



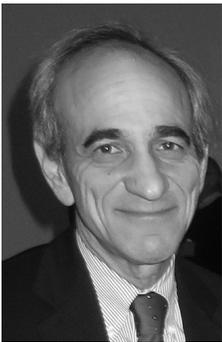
# the jewish connection

December 2016 - January 2017  
Issue Number 61

Bulletin of the Upper Valley Jewish Community • 5 Occom Ridge • Hanover, NH 03755

## America the Beautiful/Descendants of Abraham

By UVJC and Dartmouth Hillel Rabbi Edward S. Boraz



How can one's name become great among the nations in order to be "worthy of blessing"?

The challenge is set forth in opening verse of the Torah portion

lech-lecha, a challenge that begins Abraham's odyssey:

And God said to Avram, go forth for your benefit, from your land, from your place of birth, and from the house of your father to the land that I will show you. And I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and I will make your name great and you shall be a blessing.

Abraham leaves everything behind to travel to a new land where he will build a new life for himself, his family, and his future descendants. He will live pulled between two tensions, the first of which is Abraham's duty to spread what he believes and holds dear as righteous in his heart.

In the story of Sodom and Gomorrah, Abraham argues against destroying the two wicked cities because there may be righteous persons within. Abraham seeks God's compassion for those who are evil because of the righteous who may be among them. The back-and-forth negotiation is subtle, but there is a strong challenge to what Abraham believes is just and righteous and compassion. It is a remarkable argu-

ment before a God whom we believe is just.

The opposite point of tension is the requirement for absolute obedience to God, regardless of command. This is the challenge of the Akedah (the near-sacrifice of Isaac) during which Abraham is entirely silent.

Abraham's inner world is consumed by a constant battle between justice, righteousness, and compassion in his heart and submitting himself to an absolute higher authority; it is a conflict that he never resolves. It is for this reason, I believe, that his name is changed from Avram to Abraham, the father of many nations.

America is a true inheritor of Abraham's story. We are a nation comprised of people who left countries all over the world for the hope and promise of a better world – a world free from discrimination, hate, poverty, and injustice. Today, this remains the promise of America, regardless of the White House's occupants.

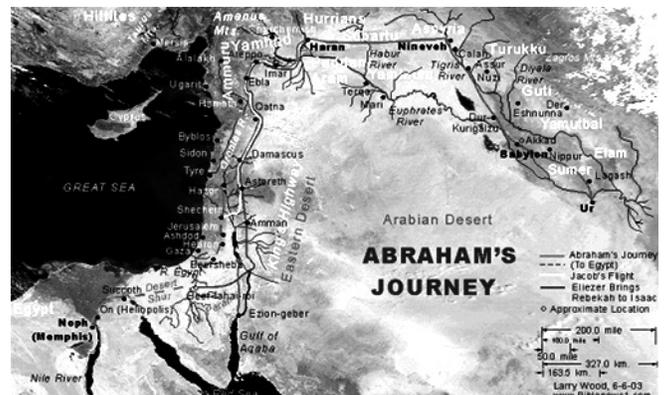
The strength of the American people comes from their ancestors who made the journey here, who went lech-lecha for the dream of a better life.

Abraham became a blessing because he believed in justice, compassion, and righteous-

ness for all the people he encountered. His belief was anchored in his faith in God. Though over his life, he encountered difficulties and challenges, great pain, suffering, wars, and conflict, Abraham never surrendered completely to God, but also never relied solely on his personal sense of the ideals that form the basis of the land that we all love.

As we go forward, may we, as the descendants of Abraham, show our commitment to justice, compassion, righteousness and love, wherever the situations warrant them. May we anchor our commitment to faith in ourselves, in others, and in God, though never giving in entirely to the latter, retaining and treasuring our independence and our right to be free and to be righteous in our love of one another.

In balancing this tension like Abraham, we, and all who participate in this endeavor, no matter the struggle, no matter the sacrifice, will have earned the blessing of our ancestor Abraham.



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# President's Message

by Rusty Sachs



As winter comes upon us, we need to take a close look at the future of the Upper Valley Jewish Community.

