

## *A Message from Rabbi Edward S. Boraz*

Nearly every Jew is familiar with the phrase “*Baruch Atah Adonai Eloheinu Melech Haolam Asher . . .*”. In this context, the phrase means “Blessed are you Adonai our God ruler of the universe *who . . .*”. Most often, *asher* means “that” or “which”; a small, nearly insignificant preposition.

And yet, this word lingers in my mind as I write on a late August evening. Here, the word is used in a most unusual, unconventional manner, a manner that ushers us into the most intense portion of the Hebrew calendar: the month of *Tishrei* (late September and early October). In this portion of the year’s cycle, we proceed from bearing our hearts before God and self (*Rosh Hashanah*, *Yom Kippur* and the days in between), to joyful celebration during the Festivals of *Sukkot* and *Simchat Torah*.

But at this moment, it is late August. *Tisha b’Av* (a day of mourning recalling the destruction of the Temples and our expulsion from the land of Israel) ended only a few weeks ago. Peace vigils and lectures on the current and tragic crises of Israel and Gaza are in our daily consciousness. Still, my thoughts focus on this word “*asher*”, a word we read this morning from the Torah portion *Reah* (Deuteronomy 11:15-16).

See I have set before you today a blessing and a curse. The blessing that (*asher*) you hearken unto the words of that I command you today. And the curse if (*im*) you do not hearken.

Let us turn first to Rashi, where we must play the game of *Jeopardy* just to figure out with what problem Rashi is struggling. The question Rashi seeks to answer is this: “Why for the blessing does the Torah use the word (*asher*), while for the curse, the Torah references the word (*im*)?” It would seem that both are conditional, so why does the Torah select *asher* for blessing and not *im*?

On the surface, Rashi plays it somewhat safe. He writes that the word *asher* means “*al mnat*” (“on the condition”). That is to say, the blessing is conditioned on the listener’s hearkening unto the words that “I (Moses) command you today.”

Another commentary suggests that Rashi’s answer is profound. There is the following expression in rabbinic literature: “Everything is in the hands of Heaven except the fear of Heaven.” Rashi was struggling with the inherent contradiction between the following two ideas: (1) If we do “X”, then God will bless us; (2) Our actions do not matter, for all is in hands of Heaven.

The latter phrase suggests that the most important things in our life are out of our control, that the only things over which we *do* have control is how we feel and how we act. Often, the full consequences of our actions (good and bad) are not available to us. We neither receive, nor should we expect to receive, a reward for doing good; nor should we anticipate a curse for doing wrong. Our lives are all in the hands of that which is beyond human comprehension; that is to say, G-d.

If that’s the case, then why did Rashi understand the phrase in a way we know our tradition and our experience tell us is not true? One answer lies in looking at the word that precedes *asher*: *HaB'rachah* – “the

**UVJC Volunteer Officers:**

November 1, 2012-October 31,  
2014

**President**

Deb Kaplan  
deb.kaplan@comcast.net  
(H) 802-649-8808

**Past-President**

Richard Abel  
bernerabel@aol.com  
(H) 603-448-5831

**Vice-president**

Lori Hirshfield  
lhirshfield@hartford-vt.org  
(H) 802-674-6297

**Vice-president**

Mitchell Stotland  
mastotland@gmail.com  
(H) 802-649-8863

**Vice-president**

Rachel Kleinbaum  
rachel@kleinbaum.org  
(H) 603-277-9358

**Treasurer**

Rusty Sachs  
clipclopsix@gmail.com  
(H) 802-649-2956

**Secretary**

Robyn Jacobs  
RJacobs@hygeiawomen.com  
(H) 603 643-0189

**Roth Center Offices****Rabbi**

Edward Boraz  
Edward.Boraz@Dartmouth.Edu  
603-646-0410

**Rabbi's Assistant**

Claudia Palmer  
Claudia.Palmer@Dartmouth.Edu  
603-646-0410

**UVJC Office Administrator**

Carole Clarke  
uvjc@valley.net  
603-646-0460

**Director of Education**

Maggie Duford  
uvjcschool@valley.net  
(W) 603-646-3887

blessing". What is the blessing we should receive for following a moral code (*halakhah*, an "outlook" on life) that guides our way)?

