



# קשר

# THE JEWISH CONNECTION

JUNE 2024 • ISSUE 95

## דבר הרב

## D'VAR HA'RAV: A WORD FROM RABBI MARK

Jazz bops through the air everywhere in this city. The savory scents and sweet smells of local foods fill the air, as the early summer humidity tests even the locals. I'm sitting with Hayley and the kids at the first college graduation for the next generation of our family. My "nibling's" (child of my sister-in-law) name is called out at the Tulane School of Architecture, and two thoughts run through my mind. First, "What an amazing milestone!" And second, "Am I really that old?" A lyric from the song "By and By" by the band Camp occurs to me: "This past year I got so much older." Ok, maybe not old, but older for sure. Looking over at my family the oft quoted phrase comes to mind: "The days are long and the years are short." It's that time again, as "school's out for summer," and it's the season of graduations, summer vacations, camp, retirements, and more. The rhythm of time in community life generally pivots towards a "summer slow down" with no major and upcoming holidays. Times in Israel continue to keep us alert, activated, and concerned to say the least. Our annual community meeting is coming up, as we gather, connect, and reflect a bit on the year. Jewish tradition underscores the power, not perfection, of life lived to its fullest—in community. The value of community may not solve all the problems of the world or bring complete healing or shelter from isolation or loneliness, but it can help.

A short story I like is often told to get at the idea of diversity within a community. In the context of prayer, we learn that Shmuli and Shlomo come to shul on Shabbat on a somewhat regular basis. They were once asked, "why?" Maybe you've heard this punchline. "Well, Shmuli comes to talk with G-d, while Shlomo comes to talk with Shmuli." Isn't it true that community, and for that matter, prayer, theology, nationality, spirituality, and so much more, mean different things to different people. Community is the hub, because it's a particular place and sacred space for cultivating relationships.

It's in a community where we are encouraged to "get yourself a friend," and learn to "judge others by always giving them the benefit of the doubt." (*Pirkei Avot* 1:6) At the same time, "We aren't to judge others until we are able to stand in their place," and we're encouraged "not to separate ourselves from the community." (*Pirkei Avot* 2:4) R. Avraham Kook taught that this is because the soul of each individual draws its life-force from the community itself, suffusing us with an essential vitality. (*Orot*, p.144) R. Soloveitchik

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## ביתך

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## ביתך

## GATHER TOGETHER

### Two Summer Speaker Series

See pg 7 for more information about our Lunch & Learn and Israel Affairs summer programming.

### UVJC Annual Cookout

Sunday, AUGUST 18  
@ 12:15 - 3:30pm  
(see pg 8 for details)

Please check our website for calendar/venue updates and events: [www.uvjc.org](http://www.uvjc.org)

# מורה שניא

## COMMUNITY MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### **VOLUNTEER BOARD OF TRUSTEES** JULY 2023 - JUNE 2024

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*Board of Trustee officers are elected during the Annual Meeting, typically held each year in June. If you are interested in serving on the Board, please contact [president@uvjc.org](mailto:president@uvjc.org).*

*Committees (see pg 6) are open to everyone; Chairs can be contacted with questions about each committee's work.*

With this column, I'm close to completing a year as President of Kol Ha'Emek, the Upper Valley Jewish Community (UVJC). What a year it has been for our community! I only hope that the year to come is far more serene for us personally, locally, nationally, and world-wide.

Our strengths and our challenges as the UVJC come from our diversity. We have repeatedly chosen not to affiliate with any specific denomination of Judaism, and we welcome people from every background. Our array of services may not please everyone all the time, but we are flexible and willing to try different approaches. During this time of strife and heightened emotions, we remain a sanctuary for all members of the community, regardless of our personal stances on the war in Israel and the local fall-out. It has not been easy. One bright spot has been the healing circles we have offered, thanks to Rabbi Mark, Gene Kadish, Diane Roston, and other community counseling professionals. Another bright spot is the new speaker series offered by our Israel Affairs Committee.

What do we have in common? A strong commitment to Judaism and the Jewish people. A deep concern for Israel. An interest in learning. The need for community and connectedness. A willingness to invest time, energy, and resources to keep our congregation strong and vital. I hope that our commonalities remain stronger than our differences during such a difficult period.

I find it helpful to refer to our by-laws, which not only guide our governance but also bind us together as a community:

“Our purpose is to establish and strengthen a vibrant Jewish presence in the Upper Valley. We maintain a close relationship with Dartmouth College and Dartmouth Hillel.

