

# the jewishconnection



April and May 2014

Issue No. 45

## Message from Rabbi Edward S. Boraz

In a previous article, I wrote about a potential high school within the UVJC School. This fall, it began with our first course, *Being Jewish in America*. Here I will share with you essays from three students, written as part of their final examination. While all the essays were superb, space permits me to include only three; I beg the forgiveness of those students whose essays are not included.

Here is Hannah Cook on, *What is Justice?*

To me, justice means that every individual feels the ability to express themselves in all aspects of life. This means that they are free to practice religion, voice their opinion, and marry whomever they want. Justice can only be achieved once everyone in society feels safe . . . . Judaism gives us values that we cherish, and gives us a better way of life. It teaches us to question. It teaches us to stand up for what we believe in. It teaches us to do *tikkun olam* (repair the world). For years, I have known the phrase “*chazak, chazak, vanitchazak*” which means “Be strong, be strong, let us strengthen one another.” I learned this at sleepaway camp many years ago from a Dan Nichols song. Because of this Jewish proverb, I have had the ability to be aware of others and let justice into my own life. It has helped me want to strengthen my community and those around me. Judaism, along with other religions, preaches justice into this world. Although the Torah does not give a direct definition of justice, it is up to individuals do define what justice means to them.

Now, Ben Sobel on *The Relationship between Learning and Being a Madrich*:

I also feel that learning this lesson truly helped me understand Judaism better myself. I was able to do this by teaching the students that were having a bit more trouble understanding the material. As I was teaching them and watching them begin to understand, I eventually realized that I was unknowingly teaching myself more about Judaism and its rich and vibrant history. Gaining more knowledge by doing this allowed me to understand much more what the job of a *madrich* truly was. This is just one of the lessons that I learned that have helped me in my work.

Another lesson I have learned that has helped me in my work as a *madrich* is how to analyze a problem. This has helped me because a problem can be analyzed from countless angles, and, as a teacher, it is important to not rule out any ways to solve a problem before knowing the exact consequences of the actions. So, this has really taught me what to do when coming across a problem as a teacher.

And here is an excerpt from Ella Lubell’s *Being Jewish in America*:

Many people may say that there are two sides to being Jewish in America, and in the modern world. You can either shave your beard, and reject your religion in favor of assimilating into the traditions of the world around you, or you can continue practicing your religion and shut out the outside, modern world around you. Many Jews in the modern day struggle with this. They want

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be able to practice the religion of their ancestors, while still being both accepted and accepting of modern culture and ideas.

As a lover of both Judaism and science, I can tell you that even though I have lived only thirteen years, I have still struggled with this myself. How can I believe that God created the world in seven days when there is so much proof for evolution? How can I believe that God gave the Torah to Moses on Mount Sinai in its perfect form, when we have found documents of alternate drafts in the Dead Sea Scrolls? How can I believe in a caring, virtuous God after such terrible tragedies as the Holocaust and other genocides?

I, personally, do not think that we necessarily have to take the Torah word for word, that it is not, and was never meant to be, a scientific and literal analysis of the world around us. There are many parts of the Torah that can help us find a better, more fulfilling way of life, no matter whether or not they are the word of God. Judaism is the tradition of our ancestors, and it is an important part of our identities, but we shouldn't pray just because it's what our ancestors did, or because we feel obligated or forced, but because it makes us feel connected, and is meaningful to us. If it doesn't feel meaningful, than what is the point of praying?

Different people pray in different ways. People pray by singing, by dancing, by hiking, by swimming, by acting, by playing sports, and in many other ways. When you feel a part of something greater than yourself, when you lose yourself in what you are doing, that is often when you feel closest to God. I often find that I feel closest to God outside of the sanctuary. In truth, it doesn't matter if you get the words right, or the pitch just perfect. You can show up, sing the right words, stand up, and sit down, without really praying at all. What really matters is that it feels meaningful to you.

Our students are engaged in learning and reflection. They are nurturing concepts and ideas into their minds and souls. Our tradition says that a Rabbi learns more from his or her students than from what he or she teaches: that great truth is reflected in this experience. This term, we have grown the high school to two courses: Modern Hebrew and "The Story of Joseph: Psychology and the Bible"

May we continue growing this unique endeavor  
*chazak, chazak, v'nithazek* –  
from strength to strength.