One could say that living a life based on the fundamental principles of the Torah (to live Jewishly, authentically) is itself the blessing. It is possible that the enrichment coming from living by such a guide is an inner peace, a sense that the life we have been given and have lived and all that comes with it, has been lived in a deep and fulfilling way reflecting a faith, a love for life, a life that seeks at each instance, the moral good; in short, a life lived with the deepest yearnings found in the Torah.

By the time you read this, it may already be *Sukkot* – our festival of thanksgiving. *Sukkot* is a celebration of the fall, of harvest time, and of prosperity. We are commanded to make sure that we provide for those who are poor or disadvantaged, for the widow and the orphan, so that we might celebrate. Inclusivity, sensitivity, a concern for others less fortunate, and an awareness of just how wonderful life is, as a "condition" for our own happiness; this awareness, and the acts that follow, THAT (*asher*) is the blessing.

**Kiddush Schedule**

October - November 2014/5775 Tishrei

October 4	Yom Kippur
October 11	Henrike Frowein and Daniel Benjamin in celebration of their son Caleb as he becomes a Bar Mitzvah
October 18	Margaret Hanson and Ron Adner in celebration of their daughter Claire as she becomes a bat mitzvah
October 25	Yoni and Stephen Neirman
November 1	Maggie Duford
November 8	Jeff and Kath Parsonnet
November 15	Deb and David Hoffer in celebration of their daughter Shira as she becomes a Bat Mitzvah
November 22	Diane Roston
November 29	Carlyn Herz

## Note from UVJC President Deb Kaplan

As 5774 draws to a close, it seems a good opportunity to reflect on what we have accomplished at the UVJC this past year. I'd like to focus on new programs and initiatives in addition to all those activities we've done consistently over the years.

Last September, we launched our new and improved website. The website contains lots of information about the community. Education director Maggie spends time weekly updating the site to keep it current. You may make donations and pay dues or tuition on line, but please note that this must be done through a laptop or computer and not through a mobile app or tablet. If you have not visited the site, please check it out; or better yet, bookmark it!

This past year, Maggie and the UVJC school faculty implemented an online learning center to assist students with learning Hebrew. The online center allows students to complete homework assignments, do extra work if they wish, and keep up with their Hebrew school work even when extracurricular activities prevent them from attending Hebrew school. The online learning center was funded by a grant from the NH Jewish Federation.

A pilot program for a High School of Jewish Studies was implemented by Rabbi Boraz. Madrichim were required to attend the program on Sundays in addition to assisting in the classroom. The program was well received and will continue this year.

In keeping with our desire to make the school a safe place for our children, some of our school policies were tightened up. In January, teachers underwent training for implementing policies including an emergency response plan.

In April, the Board of Trustees adopted the following mission statement at a board retreat:

The Upper Valley Jewish Community (UVJC) is a welcoming, egalitarian congregation providing Jewish spiritual, educational, social and cultural opportunities to the Upper Connecticut River Valley

During the retreat, the Board reviewed our bylaws agreed to re-energize the committee structure outlined there. The Education Committee and Religious Affairs Committee are up and working.

The "Hero Seminars" brought to us by congregants Gary and Rosemary Brown were launched. The seminars are led by congregants (heroes among us), and focus on their interests and the work they do. The seminars have been fascinating and well attended.

Throughout the year, work by a dedicated and hard-working group of individuals continued on the UVJC History Project. This important work will document our community from its start-up to the building of the Roth Center.

This November, we say good-bye to board members Susan Israel and Dan Rockmore who have completed their terms of service. We are extremely grateful for their dedication and for their many contributions over the years. We welcome new board members Laura Rosenthal (who has been appointed to complete Mitch Stotland's term), Sue Berg, and Jeff Lubell. I look forward to working with them as I begin my second year as President.

