



THE JEWISH CONNECTION

MARCH 2020 • ISSUE 78

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

Are we there yet? Are we there yet? Are we there yet? At this time of year, many of us begin to yearn deeply for Spring, warmer weather, and the greenness (not so much the mud) of our Upper Valley's next season. Passover is our quintessential Spring holiday highlighting the themes of freedom, renewal and regeneration, and it's coming soon! Beyond this, we all enjoy the tantalizing tastes and savory smells of Passover. Just think, or rather, smell, a bowl of matzah ball soup, as we gather together around family and community tables. And then, there's the story! Think about it. Without the haggadah, there wouldn't really be a Passover. We can welcome Spring with open arms and enjoy matzah and a schmear, but without the story it just wouldn't be the same.

Whatever haggadah you use, be it the old school Maxwell House or a contemporary, artsy one, it is the backbone (or shankbone if you like) of our holiday. Where does the idea to tell the story come from? Is it in our genetic structure? Is it a commandment? Is it something we're naturally prone to do as human beings living in an imperfect world? Yes, yes, and yes! Additionally, what do we learn about how we are to tell this story about a particular people and a universal yearning for freedom for all who are oppressed?

Two verses in the Torah point us towards the source for telling the story. "And in order that you should tell into the ears of your children and grandchildren... and you will [all] know that I am your G-d." (Exodus 10:12) Also, "And you should tell ("v'higadata" from where we get the word "haggadah") your child on that day... when I went free from Egypt." (Exodus 13:8) We tell, of course, in order to teach. Story is the essence of how we learn deep lessons and values. Do we zoom through it in Hebrew as was typical of some of the older generations (and some do today) to get to the meal? Or, do we read a quick summary in English, pour a few cups of wine and serve the soup? After all, it's late and we're all hungry! [Pro-tip: In our family we serve crudité right after the first blessing. You know the one where we usually just nibble on a twig of parsley. Once we've said that blessing it's an opening to eat all kinds of veggies, which can help buy a little extra time to enjoy the story.] *In whatever way each of us tells the story, in whatever language and in whatever length, the essential point is – in the telling.* Otherwise, it's a nice Jewish meal.

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GATHER TOGETHER

Thursday, APRIL 9 @ 6pm

Community Seder

[RSVP required by March 25]

Sunday, JUNE 14

Annual Meeting

Sunday, AUGUST 23

Summer Picnic

Please check our website for calendar updates and more events: www.uvjc.org

**VOLUNTEER
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
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Deborah Callaghan
debbe.callaghan@gmail.com
(c) 802-280-5022

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(h) 802-649-2311

VICE-PRESIDENT

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jefflubell@yahoo.com
(h) 802-649-7230

VICE-PRESIDENT

Kathy Parsonnet
kathy@fragletsart.com
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TREASURER

Paul Etkind
Lpiropo@comcast.net
(c) 617-792-6467

SECRETARY

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jarsberg@comcast.net
(c) 603-504-2311

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Alice Berliner
alb172cs@gmail.com
(h) 802-649-7286

Roberta Berner
bernerabel@aol.com
(h) 603-790-8365

Bayle Drubel
bayle@bayledrubel.com
(h) 603-643-5870

Robert Greene
robmn2010@gmail.com
(h) 603-643-6591

Laura Harris-Hirsch
lauralebanon@gmail.com
(h) 603-448-1507

Matthew Henken
mhenken@gmail.com
(h) 603-298-6719

Deborah Hoffer
deborahhoffer@gmail.com
(h) 603-643-4795

מורה שניא

COMMUNITY MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By popular accord, the top three taboo subjects are religion, politics, and money. You already know my religion, you can probably guess my politics, so that leaves money. I'm going to break the rules and talk about money.

Why talk about money? As the experts say, it's important that organizations have a common understanding of finances, expectations and goals. While I'm sure as individuals we represent different approaches to thinking about money as a group, collectively, we all care about our synagogue, Kol Ha'Emek, the Upper Valley Jewish Community. Maintaining the financial well being of our UVJC is a critical imperative.

So where to start? How about with current finances – First it's important to clarify that the UVJC is a self-funding, financially independent organization. Although the UVJC has a long-term favorable lease with Dartmouth College (we pay rent monthly) we do not receive any outside financial support. Second, the money we raise from dues, tuition, and member and friend donations is the only money we have to spend. Your dues, tuitions, and donations make a HUGE difference. Your timely payments allow us to meet our payroll and pay our bills.

