



קשר

THE JEWISH CONNECTION

JUNE 2022 • ISSUE 87

דבר הרב

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

Where Does the Time Go?

It's summertime and the Upper Valley is lush again. Maybe it was the constant pivoting around Covid, the feeling of a long winter, the *tzures* and hardship in our country and around the world, or personally, the loss of my dear father, but this past year has left behind quite a fog. For me, the fog feels like it's finally lifting a bit, and I hope that this is a feeling shared among others. What a *m'hayyeh* and life-returning feeling it is to see, hear, and feel the deep vibrations shared by all things returning to life and growing again! At this moment, I take a deep breath. It's a new season.

The fog lifts not all at once but in its own time, as the sun breaks through with its rays of brightness and waves of warmth. With tears welling up, I recently concluded my first year in the cycle of grief. While the sun shines and things burst into life again, there's so much more that's still waiting to be transformed into healing and growth. We each have our own moments. Mine came as I tried to mutter that phrase from the final Kaddish recitation marking a full year of *yahrtzeit*. I just couldn't quite get the words to come out. "*Y'hei shlamah raba min shamaya v'hayyim aleinu v'al kol yisrael*. May there be abundant peace from Above and life upon us, our people and all people." While it's certainly been a time to mourn, it's also been a time to be grateful. In affirming this at one and the same time, my lips moved but the words didn't come out. This is a time to deeply appreciate each and every moment of life's blessing, despite it all. Holding all of this, loss and life, together in its fullness—*that's what it's all about*.

The well-known lines from Ecclesiastes come to mind: "A season is set for everything, a time for every experience under heaven; a time for being born and for dying, a time for planting and for uprooting; a time for hurting and for healing, a time for tearing down and for building up; a time for weeping and for laughing, a time for wailing and for dancing." (3:1-4) These lines are often recited at funerals in order to set our time of grief in context within the larger picture of life. I continue to find them consoling, especially knowing that each experience is part of a larger whole, and that each really does have its own time. The challenge, though, is that life seems much more fluid and "the times" constantly collide into one another. They often rush in all at once without much chance to catch our breath.

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ביתך

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ביתך

GATHER TOGETHER

Sunday, AUGUST 21 @ 12pm
Summer Picnic

As we continue to prioritize everyone's health, we are planning a mix of in-person and virtual gatherings for the months ahead.

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

**VOLUNTEER
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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.

מורה שניא COMMUNITY MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Imperative to Count

I am writing this during the period of Counting the Omer. This is the time between the first full day of freedom from Egypt (marked by the Second Seder) and the giving of the Torah (marked by Shavuot). Not only is this seven-week period marked religiously, but it is also marked agriculturally as the time between the first planting and the first harvest (see the symbolic parallels?). This is also the run-up to our Annual UVJC Congregational Meeting, in which we review the past year and “set the table” for the coming year. In a sense, this is our 5782 “harvest” and the initial “planting” of 5783.

A brief review of FY 5782 highlights reveals the following:

- 1. The challenges of Covid:** Responding like an old-style pin-ball game, we bounced between in-person, virtual, and hybrid services, classes, and meetings; mask mandates; vaccine mandates; indoor / outdoor classes; staggered and uniform school class times; a locked and “unlocked” building; you name it, we tried it, and rolled with the punches. A huge note of thanks to our ad hoc Health Advisory Committee and the Board of Trustees who helped to navigate this. Another huge note of thanks goes to the Congregation—as divisive as COVID has been, differences of opinion (of which there were a few) were handled with respect and civility on both sides.
- 2. Number of membership households:** reached a high of 209
- 3. New members joining / number of members leaving:** 23 / 15, a net of 8 (think of this when I refer to the importance of retaining members)
- 4. Number of children enrolled in the high school:** 59
- 5. Number of B’nai Mitzvah in 5782:** 5
- 6. Number of B’nai Mitzvah expected in 5783:** 16
- 7. Monthly meetings** with the new Hillel leadership on sharing the building.
- 8. Israel / Palestine Conflict Study Group:** Guided by the Planning Group of Jeffrey Bell, Paul Etkind, Judith Hertog, Jeffrey Lubell, Rabbi Mark, Gil Raz, and Diane Roston, an initial lecture provided background demographics, maps, politics, and timelines of Israel's establishment. This was followed by five speakers from different points on the political spectrum giving their views on what it would take to resolve the conflict. The final session was a wrap-up by the registrants. Jeff Lubell and Diane Roston provided superb moderation of each learning session.