### Other Board of Trustees and Committee Chairs

Felixa Eskey  
cjfode@comcast.net  
(H) 603 643-5350

Gloria Finkelstein  
gloriafinkelstein@gmail.com  
(H) 603643-4311

Devora Gronauer  
RWGronauer@aol.com  
(H) 603-653-0371

Susan Israel  
susan.j.israel@gmail.com  
(H) 603 643-1750

Dan Rockmore  
dnrockmore@gmail.com  
(H) 603-643-0169

Robert Shumsky  
shumsky@dartmouth.edu  
(H) 603-643-4701

Michael Zegans  
Michael.E.Zegans@Hitchcock.org  
(H) 603-643-9163

### Joint Planning & Building Committee:

Deb Kaplan  
Rusty Sachs

**Kiddush Coordinator:**  
Yoni Neirman

**Library:** Fred Lerner

### New Member Committee:

Lori Hirshfield  
Deborah Hoffer  
Robyn Jacobs  
Ellen Rockmore  
Jessica Silver

**Social Action Chair:**  
Carolyn Gordon

**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.

Postmasters send change of addresses  
Upper Valley Jewish Community,  
5 Occom Ridge, Hanover, NH  
03755

## 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).

---

## October and November B'nai Mitzvah

Oct 18, 2014	Claire Adner	Daughter of Ron Adner and Margaret Hanson
Oct 25, 2014	Caleb Benjamin	Son of Daniel Benjamin and Henrike Frowein
Nov 15, 2014	Shira Hoffer	Daughter of David and Deb Hoffer

---

## Yahrzeit Reminders

Reminders of these important dates are mailed each month to members who have provided *yahrzeit* information. If you would like to receive a reminder of a loved one's *yahrzeit*, please contact Carole Clarke at 603-646-0460 or email [uvjc@valley.net](mailto:uvjc@valley.net).

---

## 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).

## Our Tapestry

Education Director, Maggie Duford

The cycle of our Jewish calendar turns with predictability and with what we all hope for at the conclusion of *neilah* services: meaningful and fruitful times ahead. We follow on as the Torah completes its full circle at *Simchat Torah*, which itself is followed by the *parshahs* of the new year's first b'nai mitzvah students: *Bereishit* will be celebrated by the bat mitzvah of Claire Adner, *Noach* as the bar mitzvah of Caleb Benjamin, and *Chayei Sarah* in November, celebrated by the bat mitzvah of Shira Hoffer.

Though there is predictability in our calendar, we look forward to these b'nai mitzvah recognitions as interwoven wonders, celebrated only a single time in the life of each student of our Hebrew school. Each becomes a lasting memory perhaps not recognized until age 50, but it will come.

All of our students work hard, though not solely in the direction of a bar or bat mitzvah. The true celebration of a student's day begins back in pre-school with the first teacher who shows and teaches the student's first *aleph*, starting the Jewish child toward finding his/her personal connection to the Jewish *neshama* (soul) which hungers, in different ways, for what we teachers have to offer.

Year-by-year the students progress, their bar or bat mitzvah happening a little each time they enter our doors. This is why Hebrew school has such value, and why you, as parents, are living authentic Jewish lives in America. You live by example, reaffirming that Jewish learning is important because you transport your children to school, and because you encourage their use of the Online Learning Center which we've designed especially for those children who have conflicts and can't always make it to a Sunday or Tuesday classroom.

Nothing ever will substitute for the living and engaging teacher, nor for the comradery of other students of the same age in a classroom. No technology can reproduce discussions prompted by a question arising completely unrelated to the topic of a lesson plan. Nothing can substitute for what will grow and endure within your children because they were present over time within their own community of *young* Jews.

Parents: as you weave your child's life into an intricate fabric of competing and complimenting threads, you are designing a vibrant tapestry, full of its own colors and textures. The tapestry will represent your family, your uniqueness and *your* Torah. This, I believe, could be the everlasting covenant promised by G-d. .

At the beginning of my fourth year, it remains a true a privilege to serve your community. L'shalom.

**Jesse's**  
Steaks, Seafood  
& Tavern

Rt. 120  
Hanover, NH  
603-643-4111

[www.blueskyrestaurants.com](http://www.blueskyrestaurants.com)

**Molly's**  
restaurant & bar

Main Street  
Hanover, NH  
603-643-2570



Upper Valley Oral Surgery

Craig H. Cohen, DMD

Keith C. Kealey, DMD

Keith C. Rogerson, DMD

Jill L. Brinkman, DDS, MD

16 Airport Road, West Lebanon, NH 03784

299 Main Street, New London, NH 03257

[www.uvos.org](http://www.uvos.org)

