adult Kosher Lunch. Program only, \$3.

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



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The Artist's Torah

Sunday, October 26, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. (also Sunday, November 9 and Sunday, April 19, 2015) – "The Artist's Torah: A Call and Response" at Congregation Kneset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield. Rabbi David Weiner collaborates with internationally known Judaic artist, Wendy A. Rabinowitz. The program aims to combine Biblical text study with guided artistic inspiration to produce art. Series fee: \$54. Registration, information, (413) 445-4872 ext. 16, or mhammerling@knesetisrael.org.

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Torah Insights: "A Rabbinic Portrait of Sarah" on November 13

Our matriarch Sarah suffered through many traumas – dislocation, famine, abduction, infertility, an inattentive husband, and a difficult stepchild. Yet she is recognized as the mother of the Jewish people. How did she do it?

On Thursday, November 13, Rabbi Jan Kaufman will explore how the rabbis portrayed Sarah in the Midrash, early rabbinic literature. Her insights into the character and importance of this pivotal Biblical figure will enhance participants' understanding and appreciation of the Torah portion *Hayye Sarah* – the life of Sarah – which will be read the following Shabbat.

Rabbi Kaufman recently retired from a thirty-four year career in the rabbinate having served for the past almost two decades as served as the Director of Special Projects for the Rabbinical Assembly, the international association of Conservative rabbis.

Prior to coming to the Rabbinical Assembly, Rabbi Kaufman spent her rabbinic career in Jewish education. In addition to her teaching duties, she also served the director of the Jewish Study Center, an institute of adult Jewish education. In 1991, Rabbi Kaufman became the founding principal of the Solomon



Rabbi Jan Kaufman

Schechter High School, initially located at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires

Venue: Congregation Knesset Israel

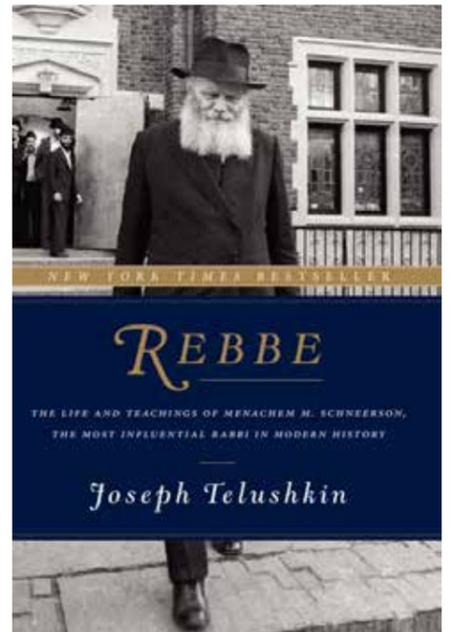
Date & Time: Thursday, November 13 at 1 p.m.

Cost: Free with Older Adult Kosher Lunch. Program only, \$3.

Book Discussion on November 17: Telushkin's "Rebbe," a biography of the 7th Leader of Chabad

Praising Rabbi Joseph Telushkin's biography of Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, Ruth Messinger (president of American Jewish World Service) writes: "An iconic figure comes alive in these pages, a man of wisdom and learning, yes, but also of deep personal caring and kindness... An astounding personal biography."

Join former bookstore owner and bibliophile extraordinaire Hugh Black for a consideration of *Rebbe: The Life and Teachings of Menachem M. Schneerson, the Most Influential Rabbi in Modern History*, which was published in June 2014. As the *Jewish Daily Forward* put it: "Telushkin offers a rounded portrait of life in the shadow, or the sunlight, of the Rebbe. We meet dozens of followers and hear their stories, get a feel for the texture of their devotion, for why they loved him... It is worth studying how and why his method worked."



"Rebbe" was released in Summer 2014

IF YOU GO

Sponsor: Jewish Federation of the Berkshires

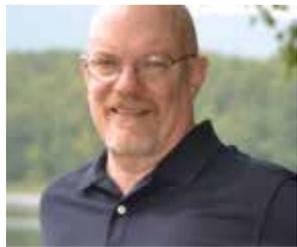
Venue: Congregation Knesset Israel

Date & Time: Thursday, November 17 at 1 p.m.

Cost: Free with Older Adult Kosher Lunch. Program only, \$3.

A Note from the Interim Editor

By Albert Stern



With this issue of the BJV, I am taking over as interim editor of the Berkshire Jewish Voice. It has been my privilege to work as a volunteer for the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, serving twice as Super Sunday chair and then on the Executive Board as Campaign Chair. While I have taken a leave of absence from my board position, working with the Federation for the past three years has prepared me for my current role by introducing me to the people and institutions that contribute to the vitality of our Jewish community.

Just a few words about my professional experience – I've been a journalist and editor for 30 years, working for general interest, trade, and commercial publications. Early in my career, I worked for national and regional magazines, and edited marketing publications for the tourism and transportation industries, jobs that allowed me to travel throughout North America. For three years, I was a contributing editor for Zagat dining guides, and for the past 15 years, I worked primarily in the financial world for firms such as Ernst & Young, Morgan Stanley, BNP Paribas, and The Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation.

My stories and essays have been published in the *New York Times*, Salon.com, and the *Jewish Daily Forward*, and I wrote and performed two one-person shows staged in New York. Locally, I've twice been featured in the Made in the Berkshires festival, and have just recorded a story slated to appear on WAMC radio's Roundtable program.

My wife Rachel, son Eliot, and I moved to the Berkshires from Brooklyn three years ago, making our "home away from home" our permanent home. Our move coincided with a personal recommitment to religious practice and community involvement, and I am very pleased that my role as interim editor of the BJV will allow me to work in a Jewish mode.

As a board member, I thought it vital to visit all of our congregations in order to get to know the leadership and membership, and learn about their goals for our Jewish community. I also tried to define my aspirations for our Federation in speeches and in articles that appeared in this publication – I believe there are great things we can accomplish here in the Berkshires. As I take on this challenge, I am grateful to be able to continue working with all of you and for this organization, whose mission I support wholeheartedly.

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The Editor/PR Director is responsible for the overall production of the Berkshire Jewish Voice, (published nine times a year), as well as providing public relations support for Federation events. Duties include:

- Collecting and editing press releases and articles from area organizations.
- Coordinating writers and editing articles for ongoing columns.
- Writing articles covering Federation and other events of interest to the community.
- Selecting and editing articles of interest from wire services and other sources.
- Creating and maintaining the paper's community calendar.
- Writing feature and local interest stories and conducting interviews.
- Attending, covering and photographing select Federation events.
- Communicating regularly with staff to gather information and ensure Federation programs appear in a timely manner.
- Working with copy editor and graphic artist on editing, proofing and layout of paper.
- Preparing press releases for all Federation programs and events to send to secular media outlets.

25-30 hours a week. Experience: 3-5 years editorial and writing experience. Applicants should be detail-oriented, organized, self-motivated, a team player, and community minded; excellent writing and computer skills are a must. Knowledge of Judaism and/or the Jewish community preferred.

Send resume with two writing samples to the attention of Dara Kaufman, Executive Director- Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, 196 South Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201. Application Deadline: November 15, 2014.



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Your Federation Presents

Volunteers are Vital!

Merle Ferber – Volunteer Extraordinaire

By Susan Frisch Lehrer, Coordinator of Volunteers

This column celebrates one of our most dedicated volunteers, Merle Ferber. I'm writing before Rosh Hashanah while in the midst of organizing "Joe's Project," deliveries of challot and honey to seniors and those who are ill in our Jewish community. Merle has been my right hand, contacting many of the senior facilities to collect names and information so that no one is left out. I don't know what I'd do without her help for this project and others.

I thank her and all of the many other volunteers, who decorated the bags, baked the challot, packed the loaves, and delivered them to over 300 folks in our community.

Today Rabah to all!

Merle told me that she enjoys helping out at our Federation, as the Jewish Federation in New York City helped her get her first job as a teenager helping in a preschool. That early job helped her decide to be a teacher.

Merle always volunteers to make Super Sunday calls and feels that it is everyone's duty to help others in need. She enjoys talking to folks in our community and shares all that the Federation does both locally and beyond.

She says she is "a very contented" recipient of the thrice weekly Hot Kosher Meal Program, adding: "It's a wonderful program and I credit the staff and volunteers who participate in this very important Federation initiative." She fondly remembers the late Edie Reder, who started the program and who delivered meals and visited with Merle every Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday.

Merle grew up in the Bronx, and graduated from the Bronx High School of Science and then Hunter College with a major in English and Psychology. She earned an MA in Special Education from Manhattan College.

She knew early on that she wanted to work with special needs kids, and started her career at a Montessori School in New York City.



Merle Ferber with loyal and sleepy companion, Miller

She came to the Berkshires in the mid-1970s to accept a teaching position, and worked with special needs kids for several years. She also worked at Berkshire Community College and helped many non-traditional students with their English and math classes, as well as with job development. Later she had her own business – "Portfolios" – that assisted people in career planning.

Over the years, she has been a busy volunteer for both secular and Jewish organizations. In the Jewish community, she served on the board of the Jewish Federation and, after joining Congregation Kneset Israel, became the youth advisor for United Synagogue Youth. She served on the Kneset Israel board, worked on the accessibility committee, and currently serves as a Gabbai greeting all on Shabbat.

Merle was active in the Junior League of Berkshire County, serving as its president in the 1980s and that's where I met her and saw her "in action." Nothing stopped her, not even a devastating car accident. She still remembers the off-duty police officer and doctor (playing golf at the time) who kept her alive until help arrived. She credits the 86 volunteers who donated 36 pints of blood that aided her survival.

After receiving assistance from Berkshire Medical Center, the Berkshire County Red Cross, and the AdLib Center for Independent Living, among others,

Merle joined their boards. To this day, she advocates for all these institutions. She also serves in various capacities with the New England Board for Blood Services for the Red Cross, Berkshire Health Systems, and the NAACP (Merle believes in civil rights for all people).