As for expectations and goals, the Board of Trustees, led by the Finance Committee, is working on a three-year budget and a five-year financial plan. The Sustainability Campaign funds are working as planned and are allowing us to be solvent as we adjust to paying for full-time staff. Longer term, we will need to continue to increase our membership (please invite your friends to join, word of mouth is our best advertising!), have dues keep pace with expense increases, and continue to rely on generous contributions from our members and friends.

As we turn to celebrate Passover, we recall the struggle for freedom and the story of the Exodus. What happens *after* we achieve freedom? The Israelites are tasked with crafting the first ever traveling sanctuary, the *mishkan*, as a place of gathering and worship. The unique aspect of this project is that it is to be completed only by including the resources from every single person at the level by which "their heart moves them." (Exodus 35-36) In fact, we learn that not only does this happen, but according to the Torah there was "more than enough." Moses, as it were, proclaimed, "Dayeinu!" and even had to request that the people give no more. Just imagine!?! When each of us is motivated by our hearts to support our spiritual house, then it can continue to flourish as our spiritual home.

With gratitude for your support of Kol Ha'Emek and best wishes for a happy Passover,

Debbe

WE JOYOUSLY WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

JULIA ASSUR
KAREN & TODD LEFKOE
LAUREN ROSEN

בית ספר HEBREW SCHOOL AND YOUTH HAPPENINGS

Greetings from the Hebrew School hallway,

In this issue, I would like to spotlight the Jew Crew program for teens. Many of our post-b'nai mitzvah students are involved in the Jew Crew, meeting twice a month (usually on Tuesday evenings) to do community service mitzvah projects, watch and discuss films of interest to Jews, do Israeli and Jewish cooking projects, and hang out with other Jews. The Crew is led by Talia Lorch '20, who also teaches in the Hebrew school and is currently the president of Dartmouth Hillel. The Crew's community service projects have included helping to erect the sukkah, making supper for visitors at the Listen Center, and helping run the Purim carnival for the Hebrew School. The cooking projects have featured funnel cakes (think oil!) on Hannukah with Rabbi, and competitions such as kugel vs. knishes and matzah ball soup vs. shakshouka. Last week the Crew watched *Crossing the Line* [more below] and discussed the thin line between being anti-Israel and being anti-Semitic. We are planning a trip to New York City in June, where we will be visiting Ellis Island, touring the Lower East Side eateries and synagogues, and hanging out with the youth group from B'nai Jeshurun, an unaffiliated (like us!) synagogue on the Upper West Side.

I would like more students to continue their Jewish education and development as members of the Kol Ha'Emek community. It's hard to make this choice, given the many other ways we can spend our time. But research shows that developing a strong positive ethnic identity can buffer young people against the challenges of dealing with discrimination. Most adults in our community have grown up in the unusual slice of history in which anti-Semitism was not a constant worry, but our youth are growing up in a world where that may no longer be the case.

Chag Purim Sameach and may you be showered with hamentaschen!

Melissa



Community Purim Celebration 3/10/2020



Community Purim Celebration 3/10/2020

CHAI FOR THE HIGH HOLIDAYS FUND THANKS:

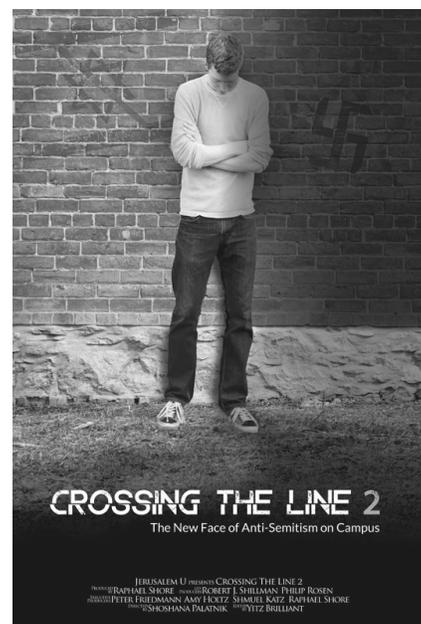
Holly Glick & Jonathan Frishtick
Patricia Glowa & Donald Kollisch
Michele & James King
Ellen Pollak & Nigel Paneth
Ellen & Daniel Rockmore
Jane & Daniel Solomon