## Note from UVJC President Deb Kaplan

I am looking out the window as I write this note and we are again in the throes of a snowstorm. At the moment, it is hard for me to imagine that by the time you read this it will officially be spring; the coming of spring signals a busy time for our Community.

In the beginning of April, we will be winding up the Annual Jewish Film Festival co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation of NH. Thank you to Susan Israel for organizing the festival and working countless hours with the Federation to make this happen. I hope you have enjoyed the films chosen.

This year, our Community Seder will be on April 15th. All are welcome. Please be sure to RSVP in a timely fashion, as accurate numbers are key to decreasing stress around having enough food. We are again working with Jed Cohen at Delicata Catering who will be preparing a Kosher for Passover feast.

On April 27<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM, we will have our first in a series of "Heroes" lectures. The concept of Rosemary and Gary Brown is to share the intellectual and socially responsible richness of our community. The idea is to gather for an hour in the Roth Center Library four times each year for a presentation and discussion with a variety of leaders and "heroes" within our community. Sydney Finkelstein will be the initial speaker. Thank you Rosie and Gary for bringing this exciting idea forward and making it happen.

The Annual Dinner, School Open House, and Fundraiser will take place on Sunday May 4th. By the time you read this, the Mishpocha Award winner will have been announced. This is one of my personal favorite events of the year as it is a true celebration of our entire Community. I encourage each of you to participate at some level in this event. This is our sole fundraiser for the year and we count on it being a financial success.

The Annual Meeting will happen at the beginning of June (watch the *Update* for details). At this meeting we present the budget and vote on the slate of officers and new board members. Please join us for dinner followed by the meeting. Alternatively, you may submit an absentee ballot.

I look forward to seeing you at one or more of our spring events. Please feel free to contact me at [deb.kaplan@comcast.net](mailto:deb.kaplan@comcast.net)



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The UVJC gratefully acknowledges the following people for gifts to our High Holiday Appeal:  
Joseph and Dorothy Tofel

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**Social Action Chair:**  
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**Soup Group:** Shari Boraz

**Webmaster:** Maggie Duford

The Jewish Connection is published bi-monthly by the Upper Valley Jewish Community.

Subscription is free to members of the Upper Valley Jewish Community.

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Upper Valley Jewish Community,  
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03755

## *Yahrzeit Memorial Plaques*

*Paul and Colette Sage in loving memory of Jacob and Etoile Chouraqui, Rene and Marie Ackin, Louis, Sadie and David Sage*

*Susan and Mark Israel in loving memory of Susan's brother,  
Edwin Lustgarten*

*Steven Woloshin and Lisa Schwartz in loving memory of Steven's  
father, Leon Woloshin*

*Richard and Andrea Kremer in loving memory of their parents,  
Harold and Mary McCrensky, Leonard and Amy Kremer, cousin  
Ralphine Gross and Richard's grandmother, Fannie Bloom Kremer*

### **Upper Valley Jewish Community Cemetery**

The Upper Valley Jewish Community owns and maintains its own cemetery for your comfort and service in times of need.

We encourage you to think today about your future needs. Plot locations may be selected, and information you want family members to have may be recorded informally at a time when there is not a present need.

Inquires about the cemetery or plot acquisition may be directed to Carole Clarke at 603-646-0460.

### **~ ~ ~ Yahrzeit Board ~ ~ ~ Remembrance**



The act of remembrance in Jewish tradition is a profound experience. Remembrance brings to present consciousness the influence, love, and nurturing that the departed brought to us, our children, and our children's children.

The Upper Valley Jewish Community is fortunate to have received a generous donation to purchase the *yahrzeit* board now installed in the Alperin Sanctuary at the Roth Center for Jewish Life at Dartmouth College. The board provides each member of our congregational family an opportunity to engage in the profound mitzvah of remembrance by acquiring a *yahrzeit* plaque invoking the memory of loved ones. On the anniversary of the *yahrzeit* (the date of death), a light is illuminated adjacent to the deceased's name.

If you are interested in acquiring a *yahrzeit* plaque, please contact Carole Clarke at 603-646-0460 or at [uvjc@valley.net](mailto:uvjc@valley.net).

*By the time you read this . . .*  
Maggie Duford, UVJC Director of Education

I hope that as you read this message you are looking out your window and the sun is shining, green grass sprouting, the bulbs are waving flowers to our bygone winter, and the mounds of snow are melted and all the mud is dry. Amen!