Merle tried to do her civic duty in the late 1990s by serving on a jury, but was physically unable to do so. The Berkshire County Courthouse was not accessible – so she advocated and organized a community outcry to make the building accessible to all. After recent renovations, it now is.

A few years ago, Merle was awarded several citations, including Woman of the Year from Berkshire Hills Hadassah during a Tu B'Shevat luncheon, and the Dr. David Kagen Award from the Pittsfield Rotary Club for "service above self."

Merle presents programs to schools and civic organizations on service dogs. She's been the proud partner of the late "Radar" and currently "Miller" through the National Education for Dog Service.

And, by the way, both dogs proudly wore and still wear a kippah when they greet everyone on Shabbat.

So, "woof-woof" (that's thanks in dog-speak) to Merle and thanks for all that you do to make our Berkshires a better place.

And – if you'd like to volunteer for our Jewish Federation, please contact me. I'd love to hear from you.

B'shalom,
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Israel Emergency Assistance Fund

The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires has joined Federations across North America to provide urgent humanitarian support for our brothers and sisters in Israel.

The "Stop the Sirens" campaign is being implemented in collaboration with local Jewish Federations, the Union for Reform Judaism and The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and our overseas partners – The Jewish Agency for Israel, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, and the Israel Trauma Coalition to deliver the following support:

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Haaretz: www.haaretz.com

State of Israel Updates
Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs: www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/ForeignPolicy
IDF Updates: www.idfblog.com
Israel Consul to New England: www.embassies.gov.il/boston

Stop the Sirens Updates
Jewish Federations of North America: www.Jewishfederations.org
JDC Field Blog: www.jdc.org/jdc-field-blog
Jewish Agency Blog: www.jewishagency.org/voices

Other Resources:
Israel Action Network: www.israelactionnetwork.org
Jewish Council on Public Affairs: www.jewishpublicaffairs.org

*This is not intended as a comprehensive list



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Why I Give!

By Bobbi Cohn

“When I was growing up in Pittsfield, my mother was the secretary of Egremont School. There were a couple of new teachers who had just left the convent and were adjusting to life in the secular world. They were sometimes overwhelmed with choices regarding appropriate etiquette, dress, and other things most of us consider mundane. My mother took them under her wing and advised them on various issues. Someone once asked her why she went to so much trouble to help these women and her answer was, “Some day my daughter will need advice and I hope someone will be there to help her.”



Mom was demonstrating the concept of “Pay it Forward” long before the expression had been coined. She also taught me, in the Jewish tradition, there is always someone worse off and everyone has a responsibility to give to the best of his/her ability. There are many worthwhile causes that my husband Mike and I support, but the Jewish community has the smallest pool from which to draw, so we feel a greater responsibility to give more generously to Jewish causes. The Federation is central in that, supporting all of the threads that comprise the tapestry of our Jewish community.

We owe it both to those who came before us and sacrificed, as well as the future generations, to “Pay it Forward.”

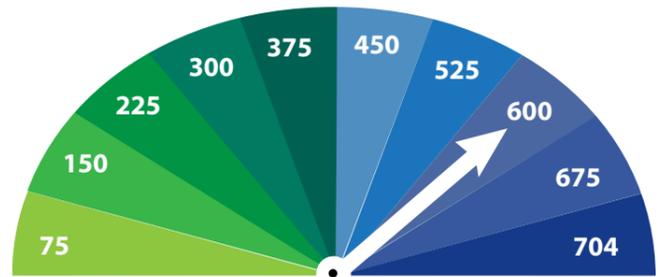
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To donate to the Federation’s 2014 Annual Campaign visit www.jewishberkshires.org, call (413) 442-4360, ext. 16, or send your gift to Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, 196 South Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201



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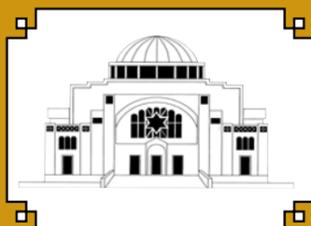
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OCTOBER

Tuesday, 21 Chicken and sun dried tomatoes#, apricot nectar, rice pilaf, mixed vegetables, multi-grain bread, apricots, and tea.

Thursday, 23 Fresh fish, mushroom soup, oven roasted potatoes, broccoli, muffins, pudding, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.

At 1 p.m., "Ageless Grace" with certified teacher Jane Rosen.

Monday, 27 Beef and barley stew#, carrots, salad, rolls, apricots, and tea.

At 1 p.m., "The Process of Aging" with therapist Maggie Bittman.

Tuesday, 28 Chicken pot pie#, Chef's choice juice, rice, multi-grain bread, tropical fruit salad, and tea.

Thursday, 30 Vegetable lasagna, minestrone soup, beets, garlic bread sticks, ice cream and cookies, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.

At 1 p.m., "Qigong – A Simple, Natural Exercise to Enhance Your Well-being" with licensed acupuncturist Jeffrey Gordon.

NOVEMBER

Monday, 3 Meat loaf**#, chicken noodle soup, mashed potatoes, peas, rye bread, applesauce, and tea.

At 1 p.m., "Life Experience as Legacy" with editor and author Sharon Strassfeld.

Tuesday, 4 Roasted chicken**#, Italian wedding soup, green beans, rice pilaf, Italian bread, "To-futti" and cookies, and tea.

Thursday, 6 Tuna noodle casserole, salad, zucchini, marble rye bread, grapes, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.

At 1 p.m., Rabbi Rachel Barenblat of Congregation Beth Israel in North Adams presents readings from her poetry.

Monday, 10 Turkey tender cutlets#, chicken soup, roasted Brussels sprouts, oven browned potatoes, rolls, pineapple, and tea.

At 1 p.m., "Paths to the Interior" with teacher and published poet Stephen Rifkin.

Tuesday, 11 Lamb and beef stew with prunes**#, salad, noodles, carrots, pumpernickel, applesauce, and tea.

Thursday, 13 Oven roasted root vegetable pizza, mushrooms up, beets, salad, bread cubes for Motzi, pudding, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.

At 1 p.m., "A Rabbinic Portrait of Sarah" with Rabbi Jan Kaufman.

Monday, 17 "Seafood" chowder, grilled cheese sandwiches, stewed tomatoes, salad, bread cubes for Motzi, fruit cocktail, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.

At 1 p.m., Hugh Black will discuss Joseph Telushkin's biography *Rebbe* on Menachem M. Schneerson.

Tuesday, 18 Beef and bean burritos#, yellow rice, salad, corn bread, peaches, and tea.

Thursday, 20 Roast turkey**#, winter squash soup, mashed potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce, peas & carrots, challah, apple dumplings, and tea.

At 1 p.m., "The Process of Aging" with therapist Maggie Bittman.

Monday, 24 Sweet and sour meatballs**, chicken noodle soup, noodles, peas, whole wheat bread, pears, and tea.

At 1 p.m., "Qigong – A Simple, Natural Exercise to Enhance Your Well-being" with licensed acupuncturist Jeffrey Gordon.

Tuesday, 25 Roasted chicken**, cabbage soup, brown rice, mixed vegetables, salad, multi-grain bread, apricots and tea.

Thursday, 27 Closed for Thanksgiving

DECEMBER

Monday, 1 Hot dogs and beans**#, tomato soup, salad, hot dog rolls, brownies, and tea.

Tuesday, 2 Shepherd's Pie**#, chicken soup, rye bread, peaches, and tea.

Thursday, 4 Fresh fish, salad, noodle kugel, green beans, challah, pudding, coffee, tea, and milk for coffee.

Monday, 8 Salisbury steak**#, mushroom barley soup, oven roasted potatoes, wax beans, rolls, pineapple, and tea.

Tuesday, 9 Chicken and sundried tomatoes**#, Near East rice pilaf (not gluten free), mixed vegetables, whole wheat bread, chef's choice of fruit, and tea.

Kosher Meals Delivered!
Recovering from illness or injury? Arrange to have a kosher hot lunch delivered to your doorstep. Call (413) 442-2200.

Fight Disappearing Ink! Support the Berkshire Jewish Voice!

OBITUARIES

Irwin E. Adler, 84, had Opera Museum in his home

LEE – Irwin E. Adler, 84, died on Thursday, September 18.

Born in Passaic, NJ on June 5, 1930, Mr. Adler graduated from Passaic High School and Rutgers University. He had a successful textile manufacturing business, Allied Elastic Braid Corporation, in New York and New Jersey, for more than thirty years.

Mr. Adler began coming to the Berkshires as a camper in his youth and became enamored with the area with all of its beauty and cultural offerings. He and his wife, Claire, moved to the Berkshires over thirty years ago and were so happy to be part of Tanglewood, attending most of the summer concerts. He was an usher at Tanglewood for many years and donated to the building of Seiji Ozawa Hall.

He spent much of his time volunteering at other venues, as well. He volunteered at the Food Bank in Lenox, Breaking Bread Kitchen dinners through Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, The Berkshire Theatre Festival, and Barrington Stage.

His love and passion for music drew him to The Metropolitan Opera in New York City for over 70 years. He proudly displayed over 500 opera programs from performances that he had attended there in the Opera Museum he established in his home. He was also a proud patron of The Metropolitan Opera. His Opera Museum contained autographs from many famous opera singers, among other opera related artifacts, and he welcomed over 800 visitors there. He was known by his friends as "Mr. Opera" and wrote several books related to his love of opera. He had a passion for travel, especially visiting opera houses in Europe, where he had many good friends.

Mr. Adler is survived by his wife of 55 years, Claire Adler; his son, Bruce Adler, and his fiancé Janice Lee, of Hartsdale, NY; his daughter, Laurie Adler, and her husband, Joe Walker, of Naples, FL; and his stepson, Robert Talbot, of Petaluma, CA.

Burial was in The Adler Family Circle in Beth David Cemetery in Elmont, NY on Wednesday, September 24, with services conducted by Rabbi Stephen Dresner.

