



the jewish connection

February and March 2015
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Message for 2015 from Rabbi Edward S. Boraz



Achieving full understanding of another person is a difficult endeavor. The tools we use (our minds, language, a sense of being actively

engaged in listening to another human being) take us only so far in understanding the person with whom we are engaged. In most matters of group life, whether in a profit-making enterprise, working with others to provide for persons in need, or tending to the needs of loved ones, our tendency is to focus on the issue immediately at hand. Problem-solving, resolution and accomplishment demand such attention.

What does religion offer to this process? Often, we turn to a rabbi, minister, or priest to help us through an important period; we seek their sense of the “religious perspective.” That perspective is turned toward the problem and toward the needs of people involved. Solutions proffered by a rabbi aim to serve the largest number while taking into account those who needs will not be met given the particular solution, in order to remain consistent with the Jewish ethics that have guided the process of decision-making.

Yet, the process is incomplete.

It is incomplete because the diversity of any group, especially in a religious community such as ours today, is so varied. We have families with two Jewish parents and others with one parent of a different faith. We have members who come from Conservative backgrounds, others from Reform, and those who are making their first synagogue affiliation. We have doctors, lawyers, teachers, and businesspersons from all walks of life, including children with immensely varied interests. Diversity seems to be the common denominator of the Upper Valley, of our nation, and the world.

I believe that we must try always to encompass through this diversity by working on the ethos expressed in Psalm 90 reminding us that our lives are finite. We are on this earth for a very short period of time compared to the time the universe has existed. Only by truly accepting our mortality may we begin to attain a heart of wisdom. When we truly sense our finitude and accept that all humans are created in the Divine Image, we may finally grasp the foundation of our commonality and embrace the richness of the differences among our fellow humans.

Differences also are expressed through group experiences of generations within a community, such as the lives of generations that precede and include my own, and the

life experiences of new member-families now becoming part of the Upper Valley Jewish Community. Difference is important: variety is critical not simply to survive, but also to grow. Growth, both for individuals and groups, comes first through recognition of diversity and then through synthesis of that diversity in a manner that best serves all members. True growth occurs when we share who we really are with one another, and when we work on conflict resolution from a collective heart of understanding. A synthesis among open hearts creates new models while also bringing forward traditional ones that serve the greatest good; our goal is to create a place where everyone may grow and contribute.

The Upper Valley Jewish Community is a gathering of individuals for a sacred purpose. We bring diverse experiences, ideas, beliefs, and opinions on the critical issues of our time including faith, ethics, politics, the role of science, and our need to be a people who gather together as a sacred community. Please share with one another in the UVJC the matters of your heart: your needs, your desires, what you wish to give, and listen closely to those whose thoughts differ from yours. Only through such mutuality can we move towards becoming a kehillat Kodesh – a sacred community for all who enter.

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to
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**KIDDUSH
SCHEDULE**

**February-March
2015/5775**

February 7 • Kathy and Jeff Parsonnet

February 14 • Carlyn Herz

February 21 • Bonnie Kimmelman

February 28 • Yoni and Stephen Neirman

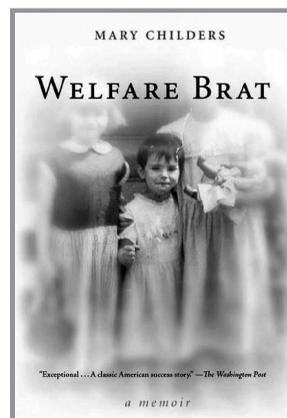
March 7 • Diane Roston

March 14 • Sharon and Bob Racusin

March 21 • Jamielynn Garland

March 28 • All School Shabbat

**SAVE THE DATE
APRIL 26, 2015
SPRING SEMINAR
ROTH CENTER
2:00 P.M.**



Our speaker will be Mary Childers, author of "Welfare Brat", an intimate memoir telling the story of growing up in a family in which five out of seven children dropped out of high school and four different fathers dropped out of sight. Her life's work has been to illuminate the causes of welfare dependence and generational poverty.

For more information, please contact
Gary or Rosemary Brown at 643-3365



From the UVJC President

Deborah Kaplan



Late winter is always an interesting and busy time for our community. Rather than hibernate, Board and committee work is in full swing. Here is an update of what is happening.

This fall, the Board of Trustees worked to revitalize the committee structure outlined in our by-laws. The religious affairs committee has been meeting to work on Shabbat services that offer an alternative to our traditional service. I happened to attend the all-school Shabbat morning service this past November, and was thrilled and spiritually uplifted in many ways. The participation by students and parents in many aspects of the service was wonderful to see.

The nigunim and alternative music provided for me, exactly what Shabbat is about: taking time away from everyday work-life in a spiritually uplifting way. Mazel tov! to Jeff Lubell and the committee. In keeping with the idea of renewed spirituality, the Religious Affairs Committee will now be known as Ruach.

