



# Kol K.l.

learn. inspire. grow. together.

June 2019 | Iyar / Sivan 5779



16 Colt Road | Pittsfield, Massachusetts 01201 | 413.445.4872 | knessetisrael.org • Rabbi David Weiner | Richard Simons, President



BERKSHIRE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

## The 2019 Berkshire Jewish Film Festival

*Fourteen films from around the world highlighted in this season's line-up*

Monday, July 8, marks the official kick-off of the 33rd season of the Berkshire Jewish Film Festival—one of the longest-running film festivals in the United States. This year the BJFF will feature 14 films from around the world, including *Holy Land*, in which veteran actor James Caan delivers a spectacular performance alongside Rosanna Arquette.

Join us this summer and you will also get to know the women of the first all-female volunteer ambulance corps of New York City, watch a young tattoo artist from Appalachia cover over a swastika on the skin of a former white supremacist, witness one of the last Nazi SS officers on trial, and have your heartstrings pulled by the relationship of a father (Dov Glickman, star of *Shtisel*) and his once-estranged son.

The festival will be held on six consecutive Mondays and will feature films at 4 pm and 8 pm at the Duffin Theater, Lenox Memorial High School, 197 East Street, Lenox. All presentations are open to the public.

This festival is the result of the work of a dedicated team of K.I. members, coordinated by Judy Seaman, who work to review and select the fine films to be presented. Benefits go to support Hebrew education at the synagogue.

Tickets may be purchased between 3:15-4 pm, and between 6:30-8 pm on the day of the show and are general admission. There are no season passes this year. Discount ticket coupons will be available for carpoolers.

*film descriptions on page 12*



...in the Berkshires

*Berkshire residents assist in this year's new & exciting format*

The Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) in the Berkshires series will continue their reputation of presenting outstanding speakers and stimulating subjects to our community. This year there will be a change in format—with theater and musical presentations intertwined with scholarship.

Berkshire residents, including the Pittsfield High School orchestra, and two of K.I.'s talented members will assist the presenters with accompanying music and dramatic readings. JTS programs are one of Knesset Israel's most popular venues, and are always well attended. This new approach should generate even more interest.

*descriptions & schedule on pages 9 & 10*

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# Member Mitzvahs & Mazel Tovs

■ Mazel Tov to **Elliot and Barbara Kronick Greenfeld**, celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary on June 7. Elliot and Barbara met during the summer of 1958 while working in the Catskills. Elliot, of Brooklyn, New York (Bensonhurst) was a dental student at NYU, and Barbara, of North Adams, was a student at Skidmore College. They lived in Canarsie, Brooklyn after their marriage in 1959, where Barbara graduated from NYU and Elliot from dental school. They moved to Pittsfield in 1963, setting up his Oral Surgery office on North Street. We wish them many more happy and healthy years together.

■ **Rachel Zuckerman and Christopher Peifer** were married on May 18, 2019 in the Crane Room within the Berkshire Museum. Rachel Zuckerman is the daughter of Susan Zukerman and David Zukerman (z'il). Our hearty mazel tov goes to the happy couple as they set up their home in Washington Heights, NYC after their honeymoon in Spain.

## Birthdays

- **Joan Grossman**..... June 1
- **Inna Saltanovich** ..... June 1
- **Samuel Oren Landes**..... June 2
- **Trudy Balizer**..... June 2
- **Nancy Cook**..... June 3
- **Anna Snyder** ..... June 4
- **Theresa Pill** ..... June 5
- **Richard Holland** ..... June 5
- **Ed Udel** ..... June 6
- **Helene Berke** ..... June 7
- **Joel Less** ..... June 7
- **Nancy Stoll** ..... June 8
- **Gerald Hayden**..... June 8
- **Brandi Dahari** ..... June 10
- **Benjamin Eckstein**..... June 10
- **Richard Eckstein** ..... June 10
- **Scott Hochfelder** ..... June 10

- **Paige L. E. Wright** ..... June 11
- **Vivian Kasen** ..... June 12
- **Joel Balizer** ..... June 14
- **Ivan Caine** ..... June 16
- **Brenda Landes** ..... June 17
- **Rachel Margolis** ..... June 19
- **Harriet I. Samuels** ..... June 20
- **Judith Weiss**..... June 21
- **Erika Weisbuch** ..... June 21
- **Steven Perles** ..... June 21
- **Albert Stern** ..... June 22
- **Rick Robbins** ..... June 22
- **Ileen Cohen** ..... June 23
- **Judith Kahn** ..... June 23
- **Jodi Sherman** ..... June 23
- **Jan Caryl Kaufman**..... June 24
- **Henry Herzberg**..... June 24
- **Hanan Caine** ..... June 26
- **Dvorah Gitlitz** ..... June 28
- **Lisa Udel** ..... June 28
- **Laura Ferber-Hazen** ..... June 28
- **Merle Ferber** ..... June 29
- **Lawrence Greenapple** ..... June 30
- **Allison Rosenthal**..... June 30