Doris G. Patoka, 90, enjoyed volunteer work

PITTSFIELD – Doris G. Patoka of 101 Barry Road, Worcester, MA, died on Thursday, September 25 at the Rose Monahan Hospice House.

Born in New York City on November 19, 1923, daughter of Jacob and Mary Goldsmith, Mrs. Patoka came to Pittsfield in 1949 and purchased and ran J&J Lock & Hardware, Inc., with

her husband, Oscar Patoka, until 1984 when the business was sold.

She was a member of Temple Anshe Amunim, a life member of Berkshire Hills Hadassah, and a member of Women of Reform Judaism. She enjoyed volunteer work and was an active Bridge player.

Mrs. Patoka leaves three children, Jude Patoka of Pittsfield; Martin Patoka and wife Kathrina of Richardson, TX; and Myra Patoka Fortugno and husband, Chris of West Boylston, MA. She also leaves five grandchildren, Lisa and Sarah Dietz, Jennifer Dietz Kumar, and Marc and Marissa Fortugno. She leaves one great-granddaughter, Aria Kumar.

A graveside funeral service was held on Tuesday, September 30 at Pittsfield Cemetery, Anshe Amunim Section, with Rabbi Joshua L Breindel, Spiritual Leader of Temple Anshe Amunim officiating. Memorial Donations can be made to Temple Anshe Amunim (26 Broad Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201), Berkshire Hills Hadassah, or the charity of one's choice in care of the Flynn & Dagnoli-Bencivenga Funeral Home (5 Elm St, Pittsfield, MA, 01201).

Morton I. Sternberg, 90, man of tremendous strength

SHEFFIELD – Morton I. Sternberg, 90, passed away at his home on Tuesday, September 16.

Mr. Sternberg grew up in Queens, NY, the son of a grocer and a schoolteacher. In 1944, he enlisted in the Armed Forces, and as Chief Bombardier in the 15th A.F., he flew 33 missions over Germany and Austria. He received 6 Air Medals.

After the War, Mr. Sternberg finished high school and graduated from Syracuse University on the G.I. Bill. He enjoyed a long career in engineering, but his true passions were family, friends, hiking, skiing, beekeeping, and in his later years, playing poker and lifting weights with his buddies.

He was a man of tremendous strength: strength of character, strength of conviction, physical strength, and a strong sense of humor built on few words that always packed a big punch. His prowess and love will be missed by all whose lives he touched.

Mr. Sternberg is survived by his wife of 57 years, Ruth, daughter Sarah, son-in-law Daniel, and granddaughters Nina and Naomi.

NATIONAL AND WORLD NEWS

Israel's population nears 9 million

JERUSALEM (JTA)—The official population of Israel on the eve of the Jewish New Year was 8.9 million, a slight increase from last Rosh Hashanah that was spurred by a rise in births and an increased number of *olim* (immigrants).

The population grew by 2 percent since the previous Rosh Hashanah, rising 173,811 to 8,904,373, according to the Population and Immigration Authority. About 75 percent of the population is Jewish.

The number of babies born in Israel during the past year was

176,230, including 90,646 boys and 85,584 girls. The most popular Hebrew boy's name this year is Yosef, followed by Daniel, Uri, Itai, Omar, Adam, Noam, Ariel, Eitan and David, respectively. For girls, the most popular Hebrew name was Tamar, followed by Noah, Shirah, Adelle, Talya, Yael, Lian, Miriam, Maya and Avigayil. Overall, the most common name for newborn boys in Israel was Mohammad, a result of its popularity among Israeli Arab citizens.

Some 75,848 people married since Rosh Hashanah, and

the country registered 32,457 divorces. The number of new immigrants was 24,801, rising nearly 10 percent.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said at the start of the weekly Cabinet meeting that the population figures are meaningful to the Jewish community some 70 years after the start of the Holocaust.

"More than 6 million Jews live here. This number has great significance in light of our people's history in the previous century as well as in the current one," he said.

Diaspora: Only 12 Jews left in Egypt, community leader says

JERUSALEM (JTA) – Only 12 Jews remain in Egypt, the remnant of a community of some 100,000 that lived there until the 1950s, the community's leader said.

"We are dying, we are drowning, we are finished," Jewish community head Magda Haroun

told the BBC in an interview broadcast on Sept. 18.

Haroun told the BBC that her "first duty is to take care of the human beings," the remaining Jews, "the old ladies which have no family, are alone."

"And my second duty and most important one is these things that will never die," she said, pointing to the religious and ritual objects.

Most of Egypt's Jews left in

the 1950s and 1960s when Egypt and Israel were at war and Jews were accused of being spies.

Haroun was elected head of the Jewish community in April 2013 following the death of Carmen Weinstein. At the time there were about 40 Jews in Egypt, mostly elderly women split between Cairo and Alexandria. Her father, Chehata Haroun, was a nationalist politician who was anti-Zionist.

MAZEL TOVS

On the simcha of his bar mitzvah, mazel tov to Kevin Robertson and his parents Jennifer Tabakin and Peter Robinson.

Congrats to maggid and Congregation Beth Israel Director of Education David Arfa, whose CD of stories, "The Life and Times of Herschel of Ostropol: The Greatest Prankster Who Ever Lived," earned a national Parents' Choice Foundation award.

Mazel tov to Howard Cooper on the birth of grandson Isaac.

Mazel tov to Jewish Federation of the Berkshires President Amy Lindner-Lesser on the marriage of her daughter Nina to Greg Anderson.

The Berkshire Jewish Voice welcomes Mazel Tov items, accompanying photographs, and obituaries. When submitting, please either type or clearly print the information. Make certain it is complete, accurate, and includes the submitter's name and telephone number. Corrections will be made in the following edition if they are the result of writer or editor errors only, and not due to illegible or inaccurate information forwarded.

Create a Jewish Legacy Campaign
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262 APPLETON AVENUE, PITTSFIELD..A walk-to-town end unit with 3 bedrooms and 2.5 baths..Air conditioned..Great room with fireplace..Master on the first floor with full bath (jet tub) plus free standing shower..2 additional bedrooms with separate tub and shower on lower level and each bedroom has door to backyard..C 2456 \$250,000.

2 FIELDSTONE DRIVE, LAKECREST, Pittsfield..A sought after contemporary end unit with 4 bedrooms and 3 baths.. Great room with fireplace..private extended deck (woods in the back)..Amenities include: marina, tennis, heated outdoor pool, play area, exercise room, sauna, library, party area..Selling furnished..C 2454 \$375,000.

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NATIONAL AND WORLD NEWS



Join the Berkshire Jewish Community as we work together to do a little TOV (meaning good in Hebrew) and make a difference in alleviating hunger and food insecurity across the Berkshires this holiday season.

Federation Families: Supermarket Sweeps to Benefit the Lee Food Pantry

Ready, set, go! On November 2nd at 4 pm at the Price Chopper in Lenox, families are invited to race through the supermarket while solving riddles in order to find much needed food items for the local food pantry. Free pizza party to follow. Sponsored by the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. Register at 442-4360, ext 14 or jfb.volunteer@verizon.net. To make a donation towards the prepaid shopping cards which will be used to purchase the food pantry items please call (413) 442-4360.

Food Donations needed for Christmas dinner raffle at the People's Pantry in Great Barrington

Donations of frozen turkeys, packaged stuffing, canned cranberry sauce and packaged desserts sought for eighteen Christmas dinner packages to be raffled off for free at the People's Pantry. Sponsored by Hevreh of Southern Berkshire. For more info call (413) 528-6378.

Berkshire Organizing Project

Alleviate hunger and poverty and build a more just Berkshires through multi-faith, congregation-based efforts to build relationships, research issues and change government and agency policies. For more info visit Intervalleyproject.org or contact Rabbi David Weiner at (413) 445-4872. Sponsored by Congregation Knesset Israel and other houses of worship.

Volunteers needed to make Lasagnas for Soup Kitchen in Pittsfield

Volunteers need to prepare lasagnas which will then be delivered to the soup kitchen of the First Baptist Church in Pittsfield. Clean up and dish washing help also needed. Sponsored by Temple Anshe Amunim. For more info on upcoming dates contact Joel Colker at jcolker@aol.com.

Shop, cook and serve a meal at Breaking Bread Kitchen in Sheffield

Volunteers needed to shop, cook and serve a meal at Breaking Bread Kitchen in Sheffield, MA. Clean up and dish washing help also needed. Upcoming date: Thursday, November 13. Sponsored by Hevreh of Southern Berkshire. For more info call (413) 528-6378 or email Susan Weinstein at harperlsusan@gmail.com.

Take & Eat Meals for the Homebound in North Adams

Help shop, cook, bake, package, deliver meals and work on the cleanup crew one Sunday a month. Upcoming dates are October 26th, November 23, and December 28. Volunteers welcome year round every 4th Sunday of the month. Sponsored by Congregation Beth Israel. More info contact Ed Oshinsky at eoshinsky@yahoo.com

Food Delivery Volunteers in Great Barrington

Assist food delivery service coordinator in picking up donated food and milk from local markets and farms and distributing it to the People's Pantry, WIC, Breaking Bread Kitchen and Construct in Great Barrington. Sponsored by Hevreh of Southern Berkshire. More info call (413) 528-6378 or email Susan Weinstein at harperlsusan@gmail.com.

Volunteers to assist at the People's Pantry in Great Barrington

Volunteers needed to sort and unpack groceries and weigh produce. Volunteers guide shoppers through the shelves and complete inventory of groceries taken. Calvary Church, 195 North Plain Rd., Great Barrington.

Upcoming dates: Oct. 30, Jan 15 sponsored by Hevreh of Southern Berkshire. More info: harperlsusan@gmail.com
Oct 9, Dec 4 sponsored by Congregation Ahavath Sholom. More info: ptcpa@roadrunner.com

The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires' Tikkun Olam Volunteer (TOV) Network connects community members of all ages with Mitzvah opportunities to make a difference in our community.

