



THE JEWISH CONNECTION

NOVEMBER 2021 • ISSUE 85

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

Towards the Light

If your family is anything like ours, this scene may seem familiar. Some of us like to turn on more lights when we're at home and others go around the house promptly turning off those very same lights. On or off, more heat or less, sour cream or applesauce. These are just a few examples of healthy family debates. This year's Festival of Lights begins on the Sunday evening of Thanksgiving weekend. As we brace ourselves for more darkness and coldness, Hanukkah falls just in time to bring more light and warmth into our lives. We welcome its light, as almost all living organisms are drawn towards light. It brings needed warmth and is a key factor in cultivating life. Light can help to ease sadness, overcome fear, and create a sense of peace. "Hanukkah, O Hanukkah, come light the menorah!"

Of course, healthy debate was sewn into the fabric of Jewish life even from the beginning, and included areas as seemingly trivial as how to light the candles. In the ancient Talmudic debate between Hillel and Shammai, we learn two different points of view. Do we begin with eight candles on the first night and count down (Shammai), or do we begin with one candle and add a candle each night (Hillel), as is our custom now? The question is not one of light or dark, as some light will shine each night. Rather, on a spectrum of light to dark, how do we best optimize Hanukkah's light and message? On the one hand, ending on night eight with just one candle symbolizes unity, the proverbial single light shining amongst the darkness. On the other hand, ending on night eight with eight candles truly maximizes the light. The multiple rays of light beckon us from near and far. Light beams flicker and shine in their full radiance. At the end of the debate we learn a powerful principle which sets the standard till today: "When it comes to matters of holiness, our practice is to increase rather than diminish (the light). In Hebrew, *Ma'alim bakodesh ve'ayn moridin.*"

Light is a well known symbol in our tradition going all the way back to the beginning. Out of the darkness of the beginning of time, G-d declares, "Let there be light!" Our prophets preach that we are to be a "light unto the nations." We light Shabbat candles each Friday night to bring an atmosphere of peace and calm into our homes. As for Hanukkah's light, it serves a different purpose and has a different place, literally. Hanukkah's lights function simply to "publicize the miracle" and are to be placed where they can be seen by those passing by our homes during the early evening. The light shines out of our windows to all. Of course, we can also place our candles, as many do, inside on the kitchen counter to create an inner glow. In our home we place candles both in the window and on the kitchen counter.

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GATHER TOGETHER

We are so excited to gather together—in person—again!

As we continue to prioritize everyone's health, we are planning a mix of in-person, outdoor distanced, and virtual gatherings. We'd love to hear your ideas for staying connected, too!

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

מורה שניא

COMMUNITY MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

VOLUNTEER BOARD OF TRUSTEES JULY 2021 - JUNE 2022

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Board of Trustee officers are elected during the Annual Meeting, typically held each year in June. If you are interested in serving on the Board, please contact president@uvjc.org. Committees (see pg 6) are open to all community members; we encourage you to get involved to help shape our programs, offerings, values, opportunities, and goals! Chairs can be contacted with questions about each committee's work.

As I write this, we are three-quarters of our way through a rare event in our history, what I (cheekily) termed a Quadrathalon: four B'nai Mitzvot in four successive weeks. Sport competitions include biathalons, pentathalons, and decathalons. This Quadrathalon is like a rabbinic and organizational marathon race combining physical with emotional strength and endurance with planning and logistical flexibility. I have also been observing four different Religious School students and families putting their "all" into their studies and practice as they strive to be ready for their day. They are all giving us great reasons for being proud of them and their training.

I am observing this as we begin the Hanukkah festival. You know the story. The Greek rulers wanted to destroy Israel and Judaism by defiling the Temple and outlawing Jewish religious observance. A priest, Mattathias Maccabee and his five sons led a rebellion that, amazingly, defeated the western world's greatest military power of that time. When the Israelites re-entered the Temple to re-dedicate it, they saw only one container of oil, which could keep the flames going for one day. It would take eight days to create more oil. Amazingly, the one container of oil kept the flame alive for eight days. After the military victory, this was the second miracle of Hanukkah.