(603) 298-7557

(603) 526-4433

Fax (888) 857-3155

Please welcome new members:  
Tamara and David Carluccio

## Donations

### ***Yahrzeit Contribution***

**Rusty Sachs** in memory of his mother, Jeanne Sachs

**Aila Conarck** in memory of her aunt, Harriet Levy

**Janice and Bill Fischel** in memory of their fathers, Isadore Goldberg and Jack Fischel

**Bruce Pacht** in memory of his father, Harold Ralph Pacht

**Walter Angoff** in memory of his uncle, Harold Kanter

**Ruth Slow** in memory of her mother, Anne Slow

**Rusty Sachs** in memory of his friend, Walter Simmenauer

**Rusty Sachs** in memory of his brother, Jim Sachs

**Michael Humphrey** in memory of his brother, Thomas Humphrey

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

**Deb and Aaron Kaplan** in honor of Susan and Mark Israel for their generosity and kindness

**Mark and Nancie Severs** in memory of Gene Stollerman whose cheerful presence they will miss

**Mark and Nancie Severs** in memory of Joan Jacobs, mother and grandmother of Tom, Robyn, Isaac and Joseph Jacobs

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

**Jeremy Katz**

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

**Ken and Karen Kaliski** on behalf of the B'nai Mitzvah class

**Jane Lipson** in memory of her mother, Phyllis Fay Gotlieb

**Judith Hertog and Gil Raz** in honor of their daughter, Dina's bat mitzvah

**Eric Goldwarg and Emily Bridgway**

**Gerald Slabin** in honor of his children and his grandchildren

**Andrew Chessen**

### ***Cemetery Fund***

**Arline Rotman** in memory of her father, Milton Schwartz

## 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.

*The United Valley Interfaith Project (UVIP) presents:*  
**The 2nd Annual Micah Awards Ceremony**  
***“Local Heroes, Local Foods”***

*Sunday, October 26, 3:00 to 5:00 PM*  
*NEW Listen Community Services Facility*  
*River Point Plaza; White River Junction, Vermont*

A UVJC member will be honored as a “Micah Hero” for making a difference in the larger community. Please join us at the celebration on October 26 to support our Micah Hero and to enjoy inspiring stories of community contributions and delicious local food.

Tickets are \$25 and should be purchased in advance. Please see Carole in the Roth Center to purchase your ticket.

(If any tickets remain on the day of the event, they may be purchased at the door for \$30.)

Mark B. Severs, CFP®  
The Hanover Group at Morgan Stanley  
Family Wealth Director  
Senior Vice President, Wealth Management  
Financial Advisor

**Morgan Stanley**

[www.morganstanleyfa.com/hanovergroup](http://www.morganstanleyfa.com/hanovergroup)  
[mark.b.severs@morganstanley.com](mailto:mark.b.severs@morganstanley.com)

Wealth Management  
203 Heater Road  
Lebanon, NH 03766  
tel 603 442 7900  
direct 603 442 7940  
fax 603 442 7988  
toll free 800 829 5232

MOHEL

CERTIFIED BY THE RABBINICAL  
ASSEMBLY

ROBERT E. BRAITMAN, M.D., F.A.A.P.

[BOBBRAITMAN@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BOBBRAITMAN@GMAIL.COM)

[WWW.MOHELNEWENGLAND.COM](http://WWW.MOHELNEWENGLAND.COM)

508.208.1816

**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.



UPPER VALLEY JEWISH COMMUNITY  
ROTH CENTER FOR JEWISH LIFE  
5 OCCOM RIDGE  
HANOVER, NH 03755

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

October and November 2014 / Issue No. 48

Nonprofit  
PAID  
U.S. Postage  
White River Jct.  
Vermont 05001  
PERMIT 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 ~ ~ ~

Sunday, October 26

**MY RUSSIAN GRANDMOTHER AND HER VACUUM  
CLEANER: A MEMOIR** by Meir Shalev

This is a book about Israel, but it does not deal (directly) with politics, war, conflicts or other weighty issues that one usually associates with Israel. Instead, it is a funny, well-written and embellished, loving memoir of one family of the "old idealist-socialists of the 1920-1960's Palestine/Israel," describing many unique features of that time, but also many another issues that would be recognizable to many cultures and societies.

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/>