Biblical archaeology sees a golden age in Israel

By Sean Savage

JERUSALEM (JNS) – The City of David Foundation devoted a special portion of its annual conference in September to the theme “Jerusalem of Gold,” highlighting several never-before-seen golden artifacts.

“The people in ancient times, like today, used gold for the most important things in life,” Ahron Horovitz, senior director of Megalim, the City of David's Higher Institute for Jerusalem Studies, told JNS.org.

The main themes of the artifacts on display related to war, beauty, and holiness or sanctity. Among the golden artifacts is the largest cache of gold coins ever discovered in Jerusalem, comprising 264 coins that date back to the end of the Byzantine period in the 7th century CE. The coins are unique in that they were minted in Jerusalem, not in Constantinople—the Byzantine imperial capital—and were likely made in preparation for the Byzantine war against the Persians.

“The coins were found stacked one on top of another and were never dispensed,” Horovitz said. “There may be a story of intrigue here as to why they never were used, such as it being stolen.”

Additionally, a golden medallion featuring inscriptions of a menorah, shofar, and Torah scroll is on display for the very first time. The medallion was found in the Ophel excavation south of the Temple Mount and was believed to have been hung on a Torah scroll as a breast plate.

The discovery of the Jewish medallion, dating back to the time of upheaval in Jerusalem during the Persian-Byzantine wars, was a surprise for archaeologist Dr. Eilat Mazar, who unearthed the artifact. There are normally not many Jewish items



(PHOTO: CITY OF DAVID FOUNDATION)

This cache of 264 gold coins is the largest ever discovered in Jerusalem

found from that period.

Mazar estimated that the medallion originates from the Persian conquest of Jerusalem in 614 CE. That year, many Jews helped the Persians conquer Jerusalem from the Byzantines, only to have the Persians turn against the Jews and ally with the Byzantine Christians later on, leading to the Jews' expulsion once again.

“These finds tell us about the Jewish presence in Jerusalem in the late Byzantine period, which we didn't know much about,” renowned Israeli archaeologist Dr. Gabriel Barkay, who spoke at the City of David conference, told JNS.org.

“The artifacts help us understand that there was a strong messianic desire of the Jewish people at that time; many of them likely came from abroad in hopes of construction of the Third Temple,” he said.

Another golden artifact on display was an earring made of gold inlaid pearls and emeralds that dates back to the Roman period. A copy of this earring was given to First Lady Michelle Obama by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu when she visited Israel in 2013.

Finally, one of the most

unique and rare items on display was a golden bell believed to have been part of the official vestments of the high priests of the Jewish Temple, discovered by Eli Shukron, an Israeli archaeologist and former director of City of David excavations for the Israel Antiquities Authority. Described in Exodus 28:31-35, the priestly robe, also known as the “ephod,” was fringed with small golden bells that had to ring when the high priest entered the Holy of Holies.

“At first I just thought it was a ball and didn't realize it was the golden bell from the high priests until I shook it and heard the ringing,” Shukron told JNS.org. “No other artifact from the high priests like this has ever been discovered before.”

Ahron Horovitz said the artifacts highlight the special bond Jews have with Jerusalem, as well as Jewish continuity in the holy city.

“It shows us that the Jews have a very special bond and connection with Jerusalem that continues to today,” he said. “So when modern day Israelis come and see these artifacts, they can feel that they are part of Jerusalem from a long time ago.”

Helen Diller Family Foundation to Award up to 15 Teen Tikkun Olam Projects Nationwide

SAN FRANCISCO – The Helen Diller Family Foundation is now accepting nominations for the 2015 Diller Teen Tikkun Olam Awards, a program that recognizes up to 15 Jewish teens annually with \$36,000 each for exceptional leadership and impact in volunteer projects that make the world a better place. Up to five teens from California and ten from other communities across the United States will be acknowledged for their philanthropic efforts. Anyone interested in nominating a teen, or any teen who is interested in self-nominating, should visit www.dillerteenawards.org to begin the nomination process.

The deadline for nominations is December 14, 2014.

Bay Area philanthropist Helen Diller created the Diller Teen Tikkun Olam Awards in 2007 as a way to recognize the next generation of socially committed leaders whose dedication to volunteerism exemplifies the spirit of tikkun olam, a central Jewish precept meaning to repair the world. The Diller Teen Tikkun Olam Awards have since granted a total of nearly \$2 million to 55 Jewish teens from across the nation.

Qualifications for Nomination:

Teens may be nominated by any community member who

knows the value of their project — except a family member — or may self-nominate.

Each candidate must be a U.S. resident aged 13-19 years old at the time of nomination, and must self-identify as Jewish.

Community service projects may benefit the general or Jewish community, with impact locally, nationally, or world-wide.

Teens' work must be as volunteers—without compensation for their services.

TO NOMINATE: Complete the simple online form at www.dillerteenawards.org.

For more information, email dillerteenawards@sfjcf.org or call (415) 512-6432.

Careers: New Mossad recruiting website goes online

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel's Mossad intelligence agency has launched a new website to recruit for various positions.

In addition to Hebrew, the website, which went online in September, is available in several languages including Russian, English, Arabic

and French.

A questionnaire to determine suitability for the agency can be filled out and submitted online.

Positions are available in operations, intelligence, technology and cyber, and administration, according to the website.

NATIONAL AND WORLD NEWS

How DNA testing can reveal Jewish ancestry and bolster the Zionist narrative

By Michele Alperin

(JNS) – When Noah Slepko started using online genealogical tools to build a family tree, little did he know that his personal exploration might have significant implications for all of the Jewish people—including those not even aware of their Jewish roots.

But when Slepko heard from a colleague about 23andMe—a genetic kit that performs a DNA test on saliva to learn what percent of a person’s DNA comes from different global populations, and then provides contacts of potential relatives—he was hooked.

“I was fascinated by the ability of normal genealogical tools to find relatives,” says Slepko, an associate fellow of the Jewish People Policy Institute (JPPI) think tank in Jerusalem. “When I realized the potential of combining that with DNA techniques, it is quite amazing what can be done.”

Slepko proposed including a chapter in JPPI’s annual assessment that explores different dimensions of the Jewish people: geopolitics, demography, and identity. The ensuing report he authored, titled “Crowd Sourced Genealogy and Direct-to-Consumer DNA Testing: Implications for the Jewish People,” recommended that the Israeli government, Jewish communities, and Jewish organizations provide information and points of connection for individuals who have discovered some Jewish ancestry through direct-to-consumer DNA testing.

Slepko consulted with Bennett Greenspan, owner of Family Tree DNA, who explained that if one extrapolates from the number of Jews estimated by the historian Josephus to be alive in the first century A.D., then “you would expect to have more Jews than there are today,” says Slepko.

“It made me realize how many people out there actually have Jewish ancestors,” he says. “If you think about it exponentially, you can have one ancestor who is Jewish, and he could have hundreds of thousands of descendants.”

Slepko also conducted a personal DNA test, and the results were typical of such research. He cites a paper by Doron Behar in the scientific journal *Nature* that shows how the female lineage of Ashkenazi Jews is European, dating back 30,000 years, whereas the male lineage is from the Middle East and more recent.

“It suggests that men left the Middle East and married non-Jewish wives and converted them, and their descendants all became Jews,” says Slepko, noting that his own test matches Behar’s data, which is included in the Family Tree DNA database.

Slepko says this DNA testing “has huge geopolitical consequences.”

“Doron Behar wrote in his article that DNA tests confirm the Zionist narrative of Jews once living in the historic land of Israel and going through an exile,” he says. A graph included in Behar’s article shows where different Jewish communities fit genealogically within the global population.

“One of the narratives you hear is that Jewish people have no business being in the Middle East, and that they are European and should go back to Europe,” Slepko says. “With the exception of one scholar who has tried to suggest that Jews are really descendants of the Khazars, most scientists would agree that there is in fact evidence within the genome of the Jewish people that different Jews from around the world do come from the Middle East.”

Horns up: Guinness shofar-blowing record broken in New Jersey



“Tekkiah ha’achi gedolah”

WHIPPANY, NJ (JTA) — More than 1,000 people came together on September 21 at the Alex Aidekman Family Jewish Community Campus in Whippany to break the Guinness World Record for largest shofar ensemble.

Participants in the “Great Shofar Blow-out” blew shofars together for five minutes, NJ.com reported. The event was sponsored by the Partnership for Jewish Learning and Life, the identity-building organiza-

tion of the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest in northern New Jersey.

The New Jersey group snapped the shofar ensemble record set in Swampscott, MA, in 2006, when 796 shofar blowers came together on the beach.

The Partnership for Jewish Learning and Life, which is based on the Whippany campus, has been planning to break the record since 2006.

Chai tech: Israel invests in Intel

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel’s economic and finance ministries approved a five-year grant of \$300 million to the Intel Corp.

Intel also will receive a reduced corporate tax rate of 5 percent for 10 years, the Israeli business daily *Globes* reported.

Intel is set to invest about \$6 billion in upgrading its chip manufacturing plant in Israel, which is located in the southern town of Kiryat Gat. The upgraded plant

will employ an additional 1,000 people by 2023; some 2,500 already work there.

“We approved the biggest investment in the country’s history,” Economy Minister Naftali Bennett told *Globes*. “Without this grant, Intel would have carried out this large investment in other places, such as in Ireland or the U.S., where the red carpet had already been rolled out for it.”



Strands of DNA

Sukkot Fun on the Farm



Over 140 parents and children joined the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires and PJ Library for some Sukkot fun at Whitney’s Farm Market, making edible sukkahs, Sukkot decorations and performing the mitzvah of shaking the Lulav.



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NATIONAL AND WORLD NEWS

At Scotland's Jewish golf club, the menu is just one sign of changing character

By Ben Sales

EAGLESHAM, Scotland (JTA) — As teenagers in the 1960s, Lewis Geneen and Colin Black liked to spend their summer Sundays playing rounds at the Bonnyton Golf Club course, breaking only for a lunch of fish and borscht.