The Social Action Committee (SAC) also has been revitalized with a group of new and enthusiastic members who have sprung quickly into action. They began by meeting with leadership at the Claremont Food Pantry to work on a plan for an ongoing relationship. Their kick-off event occurred at the UVJC Hanukkah Party. Collection of food, outerwear, and toiletries will be an ongoing effort. The SAC also is exploring ways to reach out to seniors in our community and beyond.

In January, I met with a small group of members to discuss how the UVJC can be more welcoming and help integrate interfaith families into Jewish life here in the Upper Valley. That meeting was very productive and provided some feedback that we are working to address – which leads me to . . .

Work of the Education Committee tends to overlap with work of some other committees. This winter will see the return of “Lunch and Learn” events following special Shabbat services. The Heroes Seminars continue on April 26th with Mary Childers, author of “Welfare Brat”. The afternoon will be both interesting and illuminating.

I am grateful to those committed UVJC members who create these important contributions which keep our community vibrant and relevant. If you are feeling inspired to join in, or if you have an idea with which you’d like to move forward, please be in touch with me.

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Shari Boraz, Lisa Silbert

WEBMASTER

Maggie Duford

Volunteer to Sponsor a Shabbat morning Kiddush!

Preparing our weekly Shabbat kiddush is rotated among UVJC volunteers who attend services. It is the time following the service when we gather over wine, grape juice, challah and other goodies. The weekly kiddush volunteer supplies the challah.

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.

Remembrance

The act of remembrance in Jewish tradition is a profound experience. Remembrance brings to present consciousness the influence, love, and nurturing the departed brought to us, our children, and our children's children. A yahrzeit board provides a spiritual means of paying respect and offering tribute to the memories of our departed loved ones. The yahrzeit board in the Alperin Sanctuary at the Roth Center for Jewish Life at Dartmouth College provides each member of our congregational family the opportunity to engage in the profound mitzvah of remembrance by acquiring a yahrzeit plaque. 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.**

Yahrzeit Contributions

Jamielynn Garland in memory of her mother, Audrey Newman
Daniel Levin in memory of his grandmother, Ida Levin
Syd and Gloria Finkelstein in memory of Syd's mother, Anna Finkelstein
and Gloria's mother, Merle Corobow Gold
Harvey and Jane Greenberg in memory of Harvey's father, Edward Greenberg
Paul and Sue Etkind in memory of Paul's mother Mae Etkind
Matthew Henken and Hilary Ryder in memory of Matthew's father, Earl Henken
Rusty Sachs in memory of his father, Ernest Sachs, Jr
and his grandfather, Ernest Sachs, Sr.
Harvey and Jane Greenberg in memory of Harvey's brother, Richard Greenberg
Daniel Levin in memory of his grandmother, Jeanne Fond

UVJC General Fund

Jeff and Lisa Silbert in honor of Susan and Mark Israel for their generosity and kindness
Helen Skeist
Sue and Jim Berg in gratitude to Bonnie Kimmelman and Rabbi Boraz
for leading the beautiful monthly Eastman Shabbat services
Rabbi Edward and Shari Boraz
Daniel Benjamin and Henrike Frowein in honor of Rabbi Boraz
for the wonderful work he did preparing their son, Caleb for his bar mitzvah,
and for the lovely service he conducted
Anonymous donation to support the services at Eastman
Martin and Ellen Blumberg
David Lubell in honor of The Jeffrey Lubell Family

UVJC Endowment Fund

Jeremy Katz

High School for Jewish Studies

Jeff and Karen Lubell

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Richard and Andrea Kremer in memory of their
parents, Mary and Harold McCrensky
and Amy and Leonard Kremer
Susan and Mark Israel in memory of
Mark's father, Sidney Israel
Anonymous donation in honor of Shari Boraz
Gene Semel

Cemetery Fund

Barbara Brown and family
in memory of her father, Joseph Halpern

Beautification Fund

Laurie Zeitlin in celebration of
the centennial anniversary
of Bernice Cohen's birth

School Programming Fund

Jewish Federation of New Hampshire

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

Mary and Robert Donin
Dennis and Laura-Beth Goodman
Richard and Diane Goodman
Harold Hochman
William Koppenheffer
and Ellen Gitomer
David Leib
Gena Cohen Moses
Phillip and Marian Schaefer
Jeff and Lisa Silbert
Edward and Jean Sonder

***Please Welcome
New Members***

Jeffrey and Samarra Clayman
Thomas Cochran
Amanda Silver and
Jeremy Horowitz



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

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/
359003357910/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/359003357910/)

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LOOKING AHEAD

by Maggie Duford, Education Director

It is always a challenge for me to write “in advance” for our Connection. For instance, as I write, tonight is the last night of Chanukah! At the Roth Center, there will be a small gathering of parents and members who will bring their chanukiyot (plural for “menorah for Chanukah”) and together, will light all eight candles to fill the sanctuary space with light. There will be song, and a kiddish, a wonderful opportunity to carry on this celebration, which has now become a tradition at our synagogue.