The UVJC honors the principles of Torah by striving to accomplish the following:

1. Provide space and resources for Jewish worship, education, culture, and social activities for all members;
2. Provide for ecumenical rabbinical leadership for our congregation;
3. Welcome members of different Jewish observance levels through religious, education, cultural, and social programming;
4. Provide a full range of opportunities for lifelong Jewish learning, including a religious school and a range of programs for adult and family education;
5. Recognize the importance of the Land of Israel to the Jewish people and maintain our connection to the Jewish homeland;
6. Engage with members of other faith congregations in the Upper Valley, expressing Jewish values through our commitment to building community;

[continued on pg 7...]

# בית ספר HEBREW SCHOOL AND YOUTH HAPPENINGS

Hello from the Hebrew School hallway,

School finished on a high note with Maccabiah games in which the prize for the winning team was the opportunity to pour a bucket of water over...me. Rabbi Mark has volunteered for this activity every year since he arrived but the one year the kids have actually gotten to do it, Rabbi was mysteriously away at a niece's bat mitzvah (hmm...). Sorry, no photos of that, but I have included one of kids competing to extinguish menorah candles.

The Jew Crew trip to NYC was a great success! We took 18 people including teens and chaperones from Shir Shalom in Woodstock and JCOGS (the synagogue in Stowe). I have led many teens on trips in my life and can honestly say this was the most kind, helpful, conscientious, respectful, caring, happy, responsible, and appreciative group. They looked out for each other, included everyone, spent minimal time on their phones, and made it a joy to be their leader.

One of the highlights was our visit to Ted Comet, a centenarian who lives in NYC and whose wife was both a Holocaust survivor and a tapestry weaver. Mr. Comet gave us a tour of the tapestries and explained how Mrs. Comet used art to overcome the trauma she had experienced. Our students asked good questions, responded to his questions, and were attentive throughout.

Our congregational Purim party was a really nice mix of folks from different generations, great hamantaschen, excellent costumes, and tasty triangle-shaped pizza. Don't miss the picture of me as the Esther Bunny!

Our rising seventh grade class has 12 students, so there will be another b'mitzvah palooza next year. Get ready!

Happy summer, *Melissa*



Hebrew School Maccabiah games.



"Genezia" burial (see pg 7 for more details).



Jew Crew NYC trip 2024.



Tour of tapestries with Mr. Comet in NYC.



Melissa's Purim Esther Bunny costume.



## Hiring: Education Director's Assistant

We are seeking an assistant to help with Hebrew school tasks and keeping things running smoothly when Melissa has to be out of town.

Do you know anyone who has good organizational skills, some teaching experience, loves kids, and has a modicum of Jewish knowledge? Knowing the Hebrew alphabet is helpful and beyond that would just be icing on the cake!

The full job description can be viewed at the link below:

<https://uvjc.org/learn/hebrew-school/16663-2/>

Send questions and resumes to [school@uvjc.org](mailto:school@uvjc.org).

# TALK OF THE SEASON: ADD A DASH OF JUDAISM TO YOUR SUMMER

## FOR THOSE WHO ARE TRAVELING:

*Tefilat Haderech (traditional traveler's prayer)*

May it be Your will, Ancient One, our God and the God of our ancestors, that You lead us toward peace, guide our footsteps toward peace, and make us reach our desired destination for life, gladness, and peace. May You rescue us from the hand of every foe, ambush along the way, and from all manner of hardships that come to earth. May You send blessing in all that we do, and grant us grace, kindness, and mercy in Your eyes and in the eyes of all who see us. May You hear the sound of our humble request because You are the Holy One, who hears the prayers of our hearts. Blessed are You, who hears prayer.

## FOR THOSE WHO ARE STAYING HOME:

From [myjewishlearning.com/the-nosher](http://myjewishlearning.com/the-nosher)

Frozen Limonana: The Israeli Slushie Your Summer Needs

### Ingredients:

- 3/4 C freshly squeezed lemon juice (~3 lemons)
- 1/2 C loosely packed mint
- 6 TBSP sugar
- 1 C water
- 4 C ice cubes

### Directions:

Combine water, sugar, and half the mint leaves in a small saucepan. Bring to a boil, stirring until sugar dissolves. Simmer 1 min. Remove from heat and let syrup steep, about 30 mins. Discard mint leaves, refrigerate until cool. Combine mint syrup, remaining fresh mint leaves, and lemon juice in a blender. Blend at high speed until well mixed. Add ice and blend until thoroughly crushed. Serve immediately.