Sitting atop a hill on the outskirts of Glasgow, Bonnyton was then a social hub of the local Jewish community. Teenage boys would hang out on the links while older men rested from the course by playing cards in an upstairs room, sometimes gathering for a Mourner's Kaddish to save a member a trip to the synagogue.

On Saturday nights, families who had congregated earlier in the day in synagogue would come to Bonnyton for what Geneen calls "a proper meal, an upmarket meal."

Now in their 60s, Geneen and Black are still members of Bonnyton. But 50 years later the membership has changed, and with it the club's character. Once almost exclusively Jewish, today only about 30 percent of the club's approximately 700 members are Jewish.

The change is felt even on the clubhouse menu.

"It's more pies and mince



Bonnyton Golf Club Committee in its Jewish heyday, 1957

and, you know, goyish food," said Geneen, 66. "You wouldn't be able to have borscht and chopped fish. There's no point in having it on the menu."

It was in 1951 that a group of Jews began raising money for a private golf course; six years later they bought Bonnyton. At the time, Scottish clubs accepted members based on religion, and even Catholics and Protestants mostly played on different courses.

Excluded from both, Glasgow's Jewish golfers were left to play their country's na-

tional pastime at public courses, where they would hold an annual tournament to benefit the local Hebrew school.

Bonnyton lies just beyond a sprawling suburb of Glasgow, at the end of a narrow, mile-long road flanked by grazing sheep and cows. The names — Goldberg, Shenkin and Caplan mixed with Haggerty, McFarlane and Gilchrist — are the only clear hints of the club's Jewish roots. Howard Beach, Bonnyton's chairman, says the club's location is what attracts members.



Alister MacKenzie (Augusta National) also designed Scotland's Bonnyton

"It always was a local club," Beach said. "There's a very harmonious arrangement between Jews and non-Jews."

In recent years, the club has had trouble attracting members of any kind. After the United Kingdom prohibited discrimination in club membership in the 1960s and '70s, options widened for Jewish golfers, many of whom opted to play in clubs on the coast where the weather is better. Meanwhile, the wider Jewish population has been shrinking — by nearly 10 percent between 2001 and 2011,

according to official government figures — a contraction also felt in Scotland's synagogues and other community organizations.

Confident in the course's quality, Beach expects the club to weather its membership challenges even as other Scottish clubs may shutter. But even if it does persevere, what made Bonnyton a fixture of local Jewish life is unlikely to remain.

"You had to wander about playing golf in other people's golf courses," member Max Gold, 83, recalled. "This became our own golf club."

What did King David drink? Israeli wine researchers aim to revive ancient libations

By Ben Sales

ARIEL, West Bank (JTA) — The small cardboard box in Elyashiv Drori's palm looks like it's full of black pebbles.

Closing the box quickly, he explains that it cannot be open for long. The pebble-like pieces, which were uncovered in an archaeological dig near Jerusalem's Old City, are in fact remains of a kilo of grapes stored nearly 3,000 years ago. They were preserved under layers of earth from the era when David and Solomon ruled over the Land of Israel.

Next to his laboratory at Ariel University, Drori — an oenophile and the agriculture and oenology research coordinator at the Samaria and Jordan Rift Center of Ariel University — already has barrels of wine made from grapes that have grown in Israel for two millennia. Finding a living sample of the 3,000-year-old grapes will be the next step in his years-long quest to produce wine identical to that consumed in ancient Israel.

Today there are hundreds of Israeli wineries, but they largely use varieties of grapes that are indigenous to Europe. By finding and growing grapes native to Israel, Drori hopes to bring Israeli winemaking back to its roots.

One major hurdle: The area's past Muslim rulers prohibited alcohol consumption for centuries, and many indigenous grape varieties all but fell out of use. But some of the grape varieties survived.

Cremisan Cellars, a winery outside Bethlehem run by Italian monks, has produced a dry white wine called Hamdani Jandali that is made from two species indigenous to the area. Drori has found mentions of Jandali and Hamdani grapes in Second Temple-era texts from 2,000 years ago, and is preparing to showcase kosher wines made from the grapes at a festival next summer.

With funding from the Jewish National Fund as well the city and national governments, three years ago he sent a team of Ariel masters' students on treks across Israel to find grapes growing in the wild. After three years of searching across the country — with tips from hikers who had seen wild grapes — the students found 100 varieties of grapes unique to Israel. Of those, at least 10 are suitable for winemaking.

Drori's next goal is to match the wild grapes to grape seeds and remains found in ancient archaeological sites. If a seed has survived the centuries



SUNDAY-SCHOOL GRAPES.

An ancient Holy Land varietal

with its shape intact, Udi Weiss, an archeo-botanist at Bar-Ilan University, will create a 3-D scan of the ancient grape seed and determine based on its shape whether it matches grapes that grow now.

To tackle the challenge of grape remains whose shapes have been distorted, Drori has enlisted Mali Salmon-Divon, a biologist specializing in DNA analysis who has begun sequencing the genomes of the indigenous Israeli grapes. Once Salmon-Divon has a record of each species' DNA, she will sample the DNA of the ancient grapes and see how they line up.

"You want to know what this wine looked like, which wine King David drank, white or red," Salmon-Divon said. "We can see if it's red or white, strong or weak."

Drori's research has shown that native Israeli grapes are different from those grown in Italy and France. He says Israeli grapes are most like those in Greece, likely owing to ancient Mediterranean trade routes.

Drori is vinting his wines purely for research, but hopes Israeli wineries will use the indigenous species — as long as they're not sacrificing their wines' taste.

Destinations: Yad Vashem among top 10 world museums

(JTA) — Israel's Holocaust museum and memorial, Yad Vashem, was ranked by the website TripAdvisor as one of the top ten museums in the world.

Yad Vashem, located in Jerusalem, was ranked tenth out of 25 museums selected as part of TripAdvisor's "Travelers' Choice" awards, based upon online ratings and comments by tourists and travelers.

It is the second year in a row that Yad Vashem has been in the top ten.

The rankings, released last week, placed Yad Vashem behind institutions such as the top-rated Art Institute of Chicago and the second-place National Museum of Anthropology in Mexico



Outside Yad Vashem

City, but ahead of heavyweight attractions such as the Louvre and the British Museum.

This year's ranking is actually a come-down for Yad Vashem, which ranked number four in last year's rankings. According to the museum's website, it draws some one million visitors per year.

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NATIONAL AND WORLD NEWS

Technology Roundup: Yiddishkeit in the Palm of Your Hand

New Jersey Rabbi Creates New App to Support Israeli Products

“Am Yisrael BUY” Now Available for Download

SOUTH ORANGE, NJ – Rabbi Daniel M. Cohen, spiritual leader of Temple Sharey Tefilo-Israel in South Orange, NJ, has created a free application (app) for those who want to support Israel by buying Israeli-made products. The app can be downloaded on all major smart phones including Apple, Android, and Windows Phone.

The new app, called “Am Yisrael BUY,” was created in response to anti-Israel boycotts and economic pressure. “There is an international movement called BDS – Boycott, Divest-

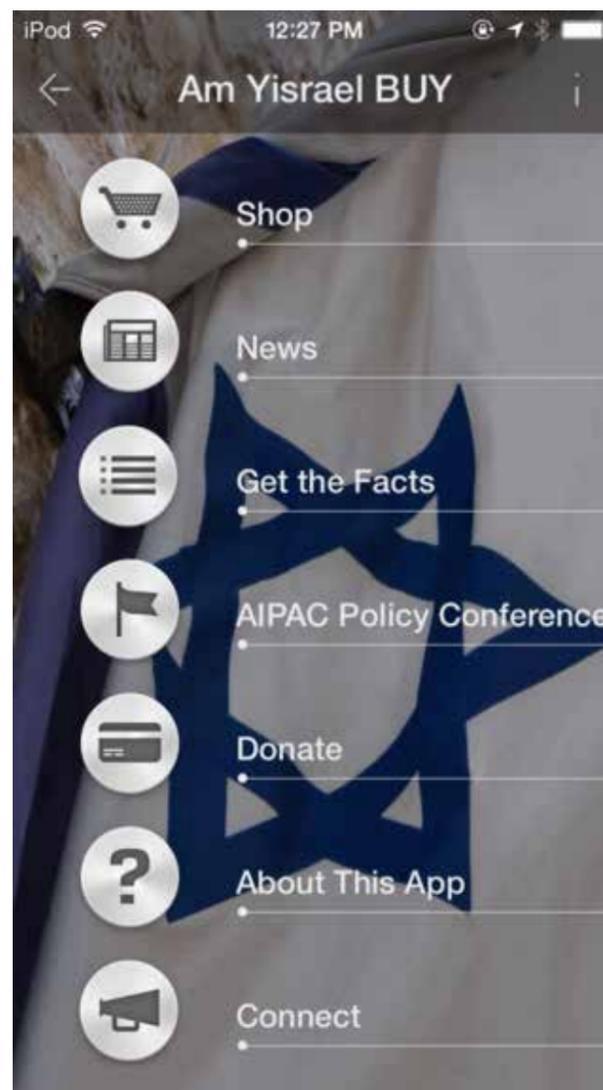
ment and Sanctions – aimed at boycotting Israel and its products,” said Cohen. “The movement demonizes Israel and has, as some of its leading proponents, anti-Semites whose ultimate goal is the destruction of the State of Israel. When I learned there are BDS apps that make it easier to boycott Israeli products and goods and spread their hatred, and then found there was no commensurate pro-Israel app, I just had to act. That was the impetus for creating Am Yisrael BUY.”

Initially Rabbi Cohen turned

to some of his colleagues in the rabbinic community to see if they would join him in helping to promote an app for Israel. Once they agreed, he contacted a developer to help him create the app. The developer had some good ideas but was moving too slowly, so Rabbi Cohen decided to create it himself using a template-driven app development software tool. He taught himself to use the interface and Am Yisrael BUY was born.