## Anniversaries

- **David & Brandi Dahari**..... June 1
- **Dawn & Gary Schecter** ..... June 6
- **Carol Silverman & Shlomo Silman** ..... June 6
- **Dale & Richard Charkow**..... June 8
- **Bonnie & Alvin Edelstein**..... June 8
- **Eve & Bret Goldberg**..... June 9
- **Ann & Dave Krawet**..... June 10
- **Kayla & Evan Bellmore** ..... June 13
- **Ruthie Frommer & Ken Amron** ..... June 13
- **Mona & Peter Lanzer**..... June 14

*continued next page*

# From the Rabbi

## A Summer of Learning and Experiences

*We engage in celebration and responsibility—together*

The last few weeks of May were a whirlwind of activity at Knesset Israel, as we dedicated our new Torah covers and then celebrated the b'nai mitzvah of Robert Ferren, Leora Cook-Dubin, and Joseph Weiner. What a wonderful way to kick off the season! I am especially grateful to everyone who supported our family as we prepared for Joseph's simha and all those who attended his bar mitzvah. Being in our community for such a joyous occasion made it even more special.



*Rabbi David Weiner*

K.I.'s busy summer season is just beginning. This is the time of year when we quite literally count every day. The second night of Pesah doubles as the first day of the omer, a forty-nine day period that connects Pesah and Shavuot, holidays that mark planting and the harvest of the first fruits of the season, as well as the Exodus from Mitzrayim and the giving of the Torah. Each day during these seven weeks gets marked with a blessing and a number, building towards the anniversary of the revelation at Sinai.

### Hebrew School End-of-Year Celebration

This year the count culminates the weekend of June 8-10, and we're making the most of it. On shabbat morning, June 8, we will celebrate the end of the Hebrew School year with a special family service in the chapel and an informal kiddush luncheon. Our students in every grade have ad-

vanced significantly this year, taking their Hebrew reading and tefilla (prayer) knowledge to the next level. While our younger students explored themes related to the holidays, the weekly Torah reading, prophets and Jewish values, classes for the middle grades delved into Jewish history using maps and current events. High school students explored the field of Jewish ethics through a series of conversations on contemporary topics using a curriculum from the Jewish Theological Seminary. And everyone can see the accomplishments of our bar/bat mitzvah class. Plus this year we celebrate our first full year of "Families

Together" programming. Funded by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, these programs have brought families into the synagogue for education for parents and children and meaningful tzedakah projects.

I am grateful to the teachers—Elisa Snowwise, Jilly Lederman, David Dahari, Ben Strauss, Rebecca Cook-Dubin, Ellen Masters, Josh Weisbuch, Dana Siegel, Rabbi Liz Hirsch, Jenny Gitlitz and Judith Weiner; to the educators who advise on programming—Amy Abramovich, Rebecca Cook-Dubin, Marcie Greenfield Simons, Dara Kaufman and Judith Weiner; to the parent committee for Families Together; to the Berkshire Jewish Film Festival and the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires for funding our Hebrew School; to the congregation for supporting an ever-evolving education program; to the parents who send their children and support their Jewish education; and especially to our director of Families Together, Judith Weiner.

### Shavuot

The festival of Shavuot commences the evening after our end-of-year celebration.

*continued on page 5*

### Anniversaries *continued*

- Joyce & Eric Glaberson ..... June 15
- Gayle & Herman Rotenberg ..... June 17
- Brenda & Barry Leeper ..... June 18
- Ileen & Leonard Cohen ..... June 23
- Augusta & Eugene Leibowitz ..... June 23
- Cindy Mann & Brian Acker ..... June 25
- Phoebe & Don Sugarman ..... June 29

### KOL K.I. Publication Notes

Editor: Susan Miller • Production: Liz DeMarco • Photo Editor: Nan Bookless • Printer: Aldam Press

### DEADLINE: THE FIRST OF EVERY MONTH

*We welcome submissions. Publication will be at the discretion of the editorial staff, and may be subject to editing for clarity, facts, and length.*

Bulletin material and photographs will be accepted VIA EMAIL and sent to: Susan Miller at [sunpath2@gmail.com](mailto:sunpath2@gmail.com)

# June Calendar



## SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING

Friday	.....June 7	.....8:10 PM
Friday	.....June 14	.....8:13 PM
Friday	.....June 21	.....8:16 PM
Friday	.....June 28	.....8:16 PM

## SPRING/SUMMER SERVICE SCHEDULE:

Sunday	.....8:45 AM & 7:00 PM
Tuesday	.....7:00 PM
Friday	.....5:45 PM
Saturday	.....9:30 AM
Shirei Shabbat, June 21	.....5:30 PM

## EVENTS & MEETINGS

Families Together Service (KI chapel)	.....Sat., June 8	.....10:30AM
Cemetery Committee Meeting	.....Tue., June 11	.....7:30 PM
Shabbat Across the Berkshire	.....Fri., June 14	.....6:00PM
K.I. Board Meeting	.....Fri., June 19	.....7:30 PM
Shirei Shabbat	.....Fri., June 21	.....5:30 PM
Rabbi Yiscah Smith Program	.....Thu., June 27	.....5:30 PM
First Aid Training	.....Sun., June 30	.....10:00 AM–6:00 PM