Especially in Tzfat, Israel, where I had the pleasure of living for two years, on the last night of Chanukah, families would gather to watch the lights burn all the way down to darkness. I learned about the calming pleasure of watching the candles flicker and burn as I reflected over the last year in my own life, then proceeding in thought to the many triumphs of our people over the centuries against the greatest of adversaries.

As many of you know, I suffered an illness, which day by day improves. I want to begin this article with a heartfelt thank you for the compassion and support given me by Rabbi, President Deb Kaplan and the UVJC Board, and so many of the members of this community during a very difficult time in my life.

Our school teachers were all amazing, picking up the ball in my absence; our President Deb Kaplan sat in my chair for very short periods of time on Sundays, spending most of it up and down the halls as I would do. We have such a remarkable staff, and community, and like a conductor, I was able to orchestrate much from home in this modern age of technology.

My first return to the school community was during an all school Shabbat service in late November. Throughout the year, we have several Shabbatot services for our students and their families to join in by leading us in prayer along with our Shabbat morning “regulars.” I thought this would be a wonderful opportunity to teach the mitzvah of bikur cholim (“visiting the sick”) to our children.

If you are reading this, and have children in our school, read this to them.

What I had not given much thought to was that this mitzvah is innate to children. They knew, without being told, that the mitzvah of bikur cholim for them did not have to be understood only in its traditional sense; it did not have to include a visit to a hospital room, or to my home. How do I know that they understand exactly what I needed? They showed me how much they knew, by the way I was greeted with such sincere warmth, hugs, and delight and cheers, which is what the end result of the mitzvah is all about. I had little to teach them that day, aside from being in their presence; I did, however, have plenty to learn.

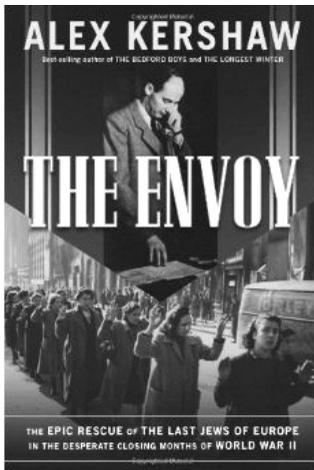
There are two sides to this mitzvah: the giving, and the receiving. Some of us, I especially, am much more comfortable to be the one on the giving end. My illness and my return to the students and children of our Hebrew school have shown me something more valuable about this special mitzvah – how important it is also to receive, thus allowing to others the gift (or the mitzvah) of giving to the sick.

By now the children have grown accustomed to seeing me wheel my own chair, and know that when I am ready to be “pushed around” I will tell them so; it has become an inside joke they all giggle at. Perhaps by the time you are reading this, my wheelchair too will be like the Chanukah candles in only one way, burned down into the dark, but not to return next year!

Happy New Year to all. Maggie

Literature Lovers

We are an enthusiastic reading group who love to discuss books proposed by group members. We welcome new participants. Literature Lovers usually meets at 7:00 PM the last Sunday of the month, unless otherwise noted. For location or more information, contact Susan Cohen at 603-643-3611, or sncohen037@gmail.com



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

THE ENVOY:

*The Epic Rescue of the Last Jews of Europe
in the Desperate Closing Months of World War II*

by Alex Kershaw

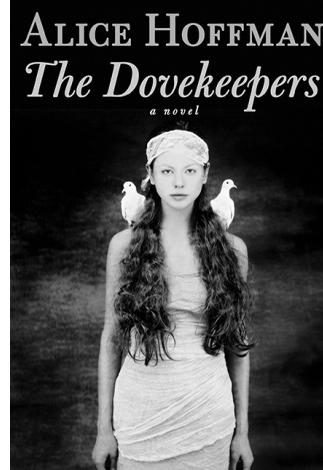
The Envoy is a story of how Raoul Wallenberg, Swedish diplomatic envoy, saved approximately 100,000 Jews from last-minute extermination by a crumbling Third Reich.

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

The Dovekeepers

by Alice Hoffman

Nearly two thousand years ago, 900 Jews held out for months on Masada against armies of Romans. Based on this tragic event, this is a spellbinding tale of four extraordinarily bold, resourceful and sensuous women who intersect in the desperate days of the siege. All are dovekeepers keeping secrets about who they are, where they come from, who fathered them, and whom they love."



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