The app offers a list of Israeli made products and where to buy them, as well as additional ways to support Israel. “As I was putting together the list I realized there were other ways to support Israel, so I added a section with some of the media outlets that cover Israel, outlets that help expose media bias against Israel, and included a number of ways people can donate to pro-Israel organizations,” added Cohen.

Still in its grassroots stage, Rabbi Cohen is hoping to find someone with the development skills and monetary backing to take the lead in improving the app, making Am Yisrael BUY even more powerful and effective. For information on downloading the app, visit the Am Yisrael BUY page on Facebook.



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NATIONAL AND WORLD NEWS

The Shabbos App – Mekheye or Shondah?

As far as unnecessary internecine controversies go, the Shabbos App is likely to remain near the red hot center of contention at least until someone tries to market a Kosher pork chop. Slated for release in February 2015, the Shabbos App is described by its developers as: "A new and innovative app that enables Frum Yidden (observant Jews), currently assur'd (forbidden) from using a smartphone, to enhance their Shabbos experience by

using a Smartphone on Shabbos, l'chatchilah (at the outset)!"

Two *Jewish Daily Forward* writers, one for and the other against, weighed in on the new technology that claims to allow smartphone use on Shabbat without breaking any Jewish law.

Do you have an opinion on the Shabbos App? Share your thoughts by emailing us at: jfb.berkshirevoice@verizon.net.

In Defense of the Shabbos App

By Julie Sugar

When I began going to Friday night services, I kept my cell phone on vibrate in my boot, pressed against my calf. I was 19 and living in New York; the idea of turning my phone off or simply leaving it at home was, then, as unrealistic as my walking to Manhattan from Brooklyn instead of taking the train. (Later, I would do all three.)

I was reminded of those days when reading about the Shabbos app, which has caused a stir in the Orthodox world. Its developers assert that they will resolve all halachic issues related to using a smartphone on

Shabbos, the Sabbath. The app launches — God willing? God not willing? — in February 2015, with downloads priced at \$49.99 a pop.

Much of the controversy around the app is about the developers' depictions of why the technology behind smartphones has been prohibited, followed by their point-by-point solutions. I'm not going to join the halachic debate as I have neither the inclination nor the chops, but I do have the background to say that people observe Shabbos in many, many different ways. Others may not like those ways,

or think they are permissible. But the time is right to think about how we talk to and about each other.

One Friday night in my early Shabbos days, my phone vibrated and I ran out to take the call. As I was on the phone, a friend — who was more religious than I was — walked past me outside. Every particle in my body burst aflame with shame. "Sorry," I mouthed, while still holding the phone to my ear.

My friend approached me afterwards when we were back inside. "I'm sorry I was on the phone," I said in a rush. "There's nothing to apologize about,"

he replied. "There are so many other places you could be right now. But you're here."

Today, when people make red-faced confessions to me about driving to services, I say something similar:

"It's a Saturday morning and there are a lot of other places you could be right now. But you chose to be here, and I'm glad you did." It's not that I'm condoning driving to synagogue when walking is an option; it's that I would rather praise people for participating in Jewish communal life than shame



them for their method of getting there.

That is also how I feel about the Shabbos App. There are so many other places we could be right now, but here we are. At the communal level, we're discussing the use of smartphones on Shabbos, learning about the laws, debating potential work-

arounds, and defending what we think it means to keep the spirit of the day.

Besides, as those of us who have ever danced in the grey areas between social norms, halakha, or denominations can attest — there is a certain dignity in just trying to figure it all out.

The Tragic Lesson of the Shabbos App

By Eliyahu Fink

After days of discussing the Shabbos App, someone finally asked me a question that cut to the core of the issue. It was something like this: "If the Shabbos App was halachically permissible, would you use it?"

My answer is that I would not. I like my Shabbat experience the way it is right now. I don't particularly want to add smartphones to my Shabbat experience.

That is the real issue here. The halachic question about whether it is permissible or prohibited and why is a fascinating and important discussion, but it's relatively obscure and esoteric. I think we have to look at the big picture and examine the social and communal issues raised by the Shabbos App.

To me, it's real simple. No one would have thought of the Shabbos App or the need for the Shabbos App if people were enjoying the break from technology that Shabbat affords. If we all loved being off our phones for 25 hours, the Shabbos App would be superfluous. No one would want it. No one would care to have it. But that is not the reality.

Many people struggle with observing Shabbat every week. The phone is a private and quiet way to escape Shabbat observance. It's like holding the universe in your hands, and if someone is feeling stifled by Shabbat observance, the world in one's hands can feel quite liberating.

I think most people who have smartphones would be quite happy to be able to use them 24/7. It's a bit of a challenge to restrict one's smartphone usage for 25 hours if one is accustomed to using their device on a constant basis. It's not addiction as much as it is a habit. Smartphones have become like appendages to our bodies.

So when Shabbat arrives, it is certainly a challenge. Some people embrace this challenge. They say that Shabbat is meaningful because they love being free from technology. It's still a challenge, but the personal satisfaction and ecstasy of freedom makes it worth meeting the challenge head on. Others just accept the fact that they might be miserable without their devices and slog through Shabbat like zombies. Then there are the people who don't think it's worth giving up their smartphones for Shabbat. The pain of abandoning technology for 25 hours is greater than the payoff of keeping Shabbat. Those people have no incentive to turn off their phones for 25 hours. Why should they?

That is a tragic commentary on our Shabbat experience.

One solution might be to allow for a halachic revolution or a slower halachic evolution to a place and time where using smartphones is halachically acceptable. Another might be to figure out methods of minimizing the desecration of Shabbat to the best of our ability. But I prefer a third option.

The best solution is to craft Shabbat experiences that are meaningful to American Orthodox Jews. This can be done in several ways and should be personalized to each individual person. We need Shabbat programming and meals and prayer services and activities that enhance Shabbat.

If Shabbat feels like a burden, there are ways to change it up so that it becomes a joy. When we love our Shabbat experience, the smartphone loses its appeal. We are tuned into our Shabbat experience. That's better than being tuned out of Shabbat and tuned into our smartphones.

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Calendar – Ongoing Events Around the Community

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

Monthly – Gourmet ‘Senior Lunch Bunch’ at Congregation Beth Israel, 53 Lois Street, North Adams. Information: (413) 663-5830.

Monthly – Volunteers from various congregations, provide a Jewish service, social interaction, and entertainment to residents at Great Barrington’s Fairview Commons and the Great Barrington Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Information: Don Victor at (413) 528-3742.

Monthly, Second Thursday, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. – Journeys in Prayer: The Golblum Tefilla Institute, with Rabbi Weiner. Join in evening minyan, then spend the next hour in song and study related to the Shabbat morning service. This workshop aims to elevate and deepen the experience of prayer at Kneset Israel. Congregation Kneset Israel, 16 Colt Road. Information: (413) 445-4872.

Monthly, fourth or fifth Sunday – Volunteers from Congregation Beth Israel, 53 Lois Street, North Adams “Take and Eat” program 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.

Sundays, 10:15 a.m. (every six weeks) – Congregation Ahavath Sholom Book Club. Contact Walter Orenstein: ptcpa@roadrunner.com for titles, dates, and location.

Sundays, 10:30 a.m. (every seven weeks) – Congregation Ahavath Sholom’s “Bagels and Brainstorms.” Contact Guy Pancer, GPancer2@sbcglobal.net or (860) 435-2821 for topic and location.

Mondays at 6:45 p.m. and Thursdays at 7 p.m. – Course: Adult Introduction to Hebrew with Esther Benari-Altmann at Temple Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield. Open to the community at large. Registration, full information: (413) 442-5910, ext. 12, or taaschool@gmail.com.

Tuesdays, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. – A weekly Torah Portion of the Week study group at Congregation Kneset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield, with Myrna Hammerling who holds a Masters in Judaic Studies from Jewish Theological Seminary. Free. Information: (413) 445-4872, ext. 16.

Wednesdays, afternoons during the school year – Children from Temple Anshe Amunim and Congregation Kneset Israel study together in special “CHAI – the Community Hebrew Afternoon Initiative” program. Kindergarten to Bar-Mitzvah age. Information, Esther Benari-Altmann, Director of Education, at eba@ansheamunim.org or (413) 442-5910, ext. 12.

Wednesdays, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. – optional meditation 11:30 a.m. to noon Yoga @ KI with instructor Jane Rosen at Congregation Kneset Israel social hall, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield. \$5 per class for Kneset Israel members; \$10 for non-members. Open to the public. Information: Jane Rosen at (413) 464-0173 or janerosen@berkshire.rr.com.

Wednesdays, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. – Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, 270 State Road, Great Barrington, offers “an hour of morning stillness” with Nina Lipkowitz, a certified Kripalu Yoga Teacher. Donation of \$10 is asked for from non-members. Information: (413) 528-6378.

Wednesdays, noon to 2 p.m., through December 17 – Congregation Ahavath Sholom, 15 North Street, offers “Nosh and Drosch: with Spiritual Leader Barbara Cohen.” A free adult learning opportunity. Information: (413) 528-4197.

Wednesdays from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. – Mini Chefs with a Torah Twist at Chabad of the Berkshires, 450 South Street. Information: (413) 499-9899.

Wednesdays, from 4 to 5 p.m. – Beginning Prayer Book Hebrew, with Myrna Hammerling. This class delves into the meanings of the traditional prayers for holidays, daily services, Shabbat services, etc. – and studies the structure of Hebrew words for better understanding of the vocabulary of our prayers. Prerequisite is basic Hebrew reading ability. Congregation Kneset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield. Information: (413) 445-4872.

Wednesdays, October 22, 29, November 5, 12, 19 and December 3, 10, 17 at 7 p.m. – The Rimom: Resource Center for Jewish Spirituality offers Torah study classes guided by the commentaries of the Hasidic Masters. At The Chapel of the Church on the Hill, 55 Main Street, Lenox. Fees: series, \$160; individual classes, \$25. Reduced fees available. Registration, information: (413) 274-1034 or info@rimonberkshires.org or visit www.rimonberkshires.org.