## CLASSES

Torah Portion of the Week (Library)	.....Tue., June 4, 11, 18, 25	.....10:00–11:30 AM
Enhanced Prayer Study	.....Wed., June 5, 12, 19, 26	.....10:00–11:30 AM
CHAI Community School (at K.I.)	.....Wed., June 5	.....4:00–6:00 PM
Hebrew School	.....Thu., June 1, 8	.....9:00 AM –Noon
Afternoon Study (at Anshe Amunim)	.....Fri., June 9	.....3:00–5:30 PM

## SHAVUOT WEEKEND, JUNE 7-10

**Friday, June 7** .....5:45 PM

### Saturday, June 8 – Erev Shavuot

*Last Day of Hebrew School, Preschool to Grade 6 only* .....9:00 AM–Noon

*Shabbat Shaharit*.....9:30 AM

*Tikkun Leyl Shavuot programming* ..... Evening, TBD

### Sunday, June 9 – First Day of Shavuot

*Festival Shaharit*.....9:30 AM

*Festival Mincha only*.....7:00 PM

### Monday, June 10 – Second Day of Shavuot (Yizkor)

*Festival Shaharit*.....9:30 AM

*Torah Service & Yizkor*.....approximately 10:30 AM



*Shavuot, the Hebrew word for “weeks” occurs seven weeks after Passover. The holiday celebrates G-d’s gift of the Torah to the Jewish people at Mount Sinai. Like many other Jewish holidays, Shavuot began as a harvest festival. Today, it is a celebration of Torah, education, and actively choosing to participate in Jewish life.*

Please support  
Knesset Israel’s  
Minyan Services

## SHAVUOT RITUAL TIMES

Friday .....June 7 .....8:10 PM

Saturday.....June 8 .....9:10 PM

Sunday.....June 9 .....9:11 PM

Monday.....June 10.....

.....Havdala no earlier than 9:11 PM



## From the Rabbi *(continued from page 2) together.*

This year, in lieu of the usual late-night Torah study the first night of Shavuot, we've joined together with Hevreh of Southern Berkshire and Temple Anshe Amunim to arrange for an afternoon of Torah study on Sunday, June 9, 3 p.m., at Temple Anshe Amunim. As of this writing, planning is still in progress, but the Rabbis Hirsch and I expect the afternoon to include both a full group learning opportunity and breakout sessions for deeper study of themes and texts related to Shavuot and the giving of the Torah. I look forward to coming together as a community to celebrate this holiday. *(see article at left for up-to-date information, ed.)*

Kneset Israel will, as usual, host festival services on June 9 (9:30 a.m., 7 p.m.) and June 10 (9:30 a.m., with Yizkor around 10:45 a.m.).

### Upcoming Sabbatical & Coverage

For the Weiners this year, the omer period is also a count towards the beginning

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### Service and Picnic

#### *Celebrate our students*

Join us for the last day of Hebrew School—Saturday, June 8 at 10:30 a.m.—as we celebrate the achievements of our students at a special family service, in the K.I. chapel. A Kiddush picnic lunch will follow at noon. Major funding provided by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

RSVP to Judith Weiner at [jweiner@knesetisrael.org](mailto:jweiner@knesetisrael.org)

of our summer sabbatical, which begins gradually over the first couple of weeks of June. We are grateful to the community for making this summer possible, enabling us to instill in our children a strong connection to Israel, a sense of the wider world and their place in it and a love of travel.

While I am away, Marcie Greenfield Simons has agreed to officiate at funerals, with support from Jeffrey Siegel. When Marcie is out of town in June, Rabbi Liz Hirsch of Temple Anshe Amunim will

cover pastoral responsibilities for Kneset Israel. Myrna Hammerling has put together an astonishingly busy summer of educational and cultural programming. Kneset Israel leaders and the rabbis who attend K.I. over the summer have come together to make sure our services are consistent and moving throughout the season. Thank you to all of them.

Joseph and I will leave for Italy on June 11 and meet up with Judith, Ariel, and Shira in Jerusalem later in the month.

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## Community Shavuot Celebration

*The rabbis collaborate to bring us learning sessions, a panel discussion, and of course, refreshments!*



On Sunday, June 9, from 3-5:30 p.m., celebrate Shavuot—the holiday of community and Torah—as we learn from the combined knowledge of Rabbi David Weiner, Liz Hirsch, and Neil Hirsch. We will explore the relevance of Torah as a source for personal insights and life's lessons. This is a joint event, sponsored by Hevreh, Kneset Israel, and Temple Anshe Amunim. Of course, there will be plenty of time for eating and spending time together!