Way back when, Judaism was saved by earthly military prowess and perhaps divine intervention. Today, the UVJC focuses on our continuity via programming for our youngest members (the tots and preschool-aged children) and their parents, followed by religious school education and training. This is designed to be only the beginning of life-long learning and observance. My experience elsewhere, unfortunately, is that it is not unusual for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah to see the event as the culmination of religious training rather than the first step of life-long learning. The UVJC offers post-b'nai mitzvah students opportunities to continue into the teen years via "Jew Crew" activities and/or by becoming teacher's aides or even teachers in the religious school.

The next generation is our collective Ha-Tikvah (our Hope): our hope that they will recognize that their religious school lessons touch just the surface of thousands of years of collected and collective wisdom regarding personal and communal values, how to conduct oneself in private and public settings, what it means to live a meaningful life, and how the concept of Life may extend beyond the corporeal to the Infinite. The next generation will learn soon enough that the Torah and texts are just part of their guidance. As we epidemiologists are fond of saying, these are Necessary Causes but not Sufficient Causes. Our children and grandchildren will take note of the examples set by their families, their friends, their colleagues, and all whom they encounter in their Life's journeys.

The historical story and observance of Hanukkah is enjoyed at this time of the year, but the Hanukkah message of communal continuity and preservation is a year-round lesson that is not limited to the November/December period. Our current Quadrathalon is perhaps a more extreme reminder of our ever-present Hope and a reminder of what it takes to keep that flame lit.

Paul

בית ספר

HEBREW SCHOOL AND YOUTH HAPPENINGS

My story in this edition of The Connection is about people in our congregation who participate in Jewish summer camps. Summer camps help youth build a positive Jewish identity, create lifelong friendships, and develop skills to be leaders in the community. Many in our congregation attend Jewish summer camps, a few have worked at them, and all have had great experiences:

Shayna Rockmore attended Camp Ramah New England: “Jewish camp is an experience like none other. When you arrive at camp, you are immediately connected to every single person there, as you all have one vital thing in common: Judaism. As you grow older, you also share your love of camp, which is fostered through fun and engaging activities. The community you form at camp will carry you through everyday, even if that community isn’t able to physically be with you every day. Jewish camp has made me the person I am today, and I am so grateful for it.”

Alex Rockmore attended Camp Ramah New England: “I am my best self at Ramah. It has given me my best friends and my greatest memories. It is a place where community, connection, and love all come together. These are the things that bring me joy.”

Sam (and Josh) Bagatell attended Camp Ramah New England: “Going to a Jewish camp is awesome. It’s like a normal camp but you can practice religion with a bunch of friends your age who share a lot of your experiences. There is also Shabbat and everything is kosher. You continue to learn and progress as a Jewish person as well. Definitely recommend.”

Evei Pilchik attended Eden Village Camp in Putnam Valley, NY: “Camp was very fun. I learned so many new things: how to make friendship bracelets, play the ukulele, new Jewish songs and prayers. Each bunk and tribe are named after famous Jewish people or things. At every meal we say a blessing before and after we eat. On Friday nights and Saturday mornings, we wear white. At night time, we say a blessing before we sleep. I will definitely go back next year.”

Pam Hausler worked as a nurse at Crane Lake in Great Barrington, MA

Hannah and Molly Cook and their mother Terri Cook worked at Eisner Camp in Great Barrington, MA

Kinneret (and Geffen) Melamut attended Camp Havaya in South Sterling, PA: “I love being with people that I know I can relate to even if we don’t live in the same area. I love having a connection that’s more than just friends who agree with me. It’s a community. The first year I went there I didn’t feel super connected to anything because I had just moved to Vermont from California. I met my best friend in the world there! All year when I’m at home, I can’t wait to go back to my community that I love so much. My dad is still friends with his friends from Jewish sleepaway camp. The connection of being Jewish makes it so much easier to get along with new people.”