DID YOU KNOW? You can enroll your child(ren) in PJ Library to receive free books each month, free music, and more! Learn how by visiting: <https://pjlibrary.org/>

CROSSING THE LINE is a documentary that reveals the rise of anti-Israel activity and anti-Semitic rhetoric on North American university campuses. <https://imaginationproductions.com/film-detail/crossing-the-line-2/>

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: We hope you like the new look of our quarterly newsletter, *The Jewish Connection*! After many years we felt it was time for a change. Please share your feedback with Chris (office@uvjc.org) or Kathy Parsonnet (kathy@fragletsart.com).



TALK OF THE SEASON: NEW THOUGHTS FOR YOUR PASSOVER SEDER

What will your Passover experience be like this year? Are you excited to revisit favorite traditions? Do you yearn for a new take? Will you be isolated far from loved ones? Whatever your starting point, we've gathered some unusual seder ideas to inspire you to connect with the holiday in a new way this year!

WILL YOU ASK A NEW QUESTION?

At some seders, the standard four questions are amplified with questions from those sitting around the table. In some families, the answers draw inspiration from current events. In some homes, conversations center around the lives of those present; in other homes, there are musings about traditions and *halachic* interpretations. What questions will take root at your table this year, and how can you encourage discussions that engage those around your table?

Try crowdsourcing! Before your seder begins, provide pens and index cards and invite everyone to write anonymous questions; collect these in a bowl and put them aside. At a designated time during the seder, read out (and discuss, as applicable) the submitted questions.

Pick a question, any question:

- What was Passover like when you were growing up, and who was at your table?
- What does freedom mean to you?
- What would you say is your current life's quest?
- If you could invite anyone to join the seder, who would it be and what do you hope they would contribute?
- Which symbol on the seder plate is most important?
- Are there ways that the health-related restrictions in place this year can also bring us freedom?
- What has changed and how have you grown since last Passover?

WILL YOU SET AN UNEXPECTED STAGE?

Talk in a tent! Welcome guests to their temporary home in the desert; instead of gathering around a table, toss piles of pillows on the floor, drape some sheets above, remove shoes and ties, and recline comfortably for a leisurely retelling of the Passover story.

Wander (literally)! Provide costumes, strap on personal belongings, and parade around to pre-set locations where different parts of the story can be told (or acted out).

Go virtual! If you can't physically be with your favorite seder crowd this year, try some of these ideas via group video chat!

WILL YOU FIND SOMETHING NEW IN AN OLD STORY?

Our Passover rituals can evolve over time—as we learn, as our families grow and change, when we get bored of the old or discover something new, when a seder occurs on a weekend instead of a school night, or as our relationship with Judaism ebbs and flows. Try an idea below, or one of your own, to find a new meaning in the story this year.

Engage with the four children. How can this sometimes troublesome part of the story be reimagined? Do the four sons describe four developmental stages of life? How do you define “wisdom”? Or “wickedness”? Is there another reading (such as the “four daughters”) that speaks to you?

Ask Rav Google. Research a part of the story that you usually gloss over. Do you know who the historic character of Rabbi Elazar ben Azariah was, and why it was “as though” he was 70 years old? Have you studied the heroism of the Egyptian midwives? Why, really, do we dip twice (karpas in salt water and maror in charoset)?



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

As for how we tell the story, we're encouraged not just to read but to engage, to dialogue, to expand, to challenge, to make the story come alive, and to ask questions (at least four). Tradition teaches us that this is “praiseworthy!” But more than this, we're invited not just to retell, but to relive the story, to take on an avatar as if we are an Israelite literally escaping the darkness and trauma of Egypt—all the while, making it relevant to us and to our times. That is, “In every generation each of us is responsible to see ourselves as though we too personally came out of Egypt.” (Mishnah Pesachim 10:5) Now, that's some story!

Happy Passover, *Rabbi Mark*



To avoid any scheduling confusion we are not including a calendar in this edition of the Connection as circumstances are changing rapidly due to the coronavirus.

We are exploring alternative ways to celebrate and gather. Please check your email regularly. You are always welcome to reach out to Rabbi Mark (rabbi@uvjc.org) or to call the UVJC office at (603-646-0460).

We will also keep the UVJC website (www.uvjc.org) up to date with current information.