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WE JOYOUSLY WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

STEPHANIE LOZITO & ANDREW NYMAN

בית ספר HEBREW SCHOOL AND YOUTH HAPPENINGS

Hello from the Hebrew School Hallway,

What a year we've had! With nearly 60 students enrolled and a great crop of teachers and madrichim, we started off the year schlepping tables and chairs outside for every class to protect the unvaccinated kids. By the last day of school, we were mask-optional and offering a Ukrainian lunch prepared by Kitah Gadol (grades 6 and 7) as a mitzvah project to raise money for Ukrainian children. The lunch menu included pierogis, borscht, horseradish sour cream (a tangy Eastern European condiment), Ukrainian salad, fresh lemonade, and cookies. Parents, students, and teachers all enjoyed the lunch and made such generous donations that we were able to send \$500 to HIAS, a Jewish charity that helps refugees and immigrants.

This year we had 6 teachers, 5 full time madrichim, 4 substitute madrichim, and 18 students in the b'nai mitzvah class that will celebrate its simchas all year long in a "b'mitzvahpalooza." Rabbi Mark and I are planning for the *balagan* that will ensue.

We recently honored six high school class of 2022 students who are heading off to the next chapter of their lives. I am delighted that, of the six, four have been teachers in the Hebrew School and two will continue on doing that since they have committed to attending Dartmouth! With their families, they contributed to one of the highest turnouts in recent memory for Friday night services. We were lucky to be included in the Hillel dinner. Thank you to Hillel Rabbi Seth, Juli Goodman, and our dual-duty Jewish leader Grace Dean who is current president of Hillel, bat mitzvah tutor, and teacher of Kitah Gadol!

Have a great summer and don't forget to register for Hebrew school on the UVJC website!

Melissa



Ukrainian lunch prepared by Kitah Gadol, which raised \$500 to support Ukrainian children.



Congratulations, 2022 high school graduates!

HORSERADISH CREAM

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 TBSP fresh grated horseradish
- 1 TBSP lemon juice
- ½ tsp salt
- pinch of granulated sugar
- 1 cup thick sour cream (or crème fraîche)
- dill, parsley, tarragon, and chives, for garnish

DIRECTIONS:

Put horseradish, lemon juice, salt, and sugar in a small bowl. Let macerate 5 minutes, then stir in sour cream.

Adapted from NYT Cooking

For borscht recipe:
cooking.nytimes.com/recipes/1019972-vegetarian-red-borscht

For pierogi recipe:
cooking.nytimes.com/recipes/1020983-pierogi-ruskie-potato-and-cheese-pierogi

HEBREW SCHOOL REGISTRATION:

<https://www.uvjc.org/hebrew-school-registration-form/>

שיחת השנה

TALK OF THE SEASON: CHANGING HABITS, CHANGING THE WORLD

JOIN THE PLASTIC-FREE JULY CHALLENGE!

We invite you to join others in the UVJC, the local community, and the global community in the **Plastic-Free (or Plastic-Reduced) July Challenge**. Participate at whatever level feels appropriate for you—for a week, the full month, or from now on—and by whatever means works for you. For some, that might mean reducing the “big four” (plastic bags, straws, bottles, and coffee cups) or reducing single-use plastics; if you are feeling extra ambitious, you can attempt the Herculean task of going completely plastic-free! Whatever acts you choose to take will be wonderful contributions to *tikkun olam* (repairing the world).

While each of us individually challenges ourselves to reduce plastic, **the UVJC is pledging not to use any plastic plates or cups for any Kiddush in 5783! Kol hakavod!**

WHY TAKE THE CHALLENGE?

I'm sure you've heard many of the horrors that plastic is wreaking on marine life, but did you know that virtually **every living creature on earth, including each of us, is constantly ingesting microplastics from our food and from the air we breathe?** Plastic does not biodegrade; instead, it eventually breaks down into microscopic microplastics that can move into tissues and organs. In fact, it is estimated that a typical person may be ingesting the amount of plastic in a credit card each week!

We are asking you to **complete a brief survey** indicating your interest and ideas for reducing your plastic use in July. In the survey, those who want may request an **invitation to join a UVJC EcoChallenge team**, where we will enjoy some friendly competition and inspiration as we all work towards making small shifts in our use of plastics.