The afternoon will begin with several options for learning sessions. Rabbi David Weiner will discuss "An Aramaean Sought to Kill My Father, but My Father Was a Wandering Aramaean!" Rabbi Liz Hirsch of Temple Anshe Amunim will present "Gadol HaShalom: Great is Peace." Rabbi Neil Hirsch of Hevreh discusses "Sinai or Auschwitz: What Guides You In Your Jewish Life?"

A panel discussion addressing the "Commandments for the 2019 Jew" will follow the individual learning sessions.

Registration for the event is encouraged, but not required. For more information or to register, please contact Temple Anshe Amunim at 413-442-5910 or email [templeoffice@ansheamunim.org](mailto:templeoffice@ansheamunim.org). The event is free and open to the public.

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Pull up a chair. Take a taste. Come join us.

Life is so endlessly delicious. —*Ruth Reichl*

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# From the President

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## The Search for Meaning

*Everything becomes easier when we do it together.*



*Richard Simons*

As I was sitting in the Berkshire Plaza Hotel on May 2nd taking part in the "Unity, Prayer, and Call To Action" gathering, I was struck by the positive influence that people of faith can bring into this world. Leaders of all six Berkshire congregations along with the Federation encouraged people to respond to the recent manifestations of hate by committing to do one righteous act. The phrase, "mitzvah gorret mitzvah", or "one good deed will

lead to another good deed" was taught so that acts of love and kindness would multiply as a way to honor those we lost and to allow our humanity and dignity to shine.

I acknowledge the truth that unfortunately many of the world's conflicts, wars, and massacres are conducted in the name of God. Some faith communities have little tolerance for the "other". People who do not fit within the expectations of the community are at best not welcomed, and at worst ostracized and judged.

I appreciate that we at Knesset Israel are a community who through our faith and traditions, work to make this world a better place. We seek to find purpose and meaning in our lives and afford opportunities to improve our communities. Our mission statement so aptly summarizes these tenets:

### **Knesset Israel Statement of Purpose**

**Welcome.**

**We are here to nourish mind, heart, and soul.**

**We are here to inspire through word and deed.**

**We are here to accompany each other on life's journey.**

**We are here to celebrate in community.**

**We are here to bring life to the wisdom  
and values of Torah.**

**We are here to transform our world.**

As we welcome the summer season, please stop by the shul for prayer, community, discussion, socializing and learning. Everything becomes easier when we do it together.

## **CELEBRATE!**

*Knesset Israel's Gala—July 1, 2019*



*Honoring the past, celebrating the future*

The pleasure of your company is requested for what promises to be an extraordinary evening. Because this year celebrates the 125th anniversary of Knesset Israel, our Gala will reverberate with heartfelt toasts to our wonderful synagogue. While the Gala is always special, this one will be extra special! There will be premier entertainment, and an elegant meal. Dinner will be catered by Chef Goetze, followed by a musical performance starring Matt Doyle.

Matt recently starred in the world premiere of the Huey Lewis musical *The Heart of Rock & Roll* at the Old Globe Theater in San Diego, California. His Broadway, off-Broadway, and myriad other performance credits are too many to include here. Google him! Experience this accomplished artist live by attending this exciting event.

**Monday, July 1 • 5:30pm • Knesset Israel  
16 Colt Road • Pittsfield, Massachusetts  
Dinner • Entertainment • Gala Celebration  
Tickets: \$125 per person**

By now you should have received your formal invitation in the mail. If not, please contact Diana at the synagogue office. Make your reservations now!



*The pomegranate  
is said to have 613 seeds,  
which corresponds with  
the 613 commandments  
of the Torah.*

# Rosh Chodesh



## A Passover Gathering

*Who would you invite to your Seder who could not possibly attend?*

The umbrella topic for our April 14th gathering was A Taste of Passover. Members were asked to bring their favorite Passover recipe for either charoset or dessert, each with accompanying printed instructions. Similar to last year's celebration, we decided to forgo a full Seder meal—no brisket, no gefilte fish, no string beans—just one of the two requests. Offerings included olive charoset, charoset canapes, Nana's Buns, Sephardic charoset, coconut flan, matzoh chocolate chip cookies, and more. Jan Zimble hosted the group of 25 women at her home—the welcoming ambience enhanced the feeling of warmth and community.

Judith Weiner opened the discussion by asking "What exactly is a traditional seder"? It was interesting to notice, that while everyone answered differently, everyone believed their's was traditional. It became clear that the word traditional inspired personal interpretations made up of the memories that we each hold dear. Discussion continued with insights about the Four Questions, the Four Children, who was the 'wandering Aramaen,' and the symbolism of items on the Passover plate and table—including the contemporary orange and Miriam's cup.

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How good it is, and how pleasant,  
When women dwell together in unity.

—Psalm 133 with a feminist twist

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The Rosh Chodesh gatherings always conclude with each woman lighting a candle, saying our Hebrew name, our mothers' and grandmothers' names, and answering a question related to the topic of our discussions. Answers are always thought provoking and heartwarming. This day we asked the question in the sub-title of this article: "Who would you invite to your Seder who could not possibly attend?" Many women, of course, wished their parents, grandparents, or other deceased love ones could attend. Ann Krawit embraced the Passover spirit by wishing each of us could host a migrant family held at our southern border.