We embrace a wide array of Jews, with many different needs and hopes. Over the years we have established an array of activities to enrich the lives of these subpopulations. We have Shabbat evening services at the Roth Center, usually together with Dartmouth Hillel. We have Shabbat morning services in the traditional style, punctuated by reform services, family services, and services led by the Hebrew school. There are potluck Shabbat dinners every few months, as well as Havdalah-cum-dessert services. A mah-jongg group of oscillating participation is on the upswing. Our annual dinner is an occasion to schmooze with neighbors infrequently seen as well as intimate friends, as are the community Seder and Chanukah party. And, of course, we recognize the paramount mission of every Jew: to provide a rich and rewarding Jewish education to the children of our affinity. This last task presents singular challenges.

The number of children enrolled in our Hebrew school has declined dramatically over the past five years. Because the operating costs of the school are not size-elastic, a decrease in the number of students does not mean a decrease in cost to run the school. Tuition falls on the parents of young children, frequently in the early stages of their earning capacity and least able to shoulder them. We offer adjustments and scholarship grants, but that's not enough. We need more members to step up and help spread the school costs over a wider base of membership. Please consider donations to the UVJC for this specific purpose.

Another way of addressing this challenge is to talk up membership in our outstanding synagogue! Just think of how good you feel after any UVJC event, then share that news with newcomers and non-joiners. Invite them to the next activity! Casting a wider net brings in more fish. (With scales, and with fins!)

## ***From the UVJC Director of Education***

### ***Madeline Cooper***

A few weeks ago, we read one of the best-known stories in the Tanach: God's establishment of a covenant with Abraham, who was then known as Avram. God tells Avram to leave his native land and lech lecha (go forth) to a land that God will show him. God promises Avram that this land will be set aside for him and his descendants, and that Avram will be the patriarch of a great nation.

God offers no explanation as to why God chose Avram. The Torah does not tell of anything remarkable that Avram does before he was chosen. Instead, we are left to wonder, why Avram? And, by extension, why us?

The Torah offers a clue as to the answer to this question later in the same parsha. In B'reishit (Genesis) 14:13, Avram is referred to as Avram HaIvri or "Avram the Hebrew." If we assume that every word in the Torah has meaning, then we must ask, why does "the Hebrew" become an epithet

**EDUCATION**, *continued page 6*

*The UVJC gratefully acknowledges these people  
for gifts to our High Holiday Appeal*

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# KIDDUSH SCHEDULE

## DECEMBER 2016 – JANUARY 2017/5776

### DECEMBER

**3**  
All School Shabbat

**10**  
Lunch and Learn

**17**  
Diane Roston

**24**  
Kathy and Jeff Parsonnet

**31**  
Thomas Cochran



### JANUARY

**7**  
Jeff Lubell

**14**  
Sharon and Bob Racusin

**21**  
All School Shabbat

**28**  
Bonnie Kimmelman

### *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, want to sponsor a *kiddush*, please contact Yoni Neirman evenings at 802-649-3234, or by email at [Yoni.Stevens.Neirman@hitchcock.org](mailto:Yoni.Stevens.Neirman@hitchcock.org).



### 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

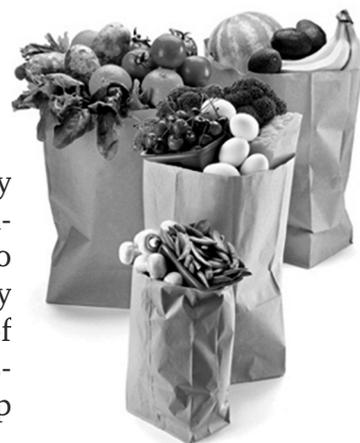
[facebook.com/groups/  
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## *Thank You!*

Thanks to all in the UVJC community for your generosity during the High Holidays. You donated nearly \$2,000.00 to benefit IsraAid and the Grafton County Senior Citizens Council and 60 bags of groceries, which have gone to the Mascoma Food Pantry and the Claremont Soup Kitchen.

Quoting Sharon Dunbar: "On behalf of all the participants of the Mascoma Area Food Pantry, we are very grateful for the wonderful donations that came in from the Upper Valley Jewish Community. Thank you very much to the community for 427 pounds of food, including food for pets!"

My goodness it is a lot . . . and very helpful to so many local people here in need."