Candle Lighting	Shabbat Ends
Friday, March 20, 6:44 pm	Saturday, March 21, 7:53 pm
Friday, March 27, 6:53 pm	Saturday, March 28, 8:02 pm
Friday, April 3, 7:01 pm	Saturday, April 4, 8:10 pm
Friday, April 10, 7:09 pm	Saturday, April 11, 8:19 pm
Friday, April 17, 7:18 pm	Saturday, April 18, 8:27 pm
Friday, April 24, 7:26 pm	Saturday, April 25, 8:35 pm

RECENT DONATIONS RECEIVED WITH GRATITUDE:

GENERAL FUND

Sue and Paul Etkind in appreciation of Bonnie Kimmelman's Eastman Shabbat Service

Xiahong Feng in appreciation of Rabbi Mark

Stephanie Gordon

Carol and David Greenfield in honor of UVJC Eastman and Roth Center Services

Deborah and Aaron Kaplan in memory of Lawrence Stec and Eugene Kaplan, their fathers

Michael Morton, thanking Rabbi Mark for visiting his father Tony Morton

Mountain Valley Treatment Center in honor of Rabbi Mark

Laura Rosenthal and Robert Schertzer in memory of Lawrence Stec and Eugene Kaplan, Deborah and Aaron Kaplan's fathers

Jill and John Schiffman in memory of Lawrence Stec and Eugene Kaplan, Deborah and Aaron Kaplan's fathers

Anne and Peter Silberfarb

Robert Sprafkin

RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND

Steven Bachner in honor of Bar Mitzvah of Oliver and Isaac Yukica

Brooke Blicher and Gered Dunne in honor of the birth of their son Asher Winter Blicher Dunne

Jeri and Craig Cohen in appreciation of the UVJC Shabbat Service at Eastman

Victoria and Reid Drucker in memory of William "Bill" Silverman

Xiahong Feng in memory of Eric Posmentier, her husband

Alan Green

Susan and Mark Israel in honor of Bill Brown, UVIP Micah Award Recipient

Deborah and Aaron Kaplan

Andrea and Richard Kremer in memory of their parents, Mary and Harold McCrensky & Amy and Leonard Kremer

Dianne and Gary Levine in memory of Lawrence Stec and Eugene Kaplan, Deborah and Aaron Kaplan's fathers

Arline and Barry Rotman in honor of their granddaughter Ayelet Rotman's upcoming marriage to Michael Weinstein in Jerusalem

Renee, Aaron, and Mike Snow in memory of Dr. Norman Snow, Renee's husband

Julie and Jonathan Weiss

SCHOOL PROGRAMMING FUND

Susan and Mark Israel in memory of Lawrence Stec and Eugene Kaplan, Deborah and Aaron Kaplan's fathers

Susan and Mark Israel in memory of Sydney Israel, Mark's father

Renee Snow and family in memory of Miriam Salzman, Renee's mother

YAHARZEIT CONTRIBUTIONS

Aila Conarck in memory of Albert Conarck, her father-in-law

Aila Conarck in memory of Sheila Conarck, her sister-in-law

Aila Conarck in memory of Jack Levy, her uncle

Barbara Brown in memory of Yetta Brown, her mother-in-law

Thomas Cochran in memory of Elieser Slomovic, his teacher

Susan Cohen in memory of Frances and Bernard Nemeroff, her parents

Vivian and Kenneth Dolkart in memory of Morris Dolkart, Kenneth's father

Harriet and Rick Fingerroth in memory of Murray M. Fingerroth, Rick's father

Gloria and Sydney Finkelstein in memory of Merle Corobow Gold, Gloria's mother

Gloria and Sydney Finkelstein in memory of Anna Finkelstein, Sydney's mother

Gloria and Sydney Finkelstein in memory of Lawrence Stec and Eugene Kaplan, Deb and Aaron Kaplan's fathers

Katie and Andy Friedland in memory of Sidney Friedland, Andy's father

Jane and Harvey Greenberg in memory of Richard Barry Greenberg, Harvey's brother

Jane and Harvey Greenberg in memory of Allan Woods, Jane's father

Robert Greene in memory of Susan Presberg Greene, his wife

Carolyn Gordon in memory of Lawrence Stec and Eugene Kaplan, Deb and Aaron Kaplan's fathers