The K.I. Rosh Chodesh group hopes to make 'A Taste of Passover' an annual event—planning for it will begin this coming November. In the coming months, we will be hosting K.I. member, artist Susan Miller, who will speak with us about her work and inspirations. Ev Bastow is organizing a committee to rejuvenate the Bobby Braun garden at K.I.—please see details on page 10 of this KOL K.I. issue.

New members are always welcomed to our gatherings and planning sessions. Please contact Maxine Bookless at maxbookless@gmail.com, or Jan Zimble at janwz@aol.com

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"If you experience a lack of community,  
it may mean you are called upon to build one."

—Sherri Mandell

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### YOUTH

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## Emergency Contacts

### PASTORAL CARE.

If you are in need of emergency pastoral care for any reason, please contact Rabbi Weiner, 413-445-4872, ext. 10.

### FUNERALS.

Kneset Israel's funeral arrangements are handled with Flynn-Dagnoli funeral home. Please call 413-663-6523 or 413-442-1733. You can also email flynn-dagnoli@albany.twcbc.com.

### CARE COMMITTEE.

If you or another K.I. member you know is experiencing serious illness requiring support, please contact the Care Committee by calling the main office of Kneset Israel, 413-445-4872, ext. 10 and we will be in touch with you.

## JTS IN THE BERKSHIRES

*Jewish learning inspired  
by this season's performances*

SUMMER  
2019

FRIDAY, JULY 12, 2019

### **Verdi in Terezin: A Composer's Inspiration**

Dr. Gerald Cohen, composer, cantor, and assistant professor at H. L. Miller Cantorial School  
Lecture and a Performance by the Pittsfield High School String Quartet

FRIDAY, JULY 26, 2019

### **What Can the Bible Teach Us About Wagner: Jewish Views on the Imperfect Messenger**

Dr. David Kraemer, Joseph J. and Dora Abbell Librarian and Professor of Talmud and Rabbinics  
Lecture and Text Study

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 2019

### **Matchmaking and Midrash: A Hebrew Comedy from the Time of Shakespeare**

Dr. Stefanie Siegmund, Women's League Chair in Jewish Gender and Women's Studies  
Lecture and Dramatic Reading

**Shakespeare & Company**, Elaine Bernstein Theater, 70 Kemble Street, Lenox, Massachusetts

All three programs will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$15/session

**Learn more and register at [www.jtsa.edu/berkshires](http://www.jtsa.edu/berkshires)**

For more information, contact Lynn Feinman at (212) 678-8821 or [lyfeinman@jtsa.edu](mailto:lyfeinman@jtsa.edu).



Presented in partnership with Knesset Israel and in cooperation with the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires. Supported in part by a grant from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation and the Hereld Institute for Jewish Studies of JTS.



*Dr. Gerald Cohen*

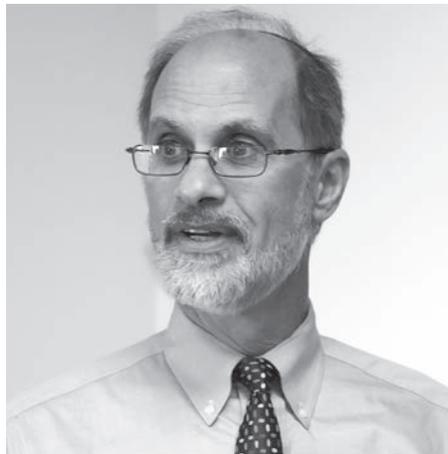
**LECTURE & PERFORMANCE:**

**Verdi in Terezin:  
A Composer's Inspiration**

*Dr. Gerald Cohen,  
Assistant Professor, H.L. Miller Cantorial  
School*

**Friday, July 12, 2019 • 11am-12:30pm**

Nazis allowed some art and education to take place in Terezin, both as a way of occupying the prisoners and of deceiving the world as to the nature of concentration camps. Composer and cantor Gerald Cohen will tell how the performance of *Verdi's Requiem* under the direction of the dynamic conductor Rafael Schachter was able to take place in Terezin. Cohen will explore the thematic significance of Verdi's work and discuss his string quartet, "Playing For Our Lives," written as a tribute to the Terezin effort. Alla Zernitskaya, inspiring teacher of the Pittsfield High School orchestra and Chamber Music program guides advanced string players in the art of string quartet playing. The following gifted students, new graduates of PHS, will perform Dr. Cohen's work: Chenyang Lin, violin1, Isabelle Smith, violin 2, Johan Serrano, viola, Joseph Cracolici, cello.



