



the jewish connection

October - November 2016
Issue Number 60

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



Rabbi's Message

By UVJC and Dartmouth Hillel Rabbi Edward S. Boraz

We live in a time of great spiritual diversity. Judaism is not an easy religion to access; one faces formidable barriers to experiencing meaningful connection with one's spirituality. Barriers include a foreign language, the need for study, and unfamiliar melodies, not to mention finding time, which impinges on the very hectic lives that many of us lead, especially those who are raising children.

I often hear from congregants that it is difficult to feel moved during communal prayer. The forthcoming High Holy Days find us praying together more than at any other time of the year. To address the varying needs of our constituents, we create a variety of services – Conservative, Reform, Family Service, and Tot Shabbat – all in an effort to lower those individual barriers to finding meaning. This is symbolic of the extraordinary difficulty the UVJC faces in building a spiritual community with so much diversity on so many levels.

To find guidance as your Rabbi, I turn to our great, though not always easily accessible, classical texts, for principles that might help to address the challenges of our time. One of the most beautiful passages in the Talmud [Berachot (blessings)] is a discussion of what

it means to direct one's heart toward the heavens, that is, to the Eternal. To me, this is the most meaningful way to respond to the gaps that challenge our desire to be a cohesive, spiritual community.

In Berachot, the Talmud cites a number of Sages who, upon completion of the "The Prayer" [the Shemoneh Esreh (literally, "18 blessings"), also known as the Amidah, the silent prayer portion of our service], added their own personal prayer. I would like to share one of these added personal prayers with you, then explain how subsequent generations understood these teachings:

It was a customary saying of the Rabbi of Yavneh: I am a part of creation and my friend is part of creation. I work in the city and my colleague works in the field. I arise to my work and that one arises to his or her work. Just as my friend cannot toil in my work, so I cannot toil in her/his work. Perhaps you will say, "I produce abundance and he produces little."

Therefore, we learn "Whether there is abundance or whether there is little, it only matters that one's heart is to Heaven."

Rashi, the 11th century Torah scholar par excellence, sees this teaching as a series of contrasts. There are those who are learned in Torah (the "abundance" mentioned) and those who have not had the good fortune to study (one

who "has little"). Another contrast may be one who has wealth enough to bring an abundance of sacrifices to the Temple in contrast with the one who has little to offer, and therefore may feel lesser in G-d's view. But the Rabbi of Yavneh teaches us that, "The only thing that matters is that one's intention is directed towards Heaven." Today, some would call this a sense of transcendence.

The Rabbi of Yavneh helped to create a new Jewish life after the destruction of the Temple and the fall of Jerusalem and Israel. He understood that we, as a people, are in this together, that all of us are equal in creation. In creating a new Judaism after the fall of Jerusalem and later Masada, it mattered little whether one was fortunate enough to be knowledgeable or that one was less fortunate or pursued other interests. The important principle is that each person is part of creation, and that each brings uniqueness to life, to spirituality, and to community. Materiality, even in prayer, is ultimately of little value. Distinction in material things, educational level, and so forth are not the most important issues we face in creating Jewish life and community. At the end of the day, all that matters is the intention to do good; this is the great teaching of Rashi.

A millennium after Rashi, and

Continued on p 3: Rabbi

**UVJC VOLUNTEER
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

OFFICERS

**November 1, 2015
to
October 31, 2016**

PRESIDENT

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

PAST-PRESIDENT

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

VICE-PRESIDENT

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

VICE-PRESIDENT

Laura Rosenthal
laura@iguy.org
(H) 603-277-9828

VICE-PRESIDENT

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

TREASURER

Bill Brown
bbrown@alum.dartmouth.org
603-643-6639

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

Melissa Herman
school@uvjc.org
(W) 603-646-3887



President's Message

by Deborah Kaplan



This is my final column for the UVJC Connection, as on November 1st, Rusty Sachs takes over as President of the UVJC. I leave the position feeling good about what I, with the help of the Board of Trustees, have accomplished over the past 3 years.