Roberta "Bobbi" Gross in memory of Bob Gross and Linda Gross

Daniel Levin in memory of Jeanne Fond, his Grandmother

Dianne and Gary Levine in memory of Jonathan Harris, their brother-in-law

Dianne and Gary Levine in memory of Louis Pazornik, Dianne's grandfather

Dianne and Gary Levine in memory of Bertha Sholinsky and Ruth Levine, their mothers

Eric Levy and Laura Parker in memory of Selma Levy, Eric's grandmother

Monroe Mayer in memory of Joan Mayer, his wife

Monroe Mayer in memory of Leo Mayer, his father

Yoni and Stephen Neirman in memory of Daniel Stevens, Yoni's father

Bruce Pacht in memory of David Leibowitz, his step-grandfather

Diane Roston in memory of David Plaut, her husband

Diane Roston in memory of Martin Plaut, her father-in-law

Diane Roston in memory of Muriel Roston, her mother

Arline and Barry Rotman in memory of Lawrence Stec and Eugene Kaplan, Deb and Aaron Kaplan's fathers

Hilary Ryder and Matthew Henken in memory of Earl Henken, Matthew's father

Marlene and Rusty Sachs in memory of Ernest Sachs (Asher), Rusty's father

Marlene and Rusty Sachs in memory of Ernest Sachs (Esav), Rusty's grandfather

Marlene and Rusty Sachs in memory of Maisie Sachs, Rusty's grandmother

Jill and John Schiffman in memory of Saul Greenspan, Jill's father

Jill and John Schiffman in memory of Frances Schiffman, John's mother

Jill and John Schiffman in memory of Monroe Schiffman, John's father

Lynn and Gary Schwartz in memory of Ethel Schwartz, Gary's mother

Rhonda and Alan Siegel in memory of Elaine Newman, Alan's sister

Phyllis Whitney in memory of Arlene Zavod, her mother

תודה רבה
THANK YOU KINDLY FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

עידבורים

COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT: RUACH UPDATE

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Roberta Berner,
Laura Harris-Hirsch

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Kathy Parsonnet

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Thomas Cochran

FINANCE COMMITTEE

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KIDDUSH COORDINATOR

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Deborah Callaghan

RUACH COMMITTEE

Jeff Lubell

SECURITY COMMITTEE

Rob Greene

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Lynn Schwartz

*Committees are open to all
community members; we en-
courage you to get involved to
help shape our community!*

ROTH CENTER OFFICES

RABBI

Mark Melamut
rabbi@uvjc.org
603-646-0460

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Chris DePierro
office@uvjc.org
603-646-0460

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Melissa Herman
school@uvjc.org
603-646-3887

HILLEL ADMINISTRATOR

Claudia Palmer
Claudia.L.Palmer@dartmouth.edu
603-646-0410

Within the last two months, two new opportunities for spiritual engagement have been introduced at Kol Ha'Emek – the Upper Valley Jewish Community:

- The **Contemplative Service** is now being held monthly on the first Saturday morning of the month at 10 a.m. The Contemplative Service offers a slower pace and an opportunity to explore Jewish spirituality as it relates to Shabbat as a day of rest and renewal. The service generally includes meditation, prayer, chant, and one-on-one Torah study and is followed by a Kiddush.
- A **monthly Torah discussion** is now being held, generally on the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. (The next Torah discussion will take place on April 15 because the second Wednesday is Passover.) No experience or advance preparation is needed to participate in this discussion, which focuses on the weekly Torah portion. Lay leadership of the discussions is encouraged, so please let us know if you would like to lead a session.

For more information, contact Jeff Lubell, chair of the Ruach Committee, at jefflubell@yahoo.com.

About the Ruach Committee: Ruach means “spirit,” and the Ruach Committee’s charge is thus to encourage opportunities for spiritual engagement at Kol Ha’Emek.

תיקון עולם

COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITY FOR FAMILIES

The Kol Ha’Emek tot group is planning a gathering for young families this spring, during which we will create signs to label produce plantings in the volunteer garden run by the local non-profit Willing Hands. Please join us to participate in a meaningful craft project, eat snacks, and get to know other young Jewish families in the Upper Valley! Time and location details are still in development; if you would like to be kept in the loop (and are not yet on the Tot Shabbat mailing list), please email Amanda (silveramanda@gmail.com).

ARE YOU A KIDDUSH MENSCH?