Beckett Sobel attended Step-It-Up Camp in Trenton, NJ: “Step-it-Up is an orthodox Jewish basketball camp for serious athletes. It was an interesting opportunity to be around kids who are much more observant—and into basketball. Most of the campers are *shomer shabbas* and daven every day. Attending made me more knowledgeable about Judaism. I know why Jews do certain things and understand how more observant people live. I was one of the few non-orthodox campers. Most were from modern orthodox families all over the east coast and a good number of Israelis. I learned a bunch of Hebrew!”

Melissa



Evei Pilchik makes challah at Eden Village Camp



Shayna Rockmore at Camp Ramah New England

Website links for all camps mentioned here can be found on page 7 of this newsletter.

שיחת העונה

TALK OF THE SEASON: GLUTEN-FREE CHALLAH RECIPE; UVJC & HILLEL

GLUTEN FREE CHALLAH RECIPE

from Sue Etkind

This recipe requires a challah mold (I use the “Perfect Braid Royal Challah Silicone pan” from www.TheKosherCook.com). Because this recipe has no gluten, the dough will rise, but it does not have the consistency to be able to braid, so the mold is the solution.

Ingredients:

- 2 c rice flour
- 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ c tapioca flour
- $\frac{1}{4}$ c sugar
- 2 tsp sugar
- 3 tsp xantham gum
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp salt
- $\frac{2}{3}$ c lukewarm water
- 1 c lukewarm water
- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ TBSP yeast
- 4 TBSP melted butter

- 1 tsp apple cider vinegar
- 4 eggs (room temperature) and 1 beaten egg for the finish
- Sesame seeds (optional)

Directions:

In mixer, combine the flours, $\frac{1}{4}$ c sugar, xantham gum, and salt.

In a one cup measuring cup, dissolve the 2 tsp sugar in the $\frac{2}{3}$ c lukewarm water and mix in yeast.

In a separate bowl, combine the melted butter with the additional 1 c lukewarm water and vinegar.

With mixer on low speed, blend dry ingredients. Slowly add butter/water/vinegar mixture. Blend in eggs, 1 at a time. The dough should feel slightly warm. Pour yeast mixture into the ingredients in the mixing bowl and beat at highest speed for 2 minutes.

Place the bowl in a warm spot (I use the warm setting on the oven), cover with greased plastic wrap and a towel, and let rise for approximately 1 hour.

Return the dough to the mixer and beat on high for 3 minutes.

Spoon the dough into the greased challah mold. Let rise until the top of the bread is about 1 inch from edge (20-40 minutes). Preheat the oven to 375 degrees.

Bake for 20 minutes, then remove from the oven and invert the challah onto a cookie sheet. Brush with beaten egg for a glossy finish (and sprinkle on sesame seeds if desired). Return to the oven for 10-15 minutes.

Let it cool and then enjoy the moist, flavorful bread. It also makes wonderful French toast!

The UVJC and Hillel: Old Friends in a Renewed Relationship



Rabbi Mark and Juli Goodman build the sukkah with UVJC members

With the recent separation of Hillel and Dartmouth, the Dartmouth Hillel chapter is now independent of Dartmouth College and joins the UVJC as a joint tenant in the Roth Center. The two leadership teams formally met for the first time as a newly constituted Joint Building Planning Committee (“JBPC”). The JBPC is a formal mechanism to assure that scheduling and building use plans are as seamless as possible. Representing Hillel was Rabbi Seth Linfield, Juli Goodman (Director), and Claudia Palmer (Office Manager). Rabbi Mark, Paul Etkind and Chris DePiero represented the UVJC. While the by-laws state that there must be a student representative on the committee, the semester only recently began, and that individual will be identified soon.

Claudia Palmer provided us some historical context regarding the work of the JBPC.

We discussed the size and composition of this committee. We agreed to begin with monthly meetings, but that many items could probably be handled through Claudia and Chris. The first item agreed upon was that they will establish a joint calendar to avoid scheduling conflicts. There has been an informal historical understanding that Hillel “has” the building on Friday nights and UVJC “has” the building on Sunday morning. This has worked well for years and we agreed there is no need to formalize this.