Thursdays, at 10:30 a.m. – Weekly Halacha (Jewish Law) class conducted by Rabbi Emeritus Harold Salzman at Temple Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield. Information: (413) 442-5910.

Thursdays, from 10:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. – The Book of Samuel, with Rabbi David Weiner. Explore one of the pivotal books of the Bible using the resources of literary and historical scholarship. Please bring your own copy of the Tanakh (Hebrew Bible). Congregation Kneset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield. Information: (413) 445-4872.

Thursdays (fourth of each month) – Hadassah Book Club. For times, locations of meetings, and further information about the books: Jane Rosen at (413) 464-0173 or janerosen@berkshire.rr.com.

Thursdays, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. – Modern Hebrew Conversation, with Esther Benari-Altmann. Teens and adults join together for lively study of Modern Hebrew with an expert instructor. Congregation Kneset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield. Information: (413) 445-4872.

Fridays, last of month, time varies with candle lighting – Chabad of the Berkshires’ “Friday Night Live,” traditional Kabbalat Shabbat service. Information: (413) 499-9899 or visit www.jewishberkshires.com.

Fridays, at 8:15 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 at noon – Course: Adult Introduction to Judaism, with Esther Benari-Altmann and Rabbi Joshua Breindel at Temple Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield. Open to the community at large. Registration, information (413) 442-5910, ext.12, or taaschool@gmail.com.

Fridays, from 3:30 to 4:15 p.m. – Kids Kabbalat Shabbat at Temple Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield, with Esther Benari-Altmann. For children 2 to 5, and caregivers. Stories, song, dance, play, candle lighting. Share Kiddush and hamotzei. Free for members. Non-members: full year \$50 or \$5 per session. Information: (413) 442-5910, ext. 12 or eba@ansheamunim.org.

Fridays, usually first of each month at 5:30 p.m. (followed by a family style Shabbat dinner at 6:15 p.m.) – Congregation 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 (“spirited”) filled family friendly experience. Cost \$18 per adult, \$36 family maximum. Dinner reservations are due by the Monday before

services. Full information: (413) 445-4872, ext. 11.

Fridays, 5:45 p.m. at the evening service – “Welcoming Shabbat.” Imbibing insights into the rhythms and opportunities of the seventh day, refracted through psalm and prayer. Congregation Kneset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield. Information: (413) 445-4872.

Saturdays, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. – Torah Plus! Exploring the Bible Weekly study of Torah and some less-often studied Biblical texts. At Temple Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield. With Rabbi Josh Breindel. Free. Open to the public. Information (413) 442-5910 or templeoffice@ansheamunim.org

Saturdays (beginning September 13) at 9:45 a.m. – Temple Anshe Amunim, 26 Broad Street, Pittsfield offers a weekly Shabbat program for preschool children. Yearlong costs: \$100 per child for Temple members, \$150 per child for non-members. Information, (413) 442-5910, or eba@ansheamunim.org.

Saturdays (second Saturday of month when possible) from 10 to 11 a.m. – Monthly alternative Shabbat Service at Congregation Kneset Israel library, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield, Featuring mindful movement, breathing, guided imagery, and meditation inspired by concepts from the weekly parshah, with Jane Rosen. Be sure to call ahead to see if service will be held. Information: Jane Rosen at (269) 757-1425 or janerosen@berkshire.rr.com, or Kneset Israel at (413) 445-4872.

Saturdays, afternoon, time varies with sundown, please consult the calendar – Genesis Rabbah, with Rabbi David Weiner, between mincha and maariv. Explore selections in translation from this remarkable fourth-century compendium of discussions regarding life, the universe and everything, all connected to some of the most familiar stories in the Torah. Congregation Kneset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield. Information: (413) 445-4872.

Sunday, October 26, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. (also, Sunday November 9 and Sunday, April 19, 2015) – The Artists Torah: A Call and Response at Congregation Kneset Israel, 16 Colt Road, Pittsfield. Rabbi David Weiner collaborates with internationally known Judaic artist, Wendy A. Rabinowitz. Program aims to combine Biblical text study with guided artistic inspiration to produce art. Series fee: \$54. Registration, information, (413) 445-4872 ext. 16, or mhammerling@knesetisrael.org.

See “Berkshire Jewish Congregations and Organizations” on page 18 for information on all regularly scheduled services in the area. Contact a congregation directly if you wish to arrange an unscheduled minyan.

Congregation 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, October 24 5:38 p.m.
Friday, October 31 5:28 p.m.
Friday, November 7 4:20 p.m.
Friday, November 14 4:13 p.m.
Friday, November 21 4:07 p.m.
Friday, November 28 4:04 p.m.

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Gabriele Pinot Grigio, *Italy*
Guillermo de Mendoza Malbec, *Argentina*
Barkan Classic Cabernet, *Israel*
Barkan Classic Pinot Noir, *Israel*
Golan Cabernet, *Galilee*
O'Dwyers Creek, *New Zealand*
Recanati Chardonnay, *Galilee*

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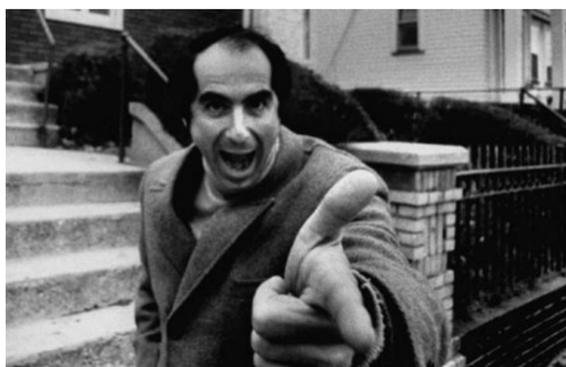
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JEWISH BOOK MONTH

Lecture: Why does Philip Roth's *Portnoy's Complaint* matter?

Jewish Federations around the country celebrate Jewish Book Month annually from November 16-December 16. So it is fitting that on the eve of this period of literary recognition, November 14th at 7:30 p.m., Congregation Knesset Israel will present Dr. Jeffrey I. Israel, Assistant Professor of Religion at Williams College discussing "Why Does *Portnoy's Complaint* Matter?" While newly published Jewish works are usually featured during this period, Dr. Israel will explore how this controversial fictional monologue of a patient to his psychiatrist has influenced Jewish literature and American Jewish identity since its 1969 debut.

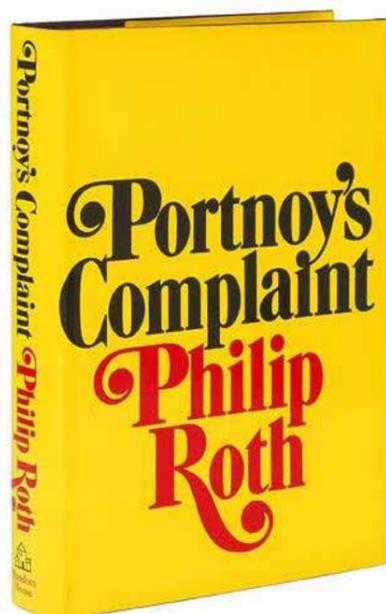
Renowned scholar of Jewish mysticism



Philip Roth in 1968, the year before *Portnoy's Complaint* was published

Gershom Sholem called it "the book for which all anti-Semites have been praying." Yet Rabbi Eugene Borowitz called it "one of the great moral documents and Jewish books of our time." Almost fifty years later, how should we read Philip Roth's *Portnoy's Complaint*? Professor Jeffrey Israel of Williams College will make the case for its political importance.

After the monthly Shirei Shabbat family service, featuring lots of spirited voices and live musical accompaniment starting at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, November 14, and after the community dinner at 6:30 p.m., Professor Israel will explore this infamous Jewish novel from 7:30-9 p.m. Reservations for dinner, \$18 per adult, can be made at www.knessetisrael.org or (413) 445-4872, ext. 10 and must be received by Wednesday, November 12. The community is welcome. The program is sponsored by Adult Education Programming of Congregation Knesset Israel; there is no additional fee for attending the discussion.



PJ Library PAJAMA DRIVE

November 3 - December 8

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

To meet this critical need, PJ Library, a free children's book initiative supported by the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, is running a community-wide pajama drive.



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

Jewish Federation of the Berkshires
Congregation Knesset Israel
Hevreh of Southern Berkshire
Congregation Beth Israel

Your generous donations will be delivered to the MA Department of Children and Families in Pittsfield.

Thank you for your Support!



For more information about PJ Library and the Pajama Drive contact Susan Frisch Lehrer at (413) 442-4360 X 14 or ifb.volunteer@verizon.net

JEWISH BOOK MONTH

November 16 - December 16, 2014

23 Cheshvan - 24 Kislev, 5775



Jewish Book Month is an annual event of the Jewish Book Council dedicated to the celebration of Jewish books. The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires is pleased to sponsor Jewish Book Month in the Berkshires and share these related events happening around the region.

POETRY OF SACRED TIME

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6

1 pm at Congregation Knesset Israel
16 Colt Road, Pittsfield

Sponsored by the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires

Join Rabbi Rachel Barenblat, poet and author of *70 Faces: Torah Poems* and *Waiting to Unfold*, for a poetry reading which dips into the wellsprings of Jewish sacred time. Q & A and book signing to follow. \$3. More info: (413) 442-4360 x 15.

THE HALF JEWISH BOOK: A CELEBRATION

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7

10:45 am at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire
270 State Road, Great Barrington

Knosh & Knowledge, sponsored by the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires

Authors Daniel Klein and Freke Vuijst discuss this unique subculture of people who draw from both sides of their heritage and synthesize their cultural halves into a remarkable new identity. \$11 includes lunch, \$5 program only. Advanced reservations for lunch required: (413) 442-4360 x 15 or jfb.programs@verizon.net.

WHY DOES PHILIP ROTH'S PORTNOY'S COMPLAINT MATTER?