*Dr. David Kraemer*

**LECTURE & TEXT STUDY:**

**What can the Bible Teach us about  
Wagner? Jewish Views on the  
Imperfect Messenger**

*Dr. David Kraemer,  
Joseph J. and Dora Abbell Librarian and  
Professor of Talmud and Rabbinics*

**Friday July 26 • 11am-12:30pm**

Richard Wagner, T.S. Eliot, Shakespeare. Sometimes the most important or even sublime messages are delivered by highly imperfect messengers. This is the case in the Jewish tradition as well, take for example, David and Solomon. Does Judaism allow one to separate the "message" from the "messenger?" Can the handiwork of the sinner, if not the sinner himself, be allowed into the community? Dr. David Kraemer will explore this troubling and very current question.



**The JTS series will be  
presented at the**

**Bernstein Theater  
Shakespeare & Company • Lenox**

**NEW! discounted admission fee:  
\$15 per session; \$45 for the series.**

*Register at [jtsa.edu/Berkshires](http://jtsa.edu/Berkshires)  
or purchase tickets at the door*



*Dr. Stefanie Siegmund*

**LECTURE & DRAMATIC READING:**

**Matchmaking & Midrash:  
A Hebrew Comedy from the Time  
of Shakespeare**

*Dr. Stefanie Siegmund,  
Women's League Chair in Jewish Gender  
and Women's Studies*

**Friday August 9, 2019 • 11am-12:30pm**

Dr. Stefanie Siegmund will introduce you to "The Comedy of Betrothal," the oldest Hebrew play in existence, and its creator Leone de'Sommi, an Italian Jew from Mantua. Written in the 16th century in the style of an Italian Renaissance comedy, the play will surprise you with its provocative themes and creative weaving of biblical and Talmudic texts with a plot reminiscent of Shakespeare's marriage comedies.

Helping Dr. Seigmund will be two talented Knesset Israel members who will deliver dramatic readings of key scenes which will encourage interactive discussion: **Amy Brentano** is a theater artist who moved to the Berkshires from New York City 17 years ago. Trained at NYU's Experimental Theater Wing, she performed, wrote, and directed professionally on stages in NYC for twenty-five years. Currently, she is the owner of The

*continued on page 10*

## JTS in the Berkshires

*continued from page 9*

Foundry, a new performing arts venue in West Stockbridge producing relevant theater for diverse audiences. Amy is also a co-artistic director for the venue's resident theater company, Bazaar Productions/Berkshire Fringe and a teaching artist with WAM Theater.

**Steve Rosenthal**, the second reader, is a New York born, Boston educated, Becket resident. He is a second-generation K.I. member. From his earliest days he has been fascinated with the spoken word. He still listens to old time radio. Steve's early introduction to acting was at summer camps. More recently he became active in the storytelling community, eventually serving as head of the New England Jewish Storytelling Coalition. He has performed at various venues up and down the east coast including Camp Eisner and here at Knesset Israel.

*JTS in the Berkshires is presented in cooperation with the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, KI, JTS. Supported in part by a grant from the Hereld Institute for Jewish Studies of JTS.*



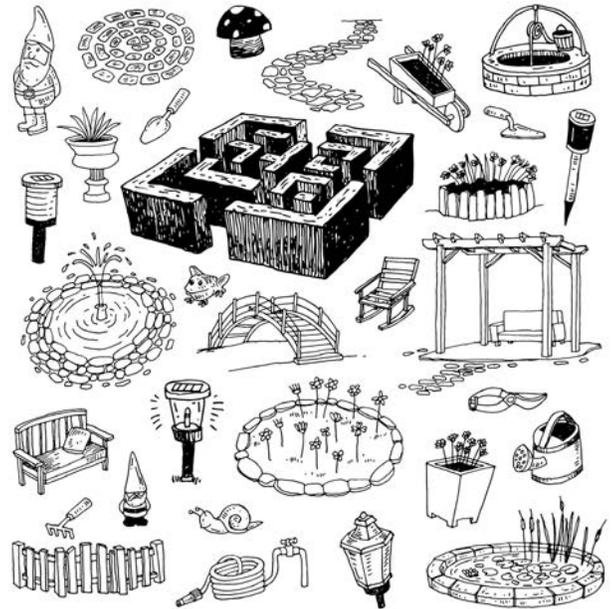
**Your community wants to share in your good news! Send KOL K.I. editor, Susan Miller the details about births, awards & honors, graduations, milestones, anniversaries, accomplishments...any happy news we can celebrate with you! High resolution photos are welcome! Susan Miller: sunpath2@gmail.com**

## New Life for an Old Garden

*Reviving the Bobby Braun garden—a Rosh Chodesh project*

How many of you know about the Bobby Braun Memorial Garden on the east side of the K.I. sanctuary? Planted in memory of Bobby by the Braun family, the garden is a faded beauty just waiting for some TLC to bring it back to a beautiful, peaceful space that could be enjoyed by all members.

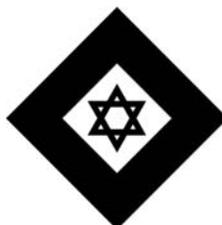
The K.I. Rosh Chodesh women's group has decided to initiate a project to restore this treasure. We are looking for a few garden lovers to work on a plan to revive the garden. We need ideas and we need YOU!