Our mission [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] has driven our work, and the UVJC by-laws have provided the structure to help us engage members to create the vibrant Jewish life we all enjoy. There are many people to acknowledge and thank for their help and contributions. My apologies to anyone I might not acknowledge here for their work on behalf of the UVJC.

THANK YOU to:

- Current and former members of the Board of Trustees for their commitment and dedication to the UVJC
- Rabbi Boraz for his leadership and spiritual guidance
- Carole Clarke and Claudia Palmer for their administrative support
- Maggie Duford, Melissa Herron and Maddie Cooper for their leadership of the UVJC school
- Jeff Lubell and members of the Ruach committee
- Carolyn Gordon and members of the Social Action Committee
- Felixa Eskey and members of the Education Committee
- Susan Israel and members of the NH Federation Film Festival Committee
- Natasha Troyka and Maddie Cooper for their help managing the website
- Gary Schwartz and Nathan Margolis for their ongoing help with High Holidays
- David Lieb for overseeing the Tot Shabbat and interfaith group
- Bruce Pacht for his help editing the Connection
- Paul Etkind for his contributions to the NH Federation Jewish Reporter on behalf of the UVJC

While we continue to have challenges as a Community, I feel confident that the next generation of leaders are committed and equipped to take them on. It has been an honor to serve the UVJC as a Board member and president.

A message from Rusty Sachs UVJC President-elect



A few weeks ago more than a thousand residents of Norwich gathered on the school playground for a group photograph. Chad Finer, retired physician and unofficial chronicler of images, set a tripod atop one of the fire engines and preserved the sight for eternity. It got me to thinking of the Upper Valley as it was when I was in grammar school nearly seventy years ago, and the changes that have since come about. There are lots more motor vehicles now; no longer is traffic held up as a farmer drives his herd along the highway for evening milking.

But perhaps a more significant growth is the size and vibrancy of the Jewish community. In 1949 there was widespread anti-Semitism of the Gen-

Continued on p 5: Sachs

nearly two millennia after the death of the Rabbi of Yavneh, this remains a great lesson for our people, wherever situated. Certainly there are people within every Jewish community who are more learned than others, who know “the prayers” and “ritual,” and also others those who have achieved more material success than others. On the other hand, many of us have not enjoyed such good fortune. Acquisition of knowledge and material goods, while significant, is not as important as the deep realization that we all are equal in creation, and there-

fore equal before G-d.

For the Rabbi at Yavneh, Rabbi Yochanan Ben Zakai, who escaped the destruction and fall of Jerusalem, the most important religious principle was that our heart's intention be to Heaven above. This is the meaning of equality in Judaism. I can tell you personally that when I observe this equality, when I am part of it as I have witnessed it at the Roth Center, it is indeed heavenly.

Shannah Tovah – Happy New Year to all.



Yahrzeit Board

Remembrance

The act of remembrance is a profound experience in Jewish tradition. 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 Memorial Plaques

Paul and Colette Sage in loving memory of their daughter,
Nicole Sage Cormen

Evelina Zemelman in loving memory of her husband, Valery Zemelman

OTHER UVJC TRUSTEES & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Susan Berg
susan.z.berg@hitchcock.org
(H) 603-863-7327

Felixa Eskey
cjfode@icloud.com
(H) 603-643-5350

Gloria Finkelstein
gloriafinkelstein@gmail.com
(H) 603-643-4311

Lori Hirshfield
kgarnjost@comcast.net
(H) 802-674-6297

Jeff Lubell
jefflubell@yahoo.com
(H) 802-649-7230

Lynn Schwartz
Lynn.s.schwartz@gmail.com
603-643-2957

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

Steven Woloshin
Steven.Woloshin@dartmouth.edu
(H) 802-649-1293

JOINT PLANNING & BUILDING COMMITTEE

Deb Kaplan, Rusty Sachs

KIDDUSH COORDINATOR

Yoni Neirman

LIBRARY

Fred Lerner

RUACH CHAIR

Jeff Lubell

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Board Liaison: Felixa Eskey

SOCIAL ACTION CHAIR

Carolyn Gordon

SOUP GROUP CHAIR

Shari Boraz

The Jewish Connection

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

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

Postmasters:

Send change of addresses to
Upper Valley Jewish Community
5 Occom Ridge • Hanover, NH 03755

KIDDUSH SCHEDULE

OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 2016/5776

OCTOBER

1

Thomas Cochran

8

Yoni and Stephen Neirman

15

Dianne and Gary Levine

22

Kathy and Jeff Parsonnet

29

Sheryl Lerner



NOVEMBER

5

Judith Hertog and Gil Raz
in celebration of their son,
Miki,
as he becomes a bar mitzvah

12

Henrike Frowein and
Daniel Benjamin
in celebration of their son,
Johan,
as he becomes a bar mitzvah

19

Sharon and Robert Racusin

26

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.

Volunteer Opportunity: Bi-monthly dinner at The Haven

By Alice Berliner



After a very successful trial run last February, the UVJC has been preparing a dinner every other month

at the Haven's Hixon House. An especially rewarding aspect is that, after preparing the food, the volunteers get to eat and converse with the residents. We now have an enthusiastic group of seven volunteers, some who help with every dinner and others that help on an occasional basis.

We'd love to make a commitment for monthly dinners in 2017 for the 3rd Monday of each month. In order to do so, we need several more volunteers.

The primary work of volunteers is to prepare the food, typically on Sunday, then on Monday, heat the food, set it out, and enjoy the meal with the residents.

Looking for a special volunteer opportunity? If you would like to join the Haven dinner team either on a regular or an occasional basis, please contact the UVJC's Haven Dinner Team coordinator Alice Berliner at: alb172cs@gmail.com; h-802-649-7286; m-802-380-9606.

tlemen's Agreement sort, and the closest Hebrew School was in Manchester — with no interstate highways.

The decades since have brought a significant awareness of the value of a vibrant Jewish community, not just to the College but to the population in general.

The Upper Valley Jewish Community embraces folks inclining to Reform, Reconstructionist, Conservative, and Orthodox traditions, as well as those without a focused orientation.

A significant number of our members live in mixed families. We each have our own ways of observing and celebrating our relationship to Judaism, and to G-d. For some it is social; for others it is ritual. Still others take comfort in the simple assurance that comes from sitting with friends at High Holiday services, or playing mah jongg, or spicing conversation with the occasional Yiddish expression. So, nu?

We now have an energetic Hebrew School, enthusiastic participation in an array of social service activity, and thoroughly enjoyable events glorifying our ruach: potluck Shabbat dinners, community-wide cookouts, study groups, free kosher chicken soup for those under the weather, and more.

Stay tuned for even more as we enter 5777!

**PLEASE WELCOME
UVJC'S
NEWEST MEMBERS:**

Susan and Mort Lynn

**Anne Gelb and
Dan Bagatell
and their family**

A Space for Questions

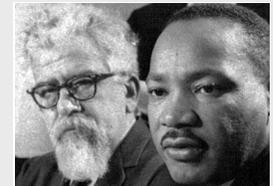
By Maddie Cooper, UVJC Director of Education



"Just to be is a blessing. Just to live is holy. And yet being alive is no answer to the problems of living. To be or not to be is not the question. The vital question is: how to be and how not to be?"

– Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

Heschel's words come from his November, 1965 lecture at the Union Theological Seminary, entitled "No Religion is an Island." Heschel delivered his address just months after he marched alongside tens of thousands of activists, including the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., from Selma to Montgomery, protesting the disenfranchisement of African American voters in Alabama. At the time of his address, Heschel was serving as the first Jewish visiting professor at the Union Theological Seminary, located near the Jewish Theological Seminary where he was based.



The question of "how to be and how not to be" resonates with me this time of the year, with the intersection of the beginning of the school year and the yamim noraim or High Holidays. Each year, we are given the opportunity to begin anew and to engage in a process of deep reflection on the question of how to be and how not to be in the year to come. In retrospect, Heschel's answer to this question is clear in the way that he lived as a scholar, committed to serious Jewish learning, transmitting our tradition, pursuing justice, and forming significant interfaith connections. Yet, for those of us still authoring our own journeys, the answer is more murky.