Other topics discussed related to labeling food in the refrigerator. Anything unlabeled is leftovers/up for grabs. Hillel also expressed their intention to share the costs of the Sukkah and the new TV monitor with UVJC. Future joint purchases will be discussed in advance. We will also begin a discussion about the role of the Koreman Library and how the library can best serve the needs of both groups.

**DONATIONS (THRU 11/5/21)
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Cohen a speedy recovery
Roger Feldman
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Rabbi Mark's visit
Ellen H. Helijas in memory of Hans
and Frances Heuduska
Ellen Hubbell
Rebecca Ivry
Tamar Kummel
Ann Mortimore
Eileen Shaevel

Renee Snow in memory of Marion
Snow, mother of the late Dr. Norman
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Dorothy and Joseph Tofel
Mort Wise in Honor of Rabbi Mark
Mort Wise in Honor of Bonnie
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UVJC CEMETERY FUND

Barbara Brown in memory of Sarah
Halpern, her mother
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Lipson, her father

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Jenny Barba and Christopher Coughlin
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**תודה רבה
THANK YOU KINDLY FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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עזרה בנייה בביתנו

COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT: UVJC CEMETERY

Co-Chairs: Devora and Bob Gronauer

The Cemetery Committee meets regularly several times a year and on an as-needed basis. Committee members have a long-standing history of knowledge about the site and its history.

Devora and Bob are relative newcomers to the job and appreciate any and all input.

The Committee's last meeting was through Zoom, during which several important items were brought up. The price structure for plots was discussed, and is in keeping with like prices in the area. One important change was made in raising the price for a non-member plot, given that we only have a finite number of spaces and would like them to be available to members. That being said, our most important bit of business is pinning (in other words, having it marked out) the rest of the cemetery. This is done by hiring a licensed surveyor with expertise in this area. The UVJC's Cemetery Fund will cover this cost.

We are now happy to announce that all graves in our cemetery are documented on Findagrave.com. This is important for genealogy purposes, as well as having a reference for gravestone condition as of the date they were photographed. We are constantly keeping an eye on stone conditions for staining and lichen and mold growth, as well as damage due to shifting or vandalism.

Should anyone be interested in purchasing a plot, please contact the UVJC office for pricing and a map of availability.

If you have not visited our cemetery please do so! It is peaceful and has a few benches to sit and reflect.

Baruch dayan ha'emet. May their memory be for a blessing.

UPPER VALLEY JEWISH COMMUNITY CEMETERY

The UVJC owns and maintains our 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 or email office@uvjc.org.

תקוות הבאים בביתנו

WE JOYOUSLY WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

MAURISSA ABECASSIS ◦ SHANI & DAVID BARDACH ◦ EVAN & AMY COHN

JERROLD GOLDSTEIN ◦ ERICA & MARC HILLER

JOSLYN MEIER & NIR JACOBY ◦ EMILY & ANDY MEYER ◦ PAULA PAVEL

KELLY & HAL PIKUS ◦ ROBERT & CAROLE SALSBERG

Eastern European Literature Seminar

Taught by Ainsley Morse & Peter Orner

Wednesday evenings @ 7:30-9:00PM

December 22, 2021 & January 19, 2022

Via Zoom (link sent out with registration)

The literature of Eastern Europe has a well-deserved reputation for melancholic brilliance, wry wisdom, and a highly (overly?) developed sense of the absurdity and ironies encountered in everyday life (especially when the everyday involves

the regular redrawing of borderlines, catastrophic shifts of imperial power, and other inconveniences). In this seminar we will read novels and short stories from the former Yugoslavia, former Czechoslovakia, the former Soviet Union [or formerly divided Germany] and amazingly intact Poland (by Danilo Kiš, Bohumil Hrabal, Ingeborg Bachmann/Ludmilla Petrushevskaya and Bruno Schulz).

To sign up for this seminar please contact office@uwjc.org

[JEWISH SUMMER CAMPS continued from pg 3]

Find out more about the camps our members love:

Camp Ramah New England: campramahne.org
Eden Village Camp: edenvillagecamp.org
Crane Lake: cranelakecamp.org
Eisner Camp: eisnercamp.org
Camp Havaya: camphavaya.org
Step-It-Up Camp: timetostepitup.com

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

The lights of Hanukkah publicize the miracles of the past, of the few over the many, of religious expression and freedom over tyranny, and of the little bit of oil which lasted beyond belief.