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14

7:30 pm at Congregation Knesset Israel
16 Colt Rd. Pittsfield

Dr. Jeffrey I. Israel, Assistant Professor of Religion at Williams College, will explore how this controversial fictional monologue of a patient to his psychiatrist has influenced Jewish literature and American Jewish identity since its 1969 debut. Renowned scholar of Jewish mysticism Gershom Sholem called it "the book for which all anti-Semites have been praying." Yet Rabbi Eugene Borowitz called it "one of the great moral documents and Jewish books of our time." The program which is free, takes place after Shirei Shabbat, a musical service and community dinner from 5:30-7:30. Reservations for the full evening, including dinner (\$18 per adult), can be made at www.knessetisrael.org before November 12th. More info: (413) 445-4872 x. 10

NOT THE MET: EXPLORING THE SMALLER MUSEUMS OF MANHATTAN

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16

4 pm at The Bookstore
11 Housatonic St, Lenox

Authors Janel Halpern and Harvey Applebaum will give a peek into the smaller, less well known museums in New York City including The Herbert and Eileen Bernard Museum of Judaica, the Jewish Museum, the Tenement Museum, the Museum of Biblical Art, the Center for Jewish History, The Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion Museum, the Museum of Jewish Heritage, and The Anne Frank Center USA. Free. Q&A and book signing to follow. More info: (413) 637-3390.

REBBE: THE LIFE AND TEACHINGS OF MENACHEM M. SCHNEERSON

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17

1 pm at Congregation Knesset Israel
16 Colt Road, Pittsfield

Sponsored by the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires

Hugh Black, former bookstore owner and bibliophile extraordinaire, will discuss Rabbi Joseph Telushkin's new biography of Menachem M. Schneerson which has appeared on all the major best seller lists including *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal* and *Publishers Weekly*. \$3. More info: (413) 442-4360 x 15.

THE LAST HOTEL: A NOVEL IN SUITES

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

7:00 pm at Congregation Ahavath Sholom
15 North Street, Great Barrington

Sonia Pilcer, author of six novels, will read from her newest work, *The Last Hotel*, based on a residential hotel her father managed on the Upper West Side in the 1970s. Born in a displaced persons camp in Landsberg, Germany, Pilcer was raised in New York City. From the Booklist review of her previous novel, *Holocaust Kid*: "Wit and humor interface with stark realities and unanswerable questions. Provocative fiction, not just for the second generation but for all our collective memories." Free. More info: (413) 528-4917.

JEWISH BOOK MONTH EXHIBIT

NOVEMBER 16 - DECEMBER 16

Mason Library
231 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA

Topical book display in honor of Jewish Book Month will include books, audiobooks and films from books by Jewish authors or on Jewish themes. More info: (413) 528-2403.



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JEWISH BOOK MONTH

Books: In *Tel Aviv Noir*, city's underbelly gets its due

By Beth Kissileff

(JTA) Asked by a literary magazine to name an Israeli author deserving of English translation, Etgar Keret – the Tel Aviv-based writer whose short stories have been published to worldwide acclaim – named novelist Gadi Taub.

A year later, Keret has been instrumental in bringing Taub's prose to an American audience with the forthcoming anthology *Tel Aviv Noir*, which Keret edited alongside Israeli novelist, translator and musician Assaf Gavron.

The anthology, which probes the Israeli city's underbelly, opens with Taub's short story "Sleeping-Mask," a modern fable about a young woman who enters into prostitution in an effort to pay off her father's gambling debts.

Of the women who put out prostitution ads, the story's narrator explains, "We all walk inside the grid of normal life. But they walk under it, crossing all the lines diagonally. The world doesn't just look different from that angle, it looks upside down. I'm not trying to say that's where you see the truth. It's a half-truth, the half most people don't want to see."

Taub's words could be a manifesto for the anthology, which is published by Akashic Books.

Tel Aviv Noir exposes through short fiction the seamier sides of the Israeli city known as "the Bubble." Akashic has previously published "Noir" volumes focused on some 70 other cities, including more obvious candidates like Las Vegas, Miami, and Manila.

The 14 stories in *Tel Aviv Noir*, all original and commissioned for this volume, are divided into



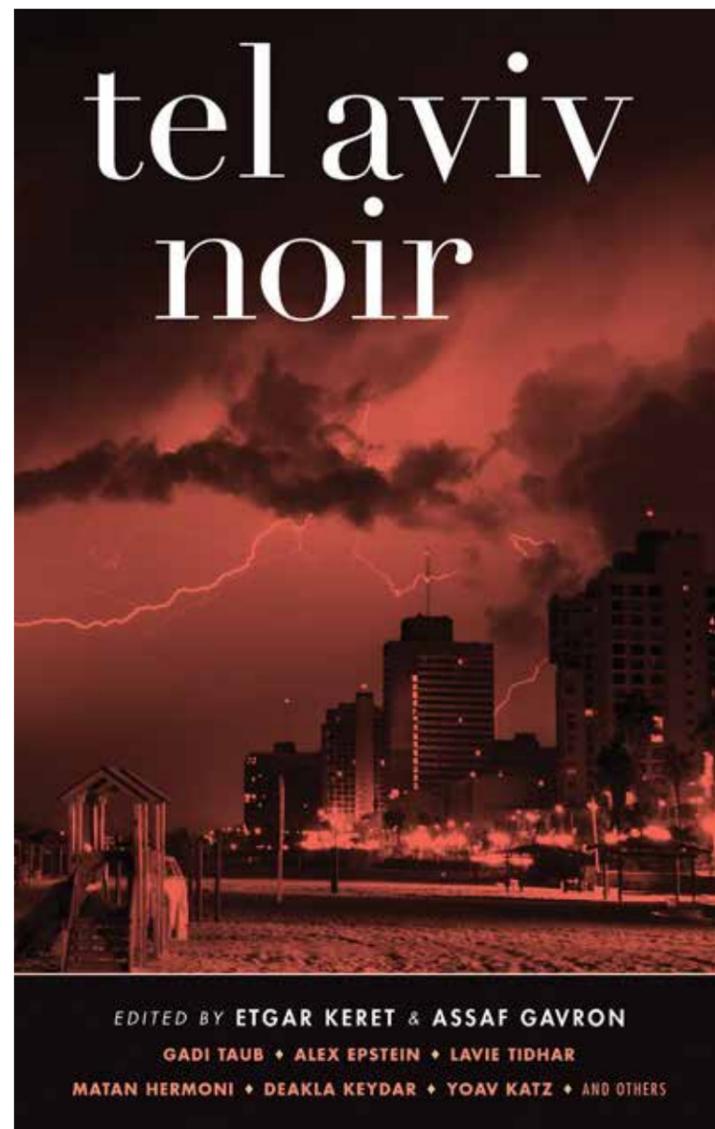
Israeli author Etgar Keret

three categories: Encounter, Estrangements and Corpses. Keret and Gavron agreed that a major goal of the anthology was to bring a younger generation of writers to English-speaking audiences. At 49, Taub, whose best-selling novel *Allenby Street* was made into a popular Israeli television show, is the oldest.

A few of the writers, such as Lavie Tidhar and Silje Bekeng, write in English. (Tidhar's contribution takes a look at what could

have been if Tel Aviv had grown according to Herzl's dream.) But the work of most of the writers, including Gai Ad, Matan Hermoni, Deakla Kaydar, and Yoav Katz, had never been accessible to English-speaking audiences.

"Tel Aviv is a city built around the tension between never-ending life: pubs open all night, a weekend at the end of every day – and death itself: terrible slums, crime, war, terrorism, poverty and addiction," said Gon



Ben Ari, who contributed to the anthology, and whose Hebrew-language novel *Sequoia Children* is being translated into English. "The fullness of the senses is only defined in its relation to the imminent death."

Kaydar told JTA that her attitude to the anthology changed with the Gaza war this summer.

"I remember thinking to myself that Tel Aviv is so lightened, happy and hot – not very 'noirish,'" she said. "And then came July and the war hit us. I found myself with my two little girls sitting in a shelter, hiding from bombs whistling over our heads nonstop, every day and night for 48 days straight. These were the darkest days, not only in Tel Aviv but all over Israel – and for both sides – Israelis and Palestinians. I guess I miss the days when I was looking for a good noir-darkness to write about."

Keret's contribution to *Tel Aviv Noir* is about a couple who adopts a dog and does increasingly strange things – like killing pigeons and eventually other living beings – to feed it. In an interview with JTA, he said the story was an allegory for life in Israel.

"This universe in which many things that are totally not normal and extreme become part of your daily routine," he explained.

And we come to take these extremes for granted.

"In Alaska, you don't know how cold it is," Keret said. "Tel Aviv is one of the safest cities

I've ever known. A girl can walk at 4 a.m. and not feel scared. At the same time, a bomber can get inside and explode. Which side are you more focused on?"

For his part, Gavron said it is interesting to note that the anthology is coming out at the same time as *Tehran Noir*, which is focused on the capital city of Iran. In an interview from Omaha, where he is American Israeli Cooperative Enterprise Scholar at the University of Nebraska, Gavron said, "Tel Aviv deserves its status as an interesting city, with culture and literature and with noir as well as everywhere in the world. I like to be grouped with other cities in the world, and not in [the] usual context that Israel is given."

Gavron's story in *Tel Aviv Noir* centers on a murder at a start-up that has developed "an application that helps you find misplaced things." It takes place at Dizengoff Center, a Tel Aviv shopping mall and office building.

Keret happens to live near Dizengoff Center and visits it frequently. Still, he was surprised to learn of the "boxing club, huge parking spaces and secret places I don't know" described in Gavron's work.

"It is a bit like meeting your neighbor every day, and one day he invites you home and there is a shrine for Elvis," Keret said. "You think, 'I thought I knew this guy.'"



PHOTO BY J SCHNAPPER

Tel Aviv's Dizengoff Center, setting of Assaf Gavron's short story "Center"

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