The UVJC Social Action Committee

# Sydney Silbert's Trip to Israel

By Jack Olsen



There is a city in Israel with bomb shelters spaced every 100 yards. The people there have only 15 seconds to hide from the time someone in neighboring Gaza sends over a bomb.

Most of Israel is not like that though, said University of Idaho junior Sydney Silbert. Silbert traveled to Israel over the summer and visited several places within the country, including the city with the many bomb shelters. She said most people want a resolution to the conflict.

"I think there are extremists on both sides, which makes the people stuck in the middle very fearful and hateful, but ultimately everybody just wants to coexist," Silbert said. "But the extremists are what we see in the news."

This summer marked Silbert's third trip to Israel. She said she studied abroad there in high school for two months, and years later has traveled again on a birthright scholarship which gives anyone of Jewish descent a 10-day trip to Israel to learn about their heritage.

"That kind of re-sparked everything for me," Silbert said. "Now, I was three years older and I really identified with it more and I was inspired by one of my guides on that trip to apply for Hasbara Fellowships."

Hasbara Fellowships is a program to teach college students about Israel and regional conflicts. Silbert said the goal is for those students to bring the conversations and education back to their campus. She said she is working on starting a social media campaign and is focused on getting the conversation started. Silbert said she loves going to Israel. To her, it feels comfortable and homey. Tel Aviv, Israel's largest city, is just like any other modern cosmopolitan city, Silbert said.

She said the country is strongly rooted in its Jewish heritage, but not necessarily the Jewish religion. While there are no laws requiring restaurants to be kosher or closed for Shabbat, Silbert said there is so much Judaism there that they simply are that way.

"It's just like any other place, except you know that everybody has that same connection of like, 'You're in Israel because you want to be in Israel,'" Silbert said. A friend of Silbert's, Hannah Schepcke, said she thinks it's cool that Silbert expands her horizons and grows as a person every time she visits Israel.

"The main thing is how into her heritage she is," Schepcke said. "She really like, embraces it and I think that's really important, because a lot of people don't want to. Sydney's one of the biggest people I know that like, emphasizes it. It's a part of her and she just always brings it out." Schepcke said Silbert's travels show that she is not afraid to be by herself or try new things.

"She's adventurous and open-minded to all the different possibilities out there, or like, if there's an opportunity she's going to go take it, and I think that's really cool," Schepcke said.

Silbert learned about the current issues going on in Gaza, Syria and Lebanon because they are so close to Israel. She said there are diverse and conflicting opinions from many people and groups about the future of the region. With extreme opinions on both sides, Silbert said it is difficult to get people to come together. One example is the dispute between Palestine and Israel. She said people in each country harbors extreme resentment toward the other, but it isn't as black and white as people in America perceive it to be.

"There are people in the middle like, 'You are humans too. We understand that you want your own place also,'" Silbert said. She said she isn't sure how the conflict will be resolved, because there are so many different backgrounds and viewpoints.

"The word I keep finding myself to go back to is 'coexistence,'" Silbert said. "That's really what I'm hoping for, and what I am for, and what I would love to see in the Middle East."



Photo by Eli Burakian

## TRY OUT COOKING WITH THE UVJC'S HAVEN DINNER TEAM

We are preparing monthly dinners at the Haven's Hixon House. We have enough volunteers for the first six months of 2017, with the exception of the dinner on March 20. We will do the cooking on Sunday March 19; the volunteer cooks are invited to eat with the residents on the 20th. This is a great opportunity to try out the experience and

see if you want to join the team or simply to volunteer one time.

Contact Alice Berliner at: m-802-380-9606; h-802-649-7286; [alb172cs@gmail.com](mailto:alb172cs@gmail.com)

# There are many opportunities for donors to designate a gift to the Upper Valley Jewish Community.

*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.

## **Library Fund:**

For purchase of books or other library materials.

## **Endowment:**

Contributions of cash or securities, payable to the UVJC Endowment Fund. Interest will be used to support the activities of the community.

## **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund:**

For charitable purposes as determined by the Rabbi.

## **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.

## **EDUCATION**, from page 2

added to his name? What is significant about the word Ivri?