The survey can be submitted anonymously, if desired, and all questions are optional, so **even if you would like to participate privately or aren't sure what ideas you'll try to implement, we hope you will still register through the survey.** Your participation—anonymous or not—will be counted and help to inspire others!

Watch the Weekly Update and UVJC website for more opportunities to engage with the Challenge and additional resources. You can also visit plasticfree.ecochallenge.org or plasticfreejuly.org for ideas and info about reducing plastic.

The more, the merrier, so please ask your friends, family, and colleagues to join in too! We encourage everyone to take the challenge for your health and the health of the planet!

If you're ready to **jump right in**, you can fill out the Challenge Survey at: <https://forms.gle/BDNtxT5rA3aJ1mEb6>

Plastic-Free July is one part of the UVJC Social Action Committee's new environmental initiative. Stay tuned for announcements of more exciting events and initiatives, coming soon! If you'd like to join in the planning or have any questions, please contact UVJCSocAction@gmail.com

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

The late Israeli poet Yehudah Amichai highlights this tension and gets at that “all at once” feeling in this excerpt from *A Man in His Life*: “A man doesn't have time in his life to have time for everything. He doesn't have seasons enough to have a season for every purpose. Ecclesiastes was wrong about that. A man needs to love and to hate at the same moment, to laugh and cry with the same eyes, with the same hands to throw stones and to gather them, to make love in war and war in love. And to hate and forgive and remember and forget, to arrange and confuse, to eat and to digest what history takes years and years to do...”

I pray that we may all have time and “seasons enough” for our purpose this summer. Life is fluid. Community can be a life raft that keeps us afloat and helps us to keep up with its flow. May peace and life invigorate our journey in the coming days. May G-d guard our going out and our returning home.

Rabbi Mark

**DONATIONS (THRU 6/2/22)
RECEIVED WITH GRATITUDE:**

ADULT EDUCATION FUND

Gloria and Sydney Finkelstein in honor of Rachel Barenbaum's new book

Gloria and Sydney Finkelstein in honor of Betty Lauer's birthday

Gloria and Sydney Finkelstein in honor of Melissa Herman's recovery from surgery

Janet Goldberger in appreciation of the UVJC Soup Group (Caring and Chesed)

Susan and Mark Israel in memory of Julius Lustgarten, Susan's father

Susan and Mark Israel in memory of Edwin Lustgarten, Susan's brother

Maureen and Arthur Rosen in honor of the birth of Sue and Paul Etkind's grandson, Jack Edwin Braese

Nancie and Mark Severs in memory of Virginia "Ginny" Rolett

Nancie and Mark Severs in honor of Sam Zucker leading Minyan services

GENERAL FUND

Richard Abel and Roberta Berner in memory of Virginia "Ginny" Rolett

Judith and James Bernat in memory of Virginia "Ginny" Rolett

Fay Bronstein in honor of Sue and Paul Etkind's new grandson, Jack Edwin Braese

Susan Cohen in memory of Virginia "Ginny" Rolett

Bayle and Richard Drubel in honor of Debbe Callaghan

Sue and Paul Etkind in thanks to Rabbi Mark for the Eastman Service on May 6, 2022

Sue and Paul Etkind in appreciation for Eastman Shabbat Services

Sue and Paul Etkind in memory of Virginia "Ginny" Rolett

Sue and Paul Etkind in memory of Bob Sachs, brother of Rusty Sachs

Leslie and Sanford DeLugach in honor of Rabbi Mark and Hayley DeLugach

Gloria and Sydney Finkelstein in honor of Rabbi Mark, Chris, and UVJC volunteers

Gloria and Sydney Finkelstein in memory of Esther Hirshfield, mother of Lori Hirshfield

Gloria and Sydney Finkelstein in memory of Virginia "Ginny" Rolett

Janice and Bill Fischel in memory of Virginia "Ginny" Rolett

Susan and Mark Israel in memory of Julius Lustgarten, Susan's father

Susan and Mark Israel in memory of Edwin Lustgarten, Susan's brother

Yoni and Stephen Neirman in memory of Virginia "Ginny" Rolett

Yoni and Stephen Neirman in memory of Bob Sachs, brother of Rusty Sachs

Nancie and Mark Severs in honor of Jeff Lubell's dedication and "lay" spiritual leadership

Rhonda and Alan Siegel in memory of June Siegel, Alan's mother

Sharon and Jerome Smith
Granite State United Way

RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND

Robert Braitman and Bonnie Gordon

Ellis Rolett in memory of Virginia "Ginny" Rolett, his wife

Arline Rotman in memory of Marion Schwartz, her mother

Lynn and Gary Schwartz in memory of Ellen and Benjamin Farkas, Lynn's parents

Susan Simon and Liam McCarthy in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son Zachary