[D'VAR HA'RAV continued from pg 1]

understood this interdependence to be so crucial that he compared it to being like a limb of the body of the Jewish people. (*On Repentance*, p.114-15) Tiferet Yisrael, (R. Israel Lipschitz; 1782-1860, Germany) brought the following three points of counsel: “When the community gathers routinely, one should actively participate through the lens of *l'tovot ha'tzibur* / the health of the community. When a community is troubled, even if one doesn't feel it personally, one should feel these troubles as if s/he is troubled too. And, when praying for one's own needs, one should include the needs of all of the community.” (commentary on *Pirkei Avot 2:4*)

Over the past two years, our Board of Directors has been reading and discussing the art and science of community with the book, *Creating Sacred Communities* by Dr. Ron Wolfson and R. Brett Kopin. The basic premise is that through relationships we have the unique opportunity to create and maintain sacred communities. For a community to flourish, it needs a relational rather than transactional approach, placing people before programming. Each month we've read and discussed a chapter. At a recent Board meeting, we were asked to identify what community means to

each of us. A few common ideas surfaced. “Improve the world through Jewish wisdom. Cultivate a broad and welcoming tent for ALL people. Be inclusive with an attitude that every single person matters. Be a part of something bigger than us. Bring together people from all approaches of Judaism. Practice *chesed* / loving kindness.” Following up and broadening this discussion, I wonder, “What does community mean to you?” I'd love to hear your answer to this question. Please take a moment to reflect and send along an email (subject line: COMMUNITY) to share your thoughts with me ([rabbi@uvjc.org](mailto:rabbi@uvjc.org)).

As we jump feet first into summertime, I pray that we and our family and friends are healthy and safe. Together with our Board and leadership team, may we all strive to do our best to be a haven and home for the full spectrum of diversity of Jewish life in the Upper Valley. May we all work together in synergy and cooperation, regardless of our differing opinions, approaches, and practices. Isn't that what it's all about?

Whether you're keeping it mostly local or traveling, may peace, kindness, and blessing be upon your journey and in all that you do (from *t'filat ha'derech*, the Jewish traveler's prayer).

L'shalom, *Rabbi Mark*

**DONATIONS (THRU 6/10/24)  
RECEIVED WITH GRATITUDE:**

**GENERAL FUND**

**Anonymous donor**

**Anonymous donor** in support of the UVJC Second Night Seder

**Leslie and Stan DeLugach** for Passover in honor of Rabbi Mark, Hayley, Kinnie, and Geffen

**Sue and Paul Etkind** in honor of Betty Lauer's 98th birthday

**Sue and Paul Etkind** in memory of Malcolm Carey, father of Pam Hausler

**Carolyn Gordon and David Webb**

**Susan and Mark Israel** in memory of Jack Weingarten

**Betty Lauer** with gratitude and happy memories of the recent Shabbat Kiddush shared together

**Betty Lauer** sponsoring Shabbat Kiddush

**Meredith Lewko**

**Yoni and Stephen Neirman** recognizing and appreciating the support of the community during Stephen's recovery from surgery