The word Ivri comes from the root word spelled with the letters ayin, bet, resh, meaning "other." Rashi, the medieval French biblical scholar, writes that Avram is "the other" because of his location of origin: "from the other side of the river (Euphrates)." In contrast, the sages of B'reishit Rabbah, who wrote during the classical period, state that the whole world stood on one side and "Avram the Ivri stood on the other [side]," meaning that Avram's beliefs ran counter to those of the rest of the world, rendering him an "other."

This feeling of being an "other" because of our origins and because of our beliefs is something that many of us continue to experience today, thousands of years after Abraham was referred to as Avram HaIvri. This fall, I had the opportunity to go with our High School of Jewish Studies students to see a screening of Denial, which recounts Professor Deborah Lipstadt's legal battle against David Irving, who accused her of libel when she declared him a Holocaust denier. After the film, the stu-

dents discussed how difficult it can be to discuss the Holocaust with friends and peers who are not Jewish, due to a lack of knowledge, sensitivity, and connection to this history. One student, who had relatives who were survivors, was particularly frustrated by the lack of engagement of her peers during their brief Holocaust unit in school. In reflecting upon this film, these students identified a feeling that can be deeply frustrating: not being understood because of differences in history, tradition, and belief.

While I do not want to minimize our students' frustration, as they were discussing and relaying their experiences, something beautiful was happening: they were forming community. They were sharing personal and emotionally vulnerable stories in a supportive environment with one another while engaging and challenging each other in a way that allowed them to think more deeply and open up further.

To me, that is one of the special things about being an other; when you find a community that understands that "other" part of you, it is even more beautiful. I couldn't be more proud that students are finding community with one another here at the UVJC.

# December 2016 1 Kislev 5777 - 2 Tevet 5777

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 1 KISLEV ★ Rosh Chodesh Kislev 12:00 p.m. Guide for the Perplexed	2 2 KISLEV 🕯️ 3:53 6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service	3 3 KISLEV 🕯️ Toldot 10:00 a.m. All School Shabbat Service Kiddush: Provided by the Parents
4 4 KISLEV NO HEBREW SCHOOL CLASSES	5 5 KISLEV	6 6 KISLEV 12:00 p.m. Torah Study I with Rabbi Boraz 1:30 p.m. Torah Study II 4:00 p.m. Hebrew School - Grades 3-7	7 7 KISLEV 7:00 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting	8 8 KISLEV 12:00 p.m. Guide for the Perplexed	9 9 KISLEV 🕯️ 3:52 6:00 p.m. Reform Service	10 10 KISLEV 🕯️ Vayetze 10:00 a.m. Shabbat Service 11:30 a.m. Lunch and Learn - Torah Celebration
11 11 KISLEV 10:00 a.m. Hebrew School - All Grades	12 12 KISLEV	13 13 KISLEV 12:00 p.m. Torah Study I with Rabbi Boraz 1:30 p.m. Torah Study II 4:00 p.m. Hebrew School - Grades 3-7	14 14 KISLEV	15 15 KISLEV 12:00 p.m. Guide for the Perplexed	16 16 KISLEV 🕯️ 3:53 6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service	17 17 KISLEV 🕯️ Vayishlach 10:00 a.m. Shabbat Service - Learner's Service Kiddush: Diane Roston
18 18 KISLEV 10:00 a.m. Hebrew School - Hanukkah Tzedakah Fair ***** 5:00 p.m. Community Hanukkah Party and Dairy Pot Luck	19 19 KISLEV	20 20 KISLEV 12:00 p.m. Torah Study I with Rabbi Boraz 1:30 p.m. Torah Study II NO HEBREW SCHOOL CLASSES	21 21 KISLEV	22 22 KISLEV 12:00 p.m. Guide for the Perplexed	23 23 KISLEV 🕯️ 3:57 6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service	24 24 KISLEV 🕯️ Vayeshev 10:00 a.m. Shabbat Service Kiddush: Kathy and Jeff Parsonnet 5:30 p.m. 1st Night Candle Lighting
25 25 KISLEV ★ Chanukah - Day 1 NO HEBREW SCHOOL CLASSES	26 26 KISLEV ★ Chanukah - Day 2	27 27 KISLEV ★ Chanukah - Day 3 NO HEBREW SCHOOL CLASSES	28 28 KISLEV ★ Chanukah - Day 4	29 29 KISLEV ★ Chanukah - Day 5	30 1 TEVET ★ Chanukah - Day 6 ★ Rosh Chodesh Tevet 🕯️ 4:01 6:00 p.m. Shabbat Service	31 2 TEVET ★ Chanukah - Day 7 🕯️ Miketz 10:00 a.m. Shabbat Service Kiddush: Thomas Cochran