But as I write in this third week of February, it is not so. In the midst of the snow and the sleet and the freezing rain, the *Connection*, (much like the postal service's guarantee) has a deadline, and today is that day. Amid this eternal winter, there is a *flicker of warmth*: that warmth is the children of our Hebrew school.

On the calendar, Tu B'Shevat (the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the Hebrew month, Shevat), The New Year of the Trees came and went appearing between our Sunday and Tuesday school days, and complicated further by a teacher in-service and policy reviews. All these are necessary components to running a successful school, but balance in all things must find the right priority.

Since arriving here in September, 2011, I have participated in "two" Tu B'Shevat seders for our children. I admit that they were good teaching tools, but due to the types of food served during this traditional seder, much food was left behind and wasted, and that didn't sit well with other values that we are teaching.

Last September, I had the pleasure of meeting Scott Stokoe of the Dartmouth Organic Farm, who arranged a Sukkot Celebration at the farm for our school children. At that time, Scott and I discussed the agricultural calendar, and how it coincided beautifully with the Jewish calendar and our festivals. These festivals have been missed teaching opportunities; we thought we could start an annual program to incorporate more than Sukkot at the Organic Farm.

So in February, 10 days after the *real* TU B'Shevat, on a snowy, frigid winter afternoon as the sun was setting, parents drove in caravans from Tuesday school to the Organic Farm where the greenhouse had been warmed to 75+ degrees, and Scott Stokoe and Rabbi Boraz integrated the New Year of the Trees from an agricultural and Jewish perspective.

How did we do this? We helped the children to learn about the importance of earthworms and the need for ecosystem balance in part by letting them bury their hands in an old bin that had housed this large family of worms for 30 years! They learned what mixtures go into potting soil, after which they mixed their own, adding various ingredients through a screen in preparation for planting. They were shown how to make soil pods for planting, and they participated in planting spinach, kale and onions. They learned about the life cycle of the maple tree, which, coincidentally, is JUST waking up at Tu B'Shevat.

The children learned that to be stewards of the earth as the Torah teaches, we need to have knowledge of the earth, to care about natural cycles, and to have reverence for all of G-d's creations.

When the seedlings have grown enough to be planted in the ground, our students will have the option of taking them home to grow in their own gardens, bringing them to the Roth Center for our garden there, or to plant them at the Dartmouth Organic Farm during our next "agricultural holiday" which falls at Shavuot, when the *first fruits* were brought to the temple.

We will plant our seedlings, and at Sukkot we will come full circle by harvesting what we planted on Tu B'Shevat, finally sharing our work together in the Sukkah at the Organic Farm in addition to our traditional observances within the Roth Center Sukkah.

Even in what appears to be the dead of winter, by combining the ordinary with our Jewish traditions, we are teaching our children about faith in spring, hope in new life, and ways to become stewards of the Earth in their everyday lives.

Happy Spring!

L'Shalom,



## Donations

### ***Yahrzeit Contribution***

**Gary and Lynn Schwartz** in memory of Gary's mother Ethel Schwartz  
**Gene Stollerman** in memory of his sister, Ricca Heffer  
**Harvey Greenberg** in memory of his brother, Richard B. Greenberg  
**Gary and Dianne Levine** in memory of Dianne's grandfather, Louis Pazornik and Gary's grandfather, Abraham Rosenberg  
**Harriet and Rick Fingeroth** in memory of Rick's father, Murray Fingeroth  
**Walter and Eleanor Angoff** in memory of Walter's aunt, Rose Kantor  
**Andy and Katie Friedland** in memory of Andy's father, Sidney Friedland  
**Diane Roston** in memory of her husband, David Plaut  
**Harold and Karen Manning** in memory of Karen's mother and father, Shirley and Philip Price  
**Janet Cohen** in memory of her close friend, Marilyn Moore  
**Aila Conarck** in memory of her father-in-law, Albert Conarck  
**Nancie and Mark Severs** in memory of their parents, Carol and Larry Severs and S. William Goldstein  
**Bruce Pacht** in memory of his step-grandfather, David Leibowitz  
**Peter Aptakin** in memory of his wife Jean Aptakin  
**Marjorie Aptakin** in memory of her mother, Barbara Spencer  
**Harvey and Jane Greenberg** in memory of Jane's father, Allan Woods  
**Ruth Slow** in memory of her father, Frank Slow and her grandfather, Julius Slow  
**Susan and Mark Israel** in memory of Susan's mother, Lillian Lustgarten  
**Gary and Dianne Levine** in memory of their mothers, Bertha Sholinsky and Ruth Levine and their brother-in-law Jonathan Harris