My hope for the UVJC Hebrew School is that it can be a place in which our students are given the space to explore the question of how to be and how not to be, not only during the yamim noraim, but also all year long. I believe that it is important for our students to learn Torah, explore tikkun olam, and take part in our tradition not only to give them a foundation to question what it means to be in this world, but also to allow them to discover their own answer to the question of how to be. Success, to me, is allowing our students to engage with questions that they may not be given the space to examine in other parts of their lives, and our job is to give them the tools to ask these questions in conversation with our tradition.

To those of you whom I have not yet met, I look forward to meeting you in the coming weeks.

L'shanah tova.

Maddie



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 and/o 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.



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/359003357910/

CARING COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS AVAILABLE

By Sue Berg



The Social Action Committee has a volunteer database of more than 50 people waiting to provide a helping hand to UVJC community members in need.

Volunteers are able to help in many ways such as meal delivery, grocery shopping, light house repairs, or visiting someone who is housebound.

To request help for yourself or someone you care about, or to volunteer, contact us at UVJCSocAction@gmail.com.

**The UVJC gratefully acknowledges Dr. Robert Sprafkin
for his gift to our High Holiday Appeal.**

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.

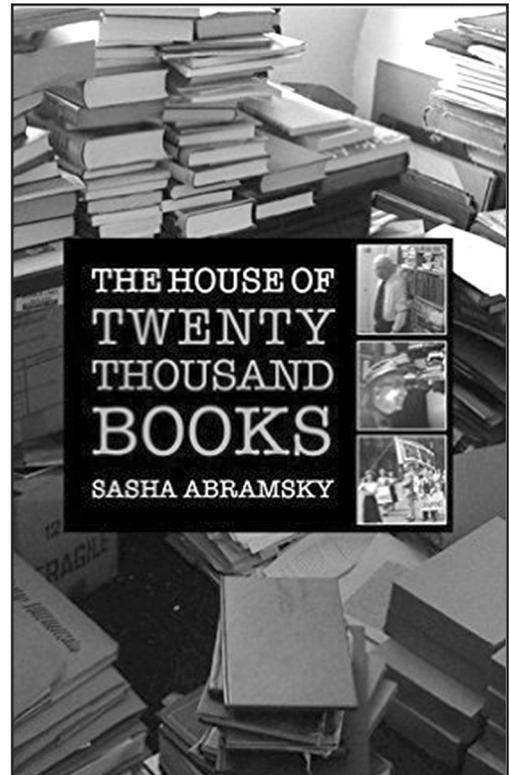
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30

THE HOUSE OF TWENTY THOUSAND BOOKS

BY SASHA ABRAMSKY

The House of Twenty Thousand Books is the story of Chimen Abramsky, an extraordinary polymath and bibliophile who amassed a vast collection of socialist literature and Jewish history. For more than fifty years, Chimen and his wife, Miriam, hosted epic gatherings in their house of books, bringing together many of the age's greatest thinkers.

Historians of the Old and New Left movements in Britain, students of Jewish history and philosophy, and book-lovers of any stripe, will find this memoir totally absorbing (from Jewish Book Council review).



Shalom Walking Club

Like to be outdoors - especially in the Fall?

Sign up to be a member of the Shalom Walking Club!

Sundays @ 10:00 at the Roth Center.

All levels and all ages.

Want to walk at a different day & time?

Got ideas for outdoor outings?

Email: gloriafinkelstein@gmail.com



Yahrzeit Contributions

Arline and Barry Rotman in memory of
Arline's father, Milton Schwartz

Barbara Brown in memory of her mother, Sarah Halpern

Gene Kadish and Karen Fryer in memory of Gene's mother,
Allyne "Pij" (Cohen) Kadish

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

Syd and Gloria Finkelstein in memory of Syd's father,
Joseph Finkelstein

Bruce Pacht in memory of his father, Harold Ralph Pacht
and a mentor and friend, Joe Daschbach

Steven Woloshin and Lisa Schwartz in memory of
her grandmother, Martha Teitcher

Rusty Sachs in memory of his mother, Jeanne Sachs

Aila Conarck in memory of her aunt, Harriet Levy

Diane Roston in memory of her father, Sidney Roston

Rusty Sachs in memory of his friend, Walter Simmenauer

Michael Humphrey in memory of his brother,
Thomas Humphrey

Jerome and Sharon Smith in memory of Jerome's mother,
Eve Smith

Rusty Sachs in memory of his brother, Jim Sachs

Judy Rocchio in memory of her step-father,
Raphael R. Gamsso M.D.