Renee Snow in memory of Salman J. Salzman, her father

Barry Wenig in honor of the Yahrzeit of his father, Edward Wenig

SCHOOL PROGRAMMING FUND

Gloria and Sydney Finkelstein in honor of the Kleinbaum children's B'nai Mitzvah

Nancie and Mark Severs in honor of the birth of Gabrielle Celeste Cohen, daughter of Brenden & Jessica Cohen, granddaughter of Jeri & Craig Cohen

SOCIAL ACTION / TZEDAKAH FUND

Lori Hirshfield and Kris Garnjost in memory of Esther Hirshfield, Lori's mother

UVJC CEMETERY FUND

Ellis Rolett in memory of Bob Sachs, brother of Rusty Sachs

Yahrzeit Contributions

Marjorie Aptakin in memory of Peter Aptakin, her husband

Robert Braitman and Bonnie Gordon in memory of Claire Braitman, Robert's mother

Robert Greene in memory of Sonya Presberg, his mother-in-law

Harriet and Rick Fingeroth in memory of Norma Rifkin, Harriet's mother

Harriet and Rick Fingeroth in memory of Samuel Rifkin, Harriet's father

Gloria and Sydney Finkelstein in memory of Peter Corobow, Gloria's uncle

Gloria and Sydney Finkelstein in memory of Harry "Skippy" Gold, Gloria's father

Gloria and Sydney Finkelstein in memory of Jacqui Gold, Gloria's niece

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

Carolyn Gordon and David Webb in memory of David Leonard Gordon, Carolyn's father

Jane and Harvey Greenberg in memory of Muriel Woods, Jane's mother

Karen Fryer and Gene Kadish in memory of Milton Walter Kadish, Gene's father

Beth Kanell in memory of David Kanell, her husband

Andrea and Richard Kremer in memory of Sonia Abrams, mother of Walter & Alice Abrams

Daniel Levin in memory of Annette Levin, his mother

Daniel Levin in memory of Benjamin Levin, his father

Daniel Levin in memory of Isadore Levin, his grandfather

Dianne and Gary Levine in memory of Jacob Levine, Gary's father

[continued on pg 6...]

תודה רבה
THANK YOU KINDLY FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

עזרה COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT: ANNUAL MEETING

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Peter Orner, Fred Lerner

CARING & CHESED COMMITTEE

Roberta Berner,
Yoni Neirman

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Devora & Robert Gronauer

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COMMITTEE

Kathy Parsonnet

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Deborah Callaghan

RUACH COMMITTEE

Jeff Lubell

SECURITY COMMITTEE

Rob Greene

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Alice Berliner

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5782 Annual Meeting Recap

On Sunday, June 12 the UVJC held its Annual Meeting for 5782. Rabbi Mark provided words of intention comparing the work of the Biblical Priests and Levites with that of the rabbinic and lay leaderships of synagogues today.

Paul Etkind provided an accounting of the activities and issues of 5782, as well as a look at the proposed priorities of 5783.

Two people, Lori Siegal and Monte Blaustein, were elected to fill vacancies in the Board of Trustees. The current Executive Board (Paul Etkind, President; Roberta Berner and Deb Hoffer, Vice Presidents; Kathy Parsonnet, Secretary; Rob Greene, Treasurer; and Debbe Callaghan, Immediate past President) were re-elected to serve another year.

A modest dues increase was approved, as was the proposed budget for 5783.

Paul Etkind expressed his thanks for the passion and devotion of so many people that make congregational life as vibrant and fulfilling as it is.

WISHING EVERYONE A SAFE, HEALTHY, AND JOYFUL SUMMER!

[DONATIONS continued from pg 5]

Dianne and Gary Levine in memory of Adele Pazornik, Dianne's grandmother

Dianne and Gary Levine in memory of Virginia "Ginny" Rolett

Dianne and Gary Levine in memory of Julius Sholinsky, Dianne's father

Jeffrey Licht in memory of Dr. Raymond Licht, his father

Sharon and Robert Racusin in memory of Aaron Racusin, Robert's father

Ellis Rolett in memory of Daniel Meyer Rolett, Ellis' father

Arline and Barry Rotman in memory of Murray Rotman, Barry's father

Arline and Barry Rotman in memory of Ida Rotman, Barry's mother

Mort Wise in memory of Shifra Wise, his wife

HIGH HOLIDAY TZEDAKAH: SUGGESTIONS INVITED

Each year we empty our pockets as we enter the sanctuary for Kol Nidre.