### ***UVJC General Fund***

**Rabbi and Shari Boraz**  
**Aila Conarck** in memory of Bayle Drubel's father, Leon Weiner and Stephen Neirman's mother, Arlene Neirman  
**Samuel Schrager** in memory of Bernice Squires Cohen  
**Richard Abel and Roberta Berner** in memory of Bernice Cohen  
**Janice and Bill Fischel** in memory of Bernice Cohen  
**Nigel Paneth and Ellen Pollak**  
**Rachel and Adam Kleinbaum** in memory of Adam's grandmother, Adele Kleinbaum  
**Deb and Aaron Kaplan** in memory of Bernice Cohen and Stephen Neirman's mother, Arlene Neirman  
**Georgia and Gene Mittelman** in memory of Bernice Cohen  
**William and Nancy Squires** in memory of Bernice Cohen  
**Rosemary and Gary Brown** in memory of Bernice Cohen  
**Linda Suydam** in memory of Bernice Cohen  
**Bonnie Malkin** in memory of Bernice Cohen  
**Susan Carr** in memory of Bernice Cohen  
**Barbara Brown** in memory of Bernice Cohen  
**Linda and Ed Tober** in memory of Bernice Cohen  
**Linda and Bruce Shanker** in memory of Bernice Cohen  
**Richard and Bayle Drubel** in memory of Bernice Cohen  
**Saralyn Tabachnick** in memory of Bernice Cohen  
**Susan and Mark Israel** in memory of Bernice Cohen and Steve Neirman's mother, Arlene Neirman

### ***UVJC Endowment Fund***

**Jeremy Katz**

### ***School Programming Fund***

**Maggie Duford**

**Soup Group Fund**

Betty Lauer in honor of Sharie Boraz and the Soup Group  
Betty Lauer in honor of Nina Sand-Loud  
Betty Lauer in honor of Rusty Sachs

**Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

Leila Cohen and Howard Goldblatt, Norman Cohen and Barbara Sheinberg and Sara and Aaron Cohen in appreciation of Rabbi Boraz and the UVJV congregation  
Dean Wilcox  
Richard and Andrea Kremer in memory of Harold and Mary McCrensky, Leonard and Amy Kremer and Ralphine Gross

**Cemetary Fund**

Nancie and Mark Severs in memory of their dear friend, Bernice Cohen  
Barbara Brown in memorv of her husband. Channing Brown



*Upcoming Art Showing*

2-D 4-D Fiber Art by Shari Boraz

Shari Boraz's fiber art will be on display at the Roth Center from May 2 to June 15. Shari has been involved in fiber arts since the 1970s. As a fiber artist, her primary medium is hand embroidery, but she also dyes and embroiders natural fibers. Though her art is presented as 2-dimensional wall art, she endeavors to capture the 4th dimension of time, rather than a snapshot; hence the show's title "2-D 4-D Fiber Art".

The Opening Reception will be on Friday, May 2nd from 4:30 to 6:00 PM in the main hallway of The Roth Center. Her art may be seen also at the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen store in Hanover and on her website [www.SewBoraz.com](http://www.SewBoraz.com).

**April and May B'nai Mitzvah**

May 24 Ryan Jones – Son of Bradley Arrick and Danielle Jones  
May 31 Sam Gallimore – Son of Lauri and Brad Gallimore

<p><b>Jesse's</b> <i>Steaks, Seafood &amp; Tavern</i></p> <p>Rt. 120 Hanover, NH 603-643-4111</p>	<p><b>Molly's</b> restaurant &amp; bar</p> <p>Main Street Hanover, NH 603-643-2570</p>
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**UVJC Olympic  
Dance Party-Winter  
Soiree**



**KOSHER CHICKEN SOUP**

The UVJC Soup Group prepares chicken matzo ball soup like you remember eating at Grandma's house. If you have a friend, neighbor, relative or anyone from the Jewish community (UVJC membership not required) who is under the weather and may benefit from our richly brewed soup, please feel free to take some from the UVJC freezer; just let Carole Clarke know.