# January 2017 3 Teves 5777 - 4 Shevat 5777

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <small>3 TEVES</small> Chanukah - Day 8 NO HEBREW SCHOOL CLASSES	<b>2</b> <small>4 TEVES</small>	<b>3</b> <small>5 TEVES</small> 12:00 p.m. Torah Study I with Rabbi Boraz 1:30 p.m. Torah Study II 4:00 p.m. Hebrew School - Grades 3-7	<b>4</b> <small>6 TEVES</small> 7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees Meeting	<b>5</b> <small>7 TEVES</small> 12:00 p.m. Guide for the Perplexed	<b>6</b> <small>8 TEVES</small>  <b>4:08</b> 6:00 p.m. Hillel Shabbat Service and Dinner - all are welcome	<b>7</b> <small>9 TEVES</small>  Vayigash 10:00 a.m. Shabbat Service Kiddush: Jeff Lubell 5:30 p.m. Havdalah
<b>8</b> <small>10 TEVES</small> Fast of the Tenth of Teves 10:00 a.m. Hebrew School - All Grades	<b>9</b> <small>11 TEVES</small>	<b>10</b> <small>12 TEVES</small> 12:00 p.m. Torah Study I with Rabbi Boraz 1:30 p.m. Torah Study II 4:00 p.m. Hebrew School - Grades 3-7	<b>11</b> <small>13 TEVES</small> 7:00 p.m. UVJC Hillel Film Series	<b>12</b> <small>14 TEVES</small> 12:00 p.m. Guide for the Perplexed	<b>13</b> <small>15 TEVES</small>  <b>4:15</b> 6:00 p.m. Hillel Shabbat Service and Dinner - all are welcome	<b>14</b> <small>16 TEVES</small>  Veyechi 10:00 a.m. Shabbat Service Kiddush: Sharon and Bob Racusin
<b>15</b> <small>17 TEVES</small> NO HEBREW SCHOOL CLASSES	<b>16</b> <small>18 TEVES</small>	<b>17</b> <small>19 TEVES</small> 12:00 p.m. Torah Study I with Rabbi Boraz 1:30 p.m. Torah Study II 4:00 p.m. Hebrew School - Grades 3-7	<b>18</b> <small>20 TEVES</small> 7:00 p.m. UVJC Hillel Film Series	<b>19</b> <small>21 TEVES</small> 12:00 p.m. Guide for the Perplexed	<b>20</b> <small>22 TEVES</small>  <b>4:24</b> 6:00 p.m. Hillel Shabbat Service and Dinner - all are welcome	<b>21</b> <small>23 TEVES</small>  Shemos 10:00 a.m. All School Shabbat Service Kiddush: Provided by the Parents
<b>22</b> <small>24 TEVES</small> NO HEBREW SCHOOL CLASSES	<b>23</b> <small>25 TEVES</small>	<b>24</b> <small>26 TEVES</small> 12:00 p.m. Torah Study I with Rabbi Boraz 1:30 p.m. Torah Study II 4:00 p.m. Hebrew School - Grades 3-7	<b>25</b> <small>27 TEVES</small> 7:00 p.m. UVJC Hillel Film Series	<b>26</b> <small>28 TEVES</small> 12:00 p.m. Guide for the Perplexed	<b>27</b> <small>29 TEVES</small>  <b>4:33</b> 6:00 p.m. Reform Service and Dinner - all are welcome	<b>28</b> <small>1 SHEVAT</small>  Rosh Chodesh Shevat  Va'eira 10:00 a.m. Shabbat Service Kiddush: Bonnie Kimmelman
<b>29</b> <small>2 SHEVAT</small> 10:00 a.m. Hebrew School - All Grades	<b>30</b> <small>3 SHEVAT</small>	<b>31</b> <small>4 SHEVAT</small> 12:00 p.m. Torah Study I with Rabbi Boraz 1:30 p.m. Torah Study II 4:00 p.m. Hebrew School - Grades 3-7				

# Literature Lovers

We are members of an enthusiastic reading group who love to discuss books proposed by group members. We welcome new participants. Come join us! Literature Lovers usually meets at 7:00 PM the last Sunday of the month, unless otherwise noted.