**Dora Polunovskaya**

**Sharon and Bob Racusin**

**Adrienne Richter**

**Ellis Rolett** with get well wishes for Mark Severs

**Nancie and Mark Severs** in honor of Betty Lauer's 98th birthday

**Sharon and Jerome Smith, Maot**

**Hittan** (Wheat Money)

**RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND**

**Eran and Liat Assaf** in honor of their daughter Dafna becoming a Bat Mitzvah

**Bonnie Gordon and Bob Braitman**

**Karen and Kenneth Kaliski**

**Stepanie Lozito and Andrew Nyman** in honor of their daughter Tess becoming a Bat Mitzvah

**Yoni and Stephen Neirman** in memory of Joseph Moskowitz, father of Minda Moskowitz

**Kelly and Hal Pikus** in memory of Irwin Pikus, Hal's father

**Arline and Barry Rotman** in memory of Ida and Murray Rotman, Barry's parents

**Arline and Barry Rotman** in memory of Marion Schwartz, Arline's mother

**Sallyann Sack** in memory of Irwin Pikus, her husband

**Renee, Aaron, and Michael Snow** in memory of Salman Salzman, Renee's father

**UVJC EDUCATION FUND**

**Laura DiPiazza** in honor of Melissa Herman

**Susan and Mark Israel** in memory of Lillian Lustgarten, Susan's mother

**Yoni and Stephen Neirman** in honor of Betty Lauer's 98th birthday

**Barbara Segal** in memory of Alvin Segal, her father (towards Tot/Youth programming)

**Mary and Sam Zucker** in memory of Julius A. Zucker, Sam's father

**UVJC ENDOWMENT FUND**

**Roberta Berner and Richard Abel**

**Susan Cohen**

**Hayley DeLugach and Rabbi Mark Melamut**

**Robert Greene** in memory of David Greene, his father

**Robert Greene** in memory of Sonya Presberg, his mother-in-law

**Yoni and Stephen Neirman**

**Jill and John Schiffman**

**UVJC SOCIAL ACTION FUND**

**Iris Berezin**

**Carolyn Gordon and David Webb**

**Talia and Jeremy Manning** in appreciation of Carolyn Gordon

**Lynn and Gary Schwartz**

**Alice Werbel**

**UVJC TEEN PROGRAMMING FUND**

**Barry Feinberg** in support of the Jew Crew NYC trip

**Harriet Feinberg**

**Yahrzeit Contributions**

**Marjorie Aptakin** in memory of Peter Aptakin, her husband

**Bonnie Gordon and Bob Braitman** in memory of Irving Braitman, Bob's father

**Thomas Cochran** in memory of Richard Regosin, his teacher

**Thomas Cochran** in memory of Isaac Rothstein, his great grandfather

**Amy and Evan Cohn** in memory of Sue and Edward Bogen, Amy's parents

**Amy and Evan Cohn** in memory of Ruth and Robert Cohn, Evan's parents

**Harriet and Rick Fingeroth** in memory of Norma Rifkin, Harriet's mother

**Harriet and Rick Fingeroth** in memory of Samuel Rifkin, Harriet's father

**Kaen Fryer and Gene Kadish** in memory of Milton Kadish, Gene's father

**Jerry Goldstein** in memory of Helen Goldstein, his mother

**Jane and Harvey Greenberg** in memory of Muriel Woods, Jane's mother

**Susan and Mark Israel** in memory of Julius Lustgarten, Susan's father

**Deb and Aaron Kaplan** in memory of Sarane Rosenberg Kaplan, Aaron's mother

**Daniel Levin** in memory of Benjamin Levin, his father

**Dianne and Gary Levine** in memory of Jacob Levine, Gary's father

**Dianne and Gary Levine** in memory of Adele Pazornik, Dianne's grandmother

**Dianne and Gary Levine** in memory of Julius Sholinsky, Dianne's father

**Bruce Pacht** in memory of Leon Oringer, his uncle

**Judith Rocchio** in memory of Irving Bachrach Gold M.D., her father

**Ellis Rolett** in memory of Daniel Meyer Rolett, his father

**Ellis Rolett** in memory of Virginia "Ginny" Rolett, his wife

**Lynn and Gary Schwartz** in memory of Malcolm Carey, father of Pam Hausler

**Lynn and Gary Schwartz** in memory of Irving Schwartz, Gary's father

**Rhonda and Alan Siegel** in memory of June Siegel, Alan's mother

**Mort Wise** in memory of Shifra Wise, his wife

**תודה רבה**  
**THANK YOU KINDLY FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

# עזבהים

## COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT: SOCIAL ACTION

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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#### CEMETERY COMMITTEE

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#### RUACH COMMITTEE

David Hoffer

#### SECURITY COMMITTEE

Paul Etkind

#### SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Lynn Schwartz

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#### DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Melissa Herman  
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### A SIMPLE MESSAGE OF CARING AND KINDNESS

As individuals we all generously support our neighbors and local charitable organizations. Our new Social Action Fund offers a way to continue that same important act of Tikkun Olam—but as a community. When you submit an online donation to the Social Action Fund or send a check made out to the UVJC with “Social Action Fund” on the memo line, you are supporting your neighbors in need, while also helping to send a broader message that the Jewish community is here, we care, and we support our neighbors.

In the past few months, the Social Action Fund has sent checks and accompanying cards to The Upper Valley Haven, Willing Hands, Vital Communities, The Listen Center, The Good Neighbor Health Clinic / Red Logan Dental Clinic, and West Central Behavioral Health. We would also love to hear from you! Tell us which local non-profits speak to you, and which you would like our community to support. Help us to continue these acts of Tikkun Olam, while also sending a simple message of caring and kindness.