If you'd like to volunteer for the Soup Group you may contact any of the following:  
UVJC – 603-646-0460, UVJC@valley.net  
Lisa Silbert - 603-738-1731, lmf99@aol.com  
Shari Boraz - 603-643-9334,  
Shari.E.Boraz@dartmouth.edu

**JANINE L. SCHEINER, Ph.D.**  
*Licensed Psychologist - Doctorate  
Adult, Child & Family Therapy*

Norwich, Vermont 05055 • 802-649-1610  
email: Janine.L.Scheiner@Dartmouth.edu

## Donation Funds

There are many opportunities for you to designate a gift to the UVJC. Please give generously throughout the year. Please make your check payable to either "UVJC" or "Upper Valley Jewish Community," noting the name of the fund on the memo line.

Donations may be directed to the **UVJC General Fund** or specifically to one of the following funds:

- **Adult Education Fund:** To support guest speakers and other special adult programs
- **Beautification Fund:** To be used toward furnishings, decorations, and ornamentation to enhance the Roth Center for Jewish Life.
- **Cemetery Fund:** To help with landscaping and maintenance of the UVJC cemetery.
- **Endowment:** Contributions of cash or securities, payable to the UVJC Endowment Fund. Interest will be used to support the activities of the community.
- **Library Fund:** For purchase of books and/or other library materials.
- **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund:** For charitable purposes as determined by the Rabbi.
- **Religious School Scholarship Fund:** To provide scholarships for deserving religious school students.
- **School Programming Fund:** To support special programs over and above the curriculum.
- **Teen Programming:** To provide support for young adults in our community to participate in Jewish programs.

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## Kiddush Schedule APRIL- MAY 2014/5774

April 5	Maggie Duford
April 12	Bonnie Kimmelman
April 19	Yoni and Stephen Neirman
April 26	Dianne and Gary Levine
May 3	Susan and Mark Israel
May 10	Deb Kaplan
May 17	Sheryl Lerner
May 24	Bradley Arrick and Danielle Jones celebration of their son Ryan as he becomes a bar mitzvah
May 31	Lauri and Brad Gallimore in celebration of their son Sam as he becomes a bar mitzvah



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## Volunteer to Sponsor a Shabbat morning Kiddush

Responsibility to prepare our weekly Shabbat *kiddush* is rotated among UVJC volunteers who attend services. Preparing *kiddush* for the congregation is a great way to celebrate a birthday, graduation, wedding anniversary, or to commemorate a loved one's *yahrzeit*. It's also an opportunity to get together with old friends and make new ones.

For those unfamiliar with the tradition of Shabbat morning *kiddush*, it is the time following the service when we gather over wine, grape juice, challah and other goodies. But most of all, we come together to enjoy Shabbat with good fellowship.

Wine, grape juice, paper goods and cups are supplied by the UVJC. The weekly *kiddush* volunteer supplies the challah. One may add to the fare if one wishes. For example, herring, gefilte fish, cheese, cookies, coffee cake, sweet rolls, pretzels, or fruit make nice additions to the *kiddush* table.

If you have questions, or would like to sponsor a *kiddush*, please contact Yoni Neirman who may be reached evenings at 802-649-3234, or by email at [Yoni.Stevens.Neirman@hitchcock.org](mailto:Yoni.Stevens.Neirman@hitchcock.org).



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April and May 2014 / Issue No. 45

## LITERATURE LOVERS

We are an enthusiastic reading group who love to discuss books proposed by group members. We welcome new participants.

Come join us!

~ ~ ~ Here are the books selected for discussion ~ ~ ~

April 27

INNOCENTS by Francesca Segal

"Set in the modern-day upper-crust Jewish community of North West London, a community still under the shadow of the Holocaust and where the bonds of family and tradition run deep, The Innocents is inspired by the stifling fin-de-siècle New York society immortalized in Edith Wharton's *The Age of Innocence*. Slyly humorous and deeply satisfying, *The Innocents* illuminates the conflict between responsibility and passion, security and exhilaration, tradition and independence."

Literature Lovers usually meets at 7:00 PM the last Sunday of the month, unless otherwise noted. For location or more information, please contact Susan Cohen at (603) 643-3611, or [sncohen037@gmail.com](mailto:sncohen037@gmail.com)

### UVJC FACEBOOK PAGE

Keep up with what is happening at the UVJC today, next week and into the future on Facebook. Please request to join the UVJC page today at <http://www.facebook.com/groups/359003357910/>