Honor a birthday, graduation, anniversary, or yahrtzeit by hosting a kiddush. Too busy to host? Please consider a \$36 donation to sponsor a kiddush (we’ll take care of everything for you)!

YOUR TURN!

Have an idea for the Connection newsletter? A new section, a community poll question, or a special contribution? We want to hear from you! Submit ideas to office@uvjc.org.

TAKING PRECAUTIONS TO KEEP MEMBERS HEALTHY

We care about the health and wellbeing of all our members, and are keeping in touch with local, state, and national health experts to monitor developments regarding COVID-19. The UVJC will modify our policies regarding gatherings at the Roth Center accordingly. We are following the guidelines for Community and Faith-Based organizations set by the CDC, as well as those recommended by local health authorities. Please refer to the uvjc.org website for updates. We will also send email notices to our membership if there are changes in events.

We want to minimize the chances of exposure to respiratory viruses (e.g., COVID-19, Seasonal Flu) between people who may be infected with a virus and those who have not yet been exposed. Because not everyone knows which of those categories they are in, caution needs to be taken by everyone equally, at all times. In addition to the CDC's guidelines, this means:

- We suggest elbow bumps and waves in lieu of our customary handshakes and hugs.
- Please use the upstairs and downstairs restrooms for hand washing.
- If you are advised to self-quarantine, please do so.

To support best health practices at the Roth Center, we ask the following individuals to refrain from participating in worship services or events:

- Anyone who is ill.
- Anyone who has been in close contact with anyone who is ill or in quarantine.
- Anyone who within the past two weeks has traveled to areas where local coronavirus outbreaks have occurred.

We encourage you to review the CDC's recommendations and best practices to protect your health. Updated information can be found from links on the homepages of the CDC (www.cdc.gov) and DHMC (www.dhmc.org).



Community Hannukkah Celebration 12/22/2019

UVJC CEMETARY FUND THANKS:

Barbara Brown in memory of Joseph Halpern, her father

Jeri and Craig Cohen

Jane Lipson in memory of Margaret Susan Gotlieb, her sister

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

UPPER VALLEY JEWISH COMMUNITY CEMETERY

The UVJC owns and maintains its own cemetery for your comfort and service in times of need. We encourage our members to think about their future needs in advance. For more information, please call the office at 603-646-0460.

GIFT DESIGNATIONS

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

Adult Ed (guest speakers and other special adult programs)

Cemetery (landscaping and maintenance of our cemetery)

Endowment (to support the future of the community)

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

School/Teen Programming (programs outside of the curriculum)

MAZAL TOV, B'NAI MITZVAH!

RACHEL ROCKMORE | MARCH 28, 2020
Daughter of Ellen & Dan Rockmore

DREW KANTOR | MAY 9, 2020
Daughter of Kim & Stephen Kantor

KINNERET MELAMUT | MAY 30, 2020
Daughter of Mark Melamut & Hayley DeLugach

REEVE GREEN | JUNE 27, 2020
Son of Samantha Davidson & Jordan Green



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
March 2020 • Issue 78

**SECOND NIGHT
COMMUNITY SEDER
WITH RABBI MARK**

Thursday, APRIL 9 @ 6pm
[RSVP deadline March 25]

Join us as we recall our
time in Egypt with a Kosher
catered seder!

*Vegetarian and gluten free
options available.*

Members:
Adults \$40, Kids <10 \$18
Non-Members:
Adults \$50, Kids <10 \$20

RSVP via email office@uvjc.org,
phone (603-646-0460), or web.

*** SAVE THE DATE! ***

Concert for all ages with
Dan Nichols

"One of the most popular and influen-
tial Jewish musicians in North America
and in the Reform Movement."

Sunday, MAY 10 @ 11am
(Happy Mom's Day!)

The concert is FREE. Donations are
welcome to help cover the cost.

**Thank you to our
anonymous donors!**

**YOUR
TEXT
HERE**

Promote your business while
supporting our local Jewish
community! For more info,
please contact office@uvjc.org
or 603-646-0460.

GO DIGITAL!

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this newsletter digitally, please
contact office@uvjc.org

Current and past issues available:
uvjc.org/about/connection-newsletter

CAN'T GET ENOUGH?

Visit our website for the latest
news, cool resources, event
updates, and fun opportunities.

WWW.UVJC.ORG