Beyond gift giving and delicious foods, Hanukkah draws us all towards the light. It's ultimately about presence, as we gather together in person or over Zoom with a menorah, sing a blessing, light the candles, and perhaps ignite some good conversation too. In cultivating a presence of body and mind, perhaps you might consider a few table prompts this year. These can be for self-reflection or shared with others over the eight nights. How have you experienced "the few over the many" from last Hanukkah to now? Where have you found unexpected resilience and courage? Think and share about a time when you thought your "oil" or energy couldn't possibly last another day, and yet against all odds you persevered? What are the miracles of your daily life?

This Hanukkah may we, our families, our community, and all people everywhere continue to expand our collective light, to increase in holiness, and to grow towards the light of life.

Rabbi Mark

[DONATIONS continued from pg 5]

Yahrzeit Contributions

Thomas Cochran in memory of Eva Weissberger, Betty Lauer's sister

Aila Conarck in memory of Ann Yanover, her mother

Aila Conarck in memory of Irving Yanover, her father

Bayle and Richard Drubel in memory of Leon Weiner, Bayle's father

Sue and Paul Etkind in memory of Herbert Etkind, Paul's father

Harriet and Rick Fingerroth in memory of Grace Fingerroth, Rick's mother

Janet Goldberger in memory of Estelle Diamond, her mother

Deborah and Aaron Kaplan in memory of Eugene Kaplan, Aaron's father

Deborah and Aaron Kaplan in memory of Lawrence Stec, Deborah's father

Deborah and Aaron Kaplan in memory of Susan Zegans, mother of Michael Zegans

Joanne and Roger Lenke in honor of Eleanor C. Nemes. Joanne's mother

Joanne and Roger Lenke in memory of Helen R. Lenke, Roger's mother

Daniel Levin in memory of Israel Fond, his grandfather

Daniel Levin in memory of Ida Levin, his grandmother

Dianne and Gary Levine in memory of Abraham Rosenberg and Max Levine, Gary's grandfathers

Bruce Pacht in memory of Jeanette Pacht, his mother

Sharon and Robert Racusin in memory of Shirley Racusin, Robert's mother

Virginia and Ellis Rolett in memory of Geraldine Vladimir, Virginia's mother

Diane Roston and Eric Arnold in memory of Sidney Roston, Diane's father

Diane Roston and Eric Arnold in memory of Esther Shlachter Arnold, Eric's mother

Marlene and Rusty Sachs in memory of Chris Sachs, Rusty's brother

Sharon and Jerome Smith in memory of David Smith, their son

Sharon and Jerome Smith in memory of Isadore Greenberg, Sharon's father

Renee Vebell and Jeffrey Cohen in memory of Abe Cohen, Jeffrey's father



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
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HANUKKAH YOGA

Led by Samantha Davidson Green
11/29 through 12/5 @ 6:00-6:45PM
Via Zoom (office@uvjc.org for link)

For 8 nights of Hanukkah, you are invited to a nightly 45-min yoga practice, kindling our candles and inner lights to shine to the world beyond!

Practices will be mixed level, adaptable for first-time or long-time yogis, and require no special equipment. Each night will explore connections between one of yoga's eight yamas and niyamas (ethical practices) and Chanukah's spiritual and ethical concepts.

No fee, but donations to non-profit organizations working to illuminate and repair the world encouraged.

1st Night Community Candle Lighting

UVJC joins Chabad on the Dartmouth Green

Sunday, November 28 @ 5:00PM

8th Night Community Candle Lighting and Songs

Led by Rabbi Mark, Melissa Herman
Sunday, December 5 @ 5:00PM

Join in-person or via Zoom

B.Y.O.M. (menorah & candles)

(Zoom link provided in weekly email update or contact office@uvjc.org)

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)

High Holiday Appeal (sustaining ongoing Jewish life in our community)

Library (for purchase of books or other library materials)

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

School Programming (special programs outside of the curriculum)