UVJC Endowment Fund

Jeremy Katz

Soup Group Fund

Barbara Brown

Sheryl and Fred Lerner in memory of
Sheryl's parents, Sarah and Frank Rubin

Richard and Bayle Drubel

Susan and Mark Israe

UVJC General Fund

William and Edna Silverman

Susan and Mark Israel in honor of

Dianne and Gary Levine's 50th wedding anniversary

Paul & Sue Etkind thank Rabbi Boraz & Bonnie Kimmelman
for their lovely Shabbat Services at Eastman

Francisco Brazile

Roberta (Bobbi) Gross

Dr. Robert Sprafkin

School Programming Fund

Gloria and Syd Finkelstein in honor of
Susan and Mark Israel's son, Sam,
on Sam's engagement to Sabrina

Gloria and Syd Finkelstein in honor
of UVJC's President, Deb Kaplan

Gloria and Syd Finkelstein in honor of
Betty Lauer's special birthday

Betty Lauer in happy celebration of her cousin,
Miki Sand-Loud's bat mitzvah

Betty Lauer in honor of Kate Lubell
as she becomes a bat mitzvah

Betty Lauer in honor of Miriam Deborah Herron
being called to the Torah

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Gary and Dianne Levine – a thank you for Rabbi Boraz's
kind words upon their Special Anniversary

Carl and Andrea Axelrod

Susan and Michael Brown in friends in honor and
in appreciation of their dear friend, Betty Lauer

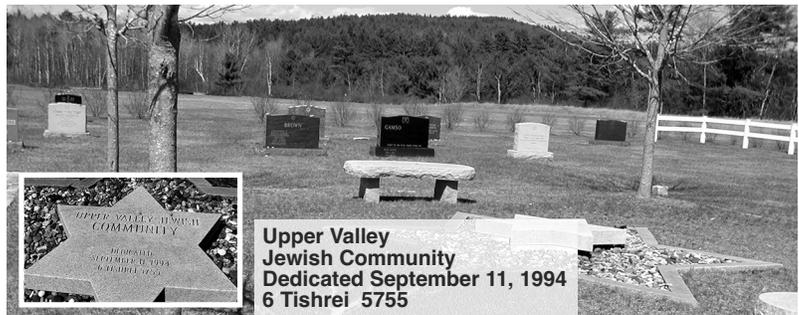
Adult Education Fund

Gary and Dianne Levine in memory of
Gary's grandmother, Anna Rosenberg

Cemetery Fund

Barbara Brown in memory of Ed and Laura Hirschs' mothers

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.



**Upper Valley
Jewish Community
Dedicated September 11, 1994
6 Tishrei 5755**

A Beautiful Alternative to Flowers



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

5777 B'nai Mitzvah

November 5, 2016:

Miki Raz

Judith Hertog and Gil Raz

November 12, 2016:

Johan Benjamin

Daniel Benjamin and

Henrike Frowein



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

Wealth Management
203 Heater Road
Lebanon, NH 03766
tel 603 442 7900
direct 603 442 7940
fax 603 442 7988

Morgan Stanley

NMLS # 178834
www.morganstanleyfa.com/hanovergroup/
mark.b.severs@morganstanley.com

Jesse's
Steaks, Seafood
& Tavern

**Rt. 120
Hanover, NH
603-643-4111**

Molly's
restaurant & bar

**Main Street
Hanover, NH
603-643-2570**

www.blueskyrestaurants.com



**Upper Valley
Jewish Community**
Roth Center for Jewish Life
5 Occom Ridge
Hanover, NH 03755

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
WHT RIV JCT, VT
PERMIT NO. 45

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

October - November 2016

Issue No. 60

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