Ev Bastow is organizing a committee to determine the course of our lovely, currently unused garden. You don't have to be a gardener to join, although knowledge and expertise is especially welcome.

Please contact Ev Bastow at 413-464-9828 or email her at [evbas714@gmail.com](mailto:evbas714@gmail.com).

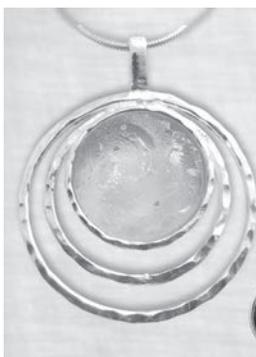
**“Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who creates species of fragrance.”**



### Correction—First Aid Certification

Please note a correction to the email address originally printed in May's KOL K.I. featuring the Steve Rosenthal's First Aid certification. The corrected email address is shown below.

■ **Sunday, June 30—Earn your First Aid certification.** Be prepared! Plans are in the works for a day long First Aid, CPR, AED training class at Knesset Israel. Open to all ages. You will be ready to act when the need arises. Contact Steve Rosenthal for details and to reserve your spot: [sr@ultranet.com](mailto:sr@ultranet.com).



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# 2019 Berkshire Jewish Film Festival

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## Jewish Film Festival

*continued from page 1*

### FILM FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

#### July 8, 4:00 p.m. – *Beneath the Ink*

Inspired by current events, an Appalachia tattoo artist donates his services to erase symbols of hate from those seeking to reverse past, bigoted mistakes.

#### AND—*The Barn*

A captivating film of a Holocaust survivor and his granddaughter who travel to Poland and reunite with his savior.

#### July 8, 8:00 p.m. – *I Heart NY*

Graphic designer Milton Glaser shares the inspiration behind the creation of his iconic I ♥ NY logo.

#### AND—*The Mamboicks*

During the 1950s, free-spirited, mostly Jewish dancers from New York City fell head over heels for the mambo, a hot dance from Havana, Cuba. The film features this zany group of retirees, still dancing to the Latin rhythms.

#### July 15, 4:00 p.m. – *Joseph Pulitzer: Voice of the People*

An inspiring American story recounting the life and times of modern journalism's founding father, relevant to the 'fake news' era and heralding freedom of the press at a time when First Amendment rights are challenged.

#### July 15, 8:00 p.m. – *Rescue Bus 300*

A powerful and tense docudrama about the 1984 hijacking and rescue of Bus 300 in Israel.

#### July 22, 4:00 p.m. – *The Accountant at Auschwitz*

More than 40 years after serving as an SS officer at Auschwitz, Oskar Gröning told the world what he had done; his admission led to his trial for complicity in the murder of 300,000 Jews. A new generation is reopening investigations against the living perpetrators of some of history's worst crimes.

#### July 22, 8:00 p.m. – *Holy Lands*

James Caan and Rosanna Arquette star in this comedic family drama about a retired American doctor who becomes a pig farmer in Israel.

#### July 29, 4:00 p.m. – *Ask Dr. Ruth*

Documentary about the life of Dr. Ruth Westheimer, Holocaust survivor and America's most famous sex therapist.

#### July 29, 8:00 p.m. – *Leona*

A young Jewish woman from Mexico City finds herself torn between her family and her forbidden love. This film contains mature content.

#### August 5, 4:00 p.m. – *Shoelaces*

This tender family dramedy portrays the knotty relationship between an aging, irascible mechanic and the exuberant special-needs son he abandoned long before.

#### August 5, 8:00 p.m. – *The Unorthodox*

A disenfranchised Sephardic father launches the ultra-Orthodox Shas Party, a nascent challenge to the ruling Ashkenazi establishment in this lively, crowd-pleasing drama.

#### August 12, 4:00 p.m. – *93 Queen*

Rachel "Ruchie" Freier is a no-nonsense Hasidic lawyer and mother of six who is determined to shake up the 'boys club' in her community. She creates Ezras Nashim, the first all-female ambulance corps in NYC.

#### August 12, 8:00 p.m. – *The Other Story*

Two rebellious young women, one fleeing the chaos of secular hedonism for the comforts of faith, the other seeking to escape her oppressive religious upbringing for sexual and spiritual freedom, cross paths unexpectedly in Jerusalem in this empowering drama.

.....  
*BJFF is generously supported by Greylock Federal Credit Union, Berkshire Bank, The Wolfson Family Foundation, and Spitz-Tuchman Charitable Trust.*



*Beneath the Ink* – 7/8, 4 p.m.



*Holy Lands* – 7/22, 8 p.m.



*93 Queen* – 8/12, 4 p.m.



*The Other Story* – 12/12, 8 p.m.

# Spotlight On

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## Accidental Artist

*Joel Curran on discovery and process*—by Phil Coleman

Hello readers! This month I am delighted to have as my guest Joel Curran, longstanding member of Knesset Israel and a very creative guy. Check out my interview with him below!