Thanks,

The Social Action Committee ([UVJCSocAction@gmail.com](mailto:UVJCSocAction@gmail.com))

### HIGH HOLIDAY TZEDAKAH: SUGGESTIONS INVITED

Each year we empty our pockets as we enter the sanctuary for Kol Nidre.

The tzedakah collection is divided between two selected charities, one local and one with a Jewish or Israeli connection.

We invite you to suggest a charity for consideration.

**Please send your suggestions to [UVJCSocAction@gmail.com](mailto:UVJCSocAction@gmail.com) by July 9.**

### GIFT DESIGNATIONS

*Gifts may be directed to the General Fund or one of the following:*

**Rabbi's Discretionary Fund** (charitable purposes determined by the Rabbi)

**Benevolence Fund** (to provide caring and support for UVJC community members)

**Cemetery Fund** (landscaping and maintenance of our cemetery)

**Education Fund** (to support adult programs and special school/teen programs over and above the curriculum)

**Endowment Fund** (to support the future of the community)

**High Holiday Appeal** (sustaining ongoing Jewish life in our community)

**Library Fund** (for purchase of books or other library materials)

**Social Action Fund** (to support outside non-profit organizations that benefit the wider community in the spirit of *tikkun olam*)

[PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued from pg 2]

- 7. Develop and foster volunteerism, leadership, and financial support from within our congregation;
- 8. Foster spiritual well-being in the modern world through joy and pride in our heritage, Torah, and Jewish values.”

The Jewish people have not just endured, but thrived, throughout history. I would say that we have survived and thrived in large part because of our commonalities and feeling of peoplehood. We must continue to treat one another with respect, regardless

of our differences. I have been surprised at the depth and intensity of my own emotions during this past year and have realized just how raw and vulnerable I've become. Whether it's been dealing with severe illnesses of people close to me...rising antisemitism... horrific bloodshed...divisive politics. There's been so much! Maybe a heightened awareness of our own vulnerability could help us all build bridges with our fellow community members who may not agree with us but who also may be feeling pain that comes from caring deeply.

*Roberta*

### SUMMER PROGRAMMING

Be sure to mark your calendars for our inspiring speaker line-up (dates below), and stay apprised of times, topics, and all other upcoming UVJC programs via the Weekly Update, emailed on Thursday afternoons.

- 6/29: Lunch & Learn "From Nazi Germany to Main St: Finding Refuge in Hanover"
- 6/30: Israel Affairs Speaker Series "Antisemitism as a Cultural Code"
- 7/20: Lunch & Learn "Granite State Organizing Project: NH and the Upper Valley"
- 7/21: Israel Affairs Speaker Series (topic TBA)
- 8/3: Lunch & Learn "Changes in Journalism and Impact on the '24 Election"
- 9/14: Lunch & Learn "Charting Our Course: Jewish Federation of NH Strategic Plan"



The UVJC Hebrew School and community did a “genezia” at the congregational cemetery in Lebanon, NH on May 14. This ceremony is performed to bury all of the holy items that are no longer in use but must be treated with respect: siddurim that are old and have outdated language, chumashim that are worn or whose bindings are broken, tefillin that are no longer used, and other sacred materials.

## מזל טוב MAZAL TOV, B'NAI MITZVAH!

TESS NYMAN | MARCH 30, 2024  
Daughter of Stephanie Lozito & Andrew Nyman

DAFNA ASSAF | JUNE 1, 2024  
Daughter of Liat and Eran Assaf

### UPPER VALLEY JEWISH COMMUNITY CEMETERY

The UVJC owns and maintains our own cemetery to comfort and serve you in times of need. We encourage our members to think about their future needs in advance.

For more information, please call the office at 603-646-0460 or email [office@uvjc.org](mailto:office@uvjc.org).



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**UVJC Annual Cookout** | Sunday, August 18, 2024 @ 12:15 - 3:30 pm  
Storrs Pond, Byrne Pavilion

Join us for our Annual Cookout and Congregational Gathering at Storrs Pond in Hanover. Food, drink, and grill masters will be provided by the UVJC.

Please bring individual portions of desserts to share (Pareve - not Dairy).  
Burgers, veggie burgers, and hot dogs served from 12:15 pm to 1:30 pm.

Please RSVP to Chris at [office@uvjc.org](mailto:office@uvjc.org)

**MATCHING GIFT  
OPPORTUNITY!**

We are pleased to announce a matching gift for tot and teen programming **up to \$2500!**  
Your support for a Jew Crew dinner or a Tot Shabbat oneg is welcome. Dinner cost is around \$100 and oneg cost is around \$50.