For location or information, please contact  
Susan Cohen at 603-643-3611, or email at [sncohen037@gmail.com](mailto:sncohen037@gmail.com).

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

### CAROLINE, OR CHANGE

by Tony Kushner



This is a beautifully written musical drama by playwright Tony Kushner. It addresses the relationships of African-Americans and Southern Jews in the early 1960s using finely crafted characters and exploring their relationships in a small Louisiana town.



## *Bimah Baskets and Centerpieces*

*for B'nai Mitzvah  
and other special occasions*

Colorful and elegantly-arranged baskets of food provide the festive beauty of flowers and infuse your occasion with the spirit of *tikkun olam*. Afterwards, the contents are donated to food pantries. Perfect for B'nai mitzvah, Kiddushes and other occasions.

The Social Action Committee is delighted to prepare the baskets. You pay only for the contents. For further info, contact [UVJCSocAction@gmail.com](mailto:UVJCSocAction@gmail.com)



*A  
Beautiful Alternative  
to Flowers*

## ***Yahrzeit Contributions***

Bruce Pacht in memory of his friend, Ed Levin  
Jane Lipson in memory of her mother, Phyllis Gotlieb  
Jeff Cohen and Renee Vebell in memory of  
Jeff's father, Abe Cohen  
Sharon and Jerome Smith in memory of their son,  
David Howard Smith and Jerome's father, Israel Smith  
Barbara Brown and family in memory of Barbara's mother  
and her children's grandmother, Sarah Halpern  
Gary and Dianne Levine in memory of  
Gary's grandfather, Abraham Rosenberg  
Bob and Sharon Racusin in memory of  
Bob's mother, Shirley Racusin  
Jerome and Sharon Smith in memory of  
Sharon's father, Isadore Greenberg  
Richard and Bayle Drubel in memory of  
Bayle's father, Leon Weiner  
Sam and Mary Zucker in memory of  
Sam's mother, Eva Zucker and his sister, Susanne Zucker  
Bruce Pacht in memory of his mother, Jeannette Pacht  
Rosina Carpentier in memory of her sister, Irene Krivit  
Michael Humphrey in memory of  
his father, William Humphrey  
Harriet and Rick Fingeroth in memory of  
Rick's mother, Grace Fingeroth  
Daniel Levin in memory of his grandfather, Israel Fond  
Aila Conarck in memory of her husband, Sy Conarck  
Aila Conarck in memory of her mother, Ann Yanover  
Paul and Sue Etkind in memory of  
Paul's father, Herbert Etkind  
Marjorie Aptakin in memory of her father, Alfred Spencer  
Gloria and Syd Finkelstein in memory of  
Syd's mother, Anna Finkelstein  
Gloria and Syd Finkelstein in memory of  
Gloria's mother, Merle Corobow Gold

## **UVJC General Fund**

Felixa Eskey  
Donald and Barbara Silver, a thank-you to Maggie Duford  
and Rabbi Boraz for all they did to prepare  
their granddaughter, Eloise for her Bat Mitzvah  
Daniel Graubert, M.D., in honor of his granddaughter,  
Caroline becoming a Bat Mitzvah  
Jack Shumsky  
Rabbi Edward and Shari Boraz  
Rusty Sachs  
Gloria and Syd Finkelstein in honor of  
and thank you to Deb Kaplan

## **School Programming Fund**

Mark and Susan Israel in honor of Simon Weinstein  
on becoming a bar mitzvah  
Mark and Susan Israel in honor of Carolyn Gordon,  
UVJC nominee for  
United Valley Interfaith Project Micah Hero