The tzedakah collection is divided between two selected charities, one local and one with a Jewish or Israeli connection.

We invite you to suggest a charity for consideration.

Please send your suggestions to UVJCSocAction@gmail.com by July 15.

[MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT continued from pg 2]

9. **Parents Circle Family Forum:** An Israeli and a Palestinian, both of whom lost family members in the conflict, told their respective stories and of their decisions to respond with Reconciliation instead of Revenge.
10. **Havdalah and Schmoozing** amid the firepits at the Roth Center provided a lovely “post-COVID” outdoor social mixing.
11. **Return of a Friday night Reform service** with guitar accompaniment.
12. **High Holiday planning:** We are preparing, jointly with Hillel, for an in-person and virtual hybrid High Holiday observance with services at Alumni Hall, the Roth Center, and at Storrs Pond.
13. **Formation of a Young Professionals group,** with a wine, cheese, and schmooze opportunity outdoors in the Sukkah and preliminary plans for outdoor events.
14. **Formation of a volunteer Spiritual Support Team** to help Rabbi Mark with hospice and other counseling efforts.
15. **Speaking out against antisemitism:** We continued to track the prosecution of the two former Dartmouth students who had been arrested for vandalizing the Chanukah menorah on the Dartmouth Green. We responded to a request from the St. Gaudens Park leadership on how they could respond to the vandalism there. A letter from the UVJC regarding the Colleyville, TX synagogue attack was published in the Valley News.
16. **Support for the White River Indie Film Festival:** UVJC was a Community Partner for the film *30 Seconds*.
17. **Security enhancements at the Roth Center:** Five years of determined work by Debbe Callaghan, David Hoffer, and Matthew Henkens came to fruition this year when Dartmouth agreed to install outdoor cameras, buzzers, and doorway video cameras; a more efficient pass card system on top of the limited-in-scope panic buttons that we had; and provided continued access to Dartmouth Security coverage for our computers and data systems. This is being done at no direct cost to the UVJC or to Hillel.

Looking at 5783:

1. **We depend on membership**—not just new members, but also retaining members. This year, we are asking for a modest dues increase to help cover ongoing expenses.
2. **Donations are also a critical component of our operating budget.** Thank you for your past support, and we hope your generosity will continue this year!
3. **75% of our expenses are fixed:** personnel and rent
4. **Hebrew School:** We hope to continue, and hopefully grow, our strong enrollment in the coming year.
5. **The Sustainability Fund is serving us beyond our expectations,** but we still need to plan beyond it to assure our long-term existence.

Enumerating our thanks:

1. **Our three stellar employees:** Rabbi Mark Melamut, Education Director Melissa Herman, and our Office Manager Extraordinaire Chris DePierro, for their organizational, monitoring, interpersonal, anticipatory, and juggling skills.
2. **The Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees,** whose advice and guidance have been rock-solid, and whose willingness to express contrary opinions is not only reassuring but a pleasure to me.
3. **Our committees:** Each monthly report at the Board meetings reinforces the vibrance and passion with which each committee pursues its focus. These include Adult Education, Caring and Chesed, Cemetery, Communications, Education, Finance, Library, Membership, Nominating (seasonal), Ruach, Roth Center Building, Memorial Scroll Trust Torah Scroll, Security, and Social Action. Committees are a great way to pursue your interests and meet folks with shared interests. It is a good base for new or strengthened friendships.
4. **You, our congregation,** for your participation in the life and support of the community.

There is a maxim in Epidemiology that says, “If it is not counted, it doesn’t count.” This is the time of the year for those of us in leadership positions to formally relate back to you what is happening and the directions in which we are heading. I hope this accounting gives you that picture. I hope it also tells you that your trust is being served, and motivates you to become more engaged, whether it be to choose (or suggest) educational programs, religious practices, or social avenues of your Jewish expression.

Paul





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Save the Date:

UVJC ANNUAL BBQ

Sunday, August 21
12:00 - 4:00 pm

Storrs Pond Recreation Area, Byrne Pavilion

UPPER VALLEY JEWISH COMMUNITY CEMETERY

The UVJC owns and maintains our own cemetery to comfort and serve you 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.

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)