**Joel, so nice to have you as my guest this month! You are a prolific artist. I saw a lot of great pieces on your website. How did you end up choosing this later stage career after a first career in medicine?**

**Joel:** My second career in art began totally by accident.

In a touristy shop in Great Barrington I saw a frame covered in small rolls of newspaper and decided to figure out how that was created. With no formal art training my move from interests in recycling, planning and designing together with a love of color seems like it has been a natural progression to my "Works with Paper."

**What are some of the inspirations and themes you evoke as you create your work?**

**Joel:** I began experimenting with rolled magazine paper and subsequently folded papers - both art and handmade - to create geometric colorful designs. Some pieces I design, others are "copied". The famous quote from Picasso is "Good artists borrow, great artists steal".

**I see you were an early adapter of recycling and reuse. This is a very timely subject today. How important is that to your vision?**

**Joel:** This technique merged with my activity as a major recycler, reusing and refinishing objects which family members



*Joel Curran*

have long since discarded. This impulse also resulted in my intention to preserve some of the old ark at Knesset Israel.

**What can you tell me about the materials and techniques you use in the actual making of your pieces?**

**Joel:** Along the way I learned a great deal about paper, how to take an image on a flat surface and discover the change when the form and depth are changed and how to preserve it in an acid-free state. All pieces are framed with UV protective glass or acrylic. The best part is the creation and layout of the design. The execution of cutting, folding, rolling and pasting paper is very time consuming and could be 6 to 12 weeks. This led to the discovery of how difficult it is to be an economically successful artist!

**Where do you exhibit and what's coming up for this year?**

**Joel:** When my children began to "commission" work it seemed that I must be doing something right. They encouraged me to seek professional venues. Museum Facsimiles was the first to display my work. For the past 10 years I have been associated with the Wit Gallery in Lenox.

My greatest pleasure is to know that someone enjoys and appreciates what I create!

**Thanks Joel, it was great having you as my guest this month!**

*Joel's work can be seen on his website [jdanforthart.com](http://jdanforthart.com), or at the Wit Gallery, 27 Church Street in Lenox.*

*"Black Tie"—2010.*

*Folded triangles, magazine papers, 10" x 15"*



# Hebrew School / Families Together

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*On May 8, Families Together and others met in the K.I. kitchen to learn how to braid Challah. Susan Gordon made the dough and taught everyone the challenges of three, four, and round Challah braiding.*

**6/2 – 28 IYAR**

Reba Kaufman

**6/3 - 29 IYAR**

Vladimir Zeygerman

**6/4 - 1 SIVAN**

Theresa Levinson

**6/5 - 2 SIVAN**

Alexander Hirshberg

Helen Krawet

James Weisberg

Joseph Strul

Meyer Paskowitz

**6/6 - 3 SIVAN**

Arthur Rosenstock

Ida Edelstein

Marion Kahn

**6/7 - 4 SIVAN 5779**

David Zuckerman

Ethel Krancer

Ida Klein

William Abramowitz

**6/8 - 5 SIVAN**

Jerome Goldenberg

Laeita Israelite

**6/9- 6 SIVAN**

Ida Pill

Jacob Rosenblatt

Norman M. Israelite

**6/11 - 8 SIVAN**

Bentze Rozenblyum

Katherine Johnson

**6/12 - 9 SIVAN**

Alan Lipton

Herman Wolk

Larry Dubin

Norma Bell

**6/13 - 10 SIVAN**

Alfred Kornbluth

Fae Model

Harry Aronovitz

**6/14 - 11 SIVAN**

Bernard Udel

Eric Weeks



“In Hebrew, the words for create (bria) and health (briut) are similar. Use your pain to create.” —Sherry Mandell

**6/16 - 13 SIVAN**

Bertha Jacobs

**6/17 - 14 SIVAN**

Beatrice Safran

Fannie Abramowitz

**6/18 - 15 SIVAN**

Dr. Benjamin Rosenthal

Rose Kauderer

**6/19 - 16 SIVAN**

Lillian Schechter

Samuel Adelson

**6/20 - 17 SIVAN**

Etta Stoll

Gertrude Wiederkehr

Herbert Lebowitz

Jerome Frank

**6/21 - 18 SIVAN**

Marian Liverman

**6/23 - 20 SIVAN**

Dave Goodheartz

Linda Wood

Samuel Feldstein

**6/24 - 21 SIVAN**

Rose Tarnower

**6/25 - 22 SIVAN**

Samuel Levine

Shirley Hyman

**6/26 - 23 SIVAN**

Ann Herman

Hilda Fass

**6/27 - 24 SIVAN**

Lila Holland

Robert Sugarman

Samuel Weinstein

Victor Feldstein

**6/28 - 25 SIVAN**

Arnold Robbins

Bertha Zalutsky

Dr. Morris Harris

Reva Cassell

Rose Kobritz Lazerus

**6/29 - 26 SIVAN**

Esther Lipton

Heinz Ronberg

**6/30 - 27 SIVAN**

Ben Markowitz

**7/1 - 28 SIVAN**

Hanna Jawetz

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