## **Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

Felixa Eskey  
Jeff and Lisa Silbert  
Mark and Susan Israel in memory of Mark's parents,  
Hannah and Sidney Israel  
Daryl Press  
Susan and Mark Israel in memory of Chris Brown  
Ruth Margolis

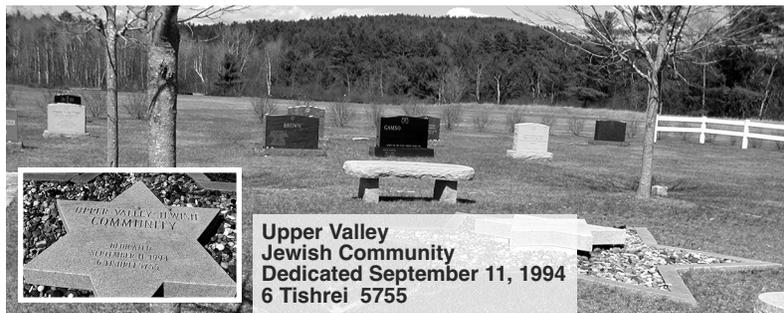
## **UVJC Endowment Fund**

Jeremy Katz

## **Torah Restoration Fund**

Gary Apfel

## **Cemetery Fund**



*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. Inquiries about the cemetery or individual plot acquisition may be directed to Carole Clarke at 603/646-0460.*

# Join a New Social Action Subcommittee to Aid Refugees

The Social Action Committee is forming a subcommittee, headed by Jeff Bell, to find ways for our community to contribute to aiding refugees. Please contact either Jeff Bell (e-mail below) or the Social Action Committee <UVJCSocAction@gmail.com> to learn more and become involved. Below, Jeff describes the work of the Israeli organization IsraAid, which may be an avenue for our work. I would like to add a personal note.

Shortly after learning from Jeff about the work both of IsraAid and of the Berlin Jewish community in helping to settle Syrian refugees, I had the opportunity to visit the “New Synagogue” in Berlin. What a moving experience! The original synagogue, the largest and most prominent in Berlin, was inaugurated in 1866. Due to the intervention of a righteous German police officer, the synagogue survived Kristallnacht, although much of it was destroyed by later bombing near the end of the war. In recent years, a vibrant new congregation has sprung up in the still beautiful remains of the building. On the Shabbat morning that I visited, they were celebrating both a new birth and the recent conversion to Judaism of a family. As we threw candies at the celebrants, I felt an amazing sense of renewal.

The synagogue is very actively helping Syrian refugees settle into Berlin, not just through contributions, but on a personal level. For example, members of the synagogue organize activities and play with the children while others meet with their parents to help them learn German. As I was relating my visit to the synagogue to a (non-Jewish) colleague in Berlin, she told me that while the New Synagogue was the best known one, it certainly wasn't the only synagogue in Berlin coming to the aid of refugees; in fact all of the synagogues are helping. She, too, was deeply moved by the Synagogue's actions. If our fellow Jews in Germany are opening their hearts to the refugees, surely we can as well.

Carolyn Gordon, Social Action Committee chair

## IsraAID



IsraAID is a non-government organization made up of Israeli Arabs and Jews who provide aid during crisis situations throughout the world. IsraAID was active in Lesbos, Greece, to rescue refugees fleeing the horrors of their homes in Syria. IsraAID currently works closely with Jewish congregations in Berlin, Germany, to integrate Syrian refugees. The Berlin project is an attempt to provide both medical and psychological aid, work as translators, and support to members of the Berlin community to create a safe and welcoming atmosphere for these struggling individuals.

The Social Action Committee has chosen to support the work that IsraAid is doing with Syrian refugees in Germany. I would be most delighted to talk with anyone who has an interest in this project or suggestions they would like to offer.

Jeffrey Bell (jbellvt@gmail.com; 802-436-2801)

### Mark B. Severs, CFP®

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## ***DO YOU KNOW????***

**... where everything Jewish is going on in the Upper Valley?**

**... where you can find the entire TANACH read to you in Hebrew?**

**... where there are links to popular local destinations and local weather?**

**... where there is a database of everything Jewish for your region, including learning links and candle-lighting times?**

**Visit the UVJC website OFTEN, for ALL the news!**

**[www.uvjc.org](http://www.uvjc.org)**