



The New Hampshire Stands with Israel Concert, hosted by Temple Israel in Manchester, proceeded as scheduled on Sunday, January 7, 2024, despite the winter nor'easter. A wonderful crowd brought much enthusiasm, energy, and positive feelings to this event, resulting in a resounding success.

Rabbi Marc Philippe, a globally acclaimed singer, conductor, flutist, and Temple Israel's spiritual leader produced and arranged the New Hampshire Stands with Israel Concert. The concert featured a stellar lineup of renowned musicians. Among them was Alyssa Landry, celebrated for her leading roles in productions like Les Misérables, Cats, Nine, Hello Dolly, and Sweeney Todd. Cantor Shira Nafshi, ordained from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religions' Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music, contributed her melodious presence. Award-winning concert pianist Thierry Boulanger, versatile American guitarist and composer Douglas Hirsch, and New Hampshire-based writer and musician Jasper Cottle, known for his proficiency in traditional Irish and Scottish music, folk and country, enriched

the concert with their diverse styles. Matt Davis from Manchester, known for his expertise in rock, blues, and folk genres, also graced the stage. The repertoire included captivating tunes such as Olan Chesed Yibaneh, Charity, Close Every Door, Klezmer Medley, Yerushalayim Shel Zahav, Haleluyah, and Somewhere.

The concert's purpose extended beyond musical enjoyment, as proceeds were directed to Leket, Israel's National Food Bank. Leket Israel provides fresh, healthy food for Israelis in need with a special emphasis on supporting populations affected by hostilities in response to the current crisis.

The Temple Israel Concert Committee expresses gratitude to the generous sponsors, including the Frederick Smyth Institute of Music, Stephanie and Joseph Conahan, Pressed Café, Bonnie and Bill Greiner, Morin's Landscaping, Joy and Michael Sydney, Dave McElroy, and the Jewish Federation of New Hampshire.

Special acknowledgement goes to the Concert Planning Committee, consisting of Joy and Michael Sydney, Rabbi Marc Philippe and Valerie de Roca, Pam and Steve Saulten, Louise Allard, Talia Oranburg, and Aida Koocher, who planned this outstanding event.

The event concluded with a wonderful dessert reception in the Klein Social Hall featuring coffee and pastries catered by Heidi and Mike Miller of the Perfect Platter.



Gift shop sale!

Feb 4
10:00am-12:30pm



Chanukah sherpa-lined warming socks - \$8
Mezzuzahs - \$18
Shabbat bride candlesticks - \$38
Tallit Clips - \$20 - for Bar/Bat Mitzvah
Menorahs - \$18 and up

We're Searching for Volunteers

We desperately need a few volunteers to join our Kiddush Krew!

No experience necessary, we will teach you all you need to know. You will be paired with a seasoned volunteer.

If you can give a few hours a month, or even every other month, contact Carol Sternberg at 603.703.8557 or carolsnh@myfairpoint.net



Temple Israel Manchester Book Club News

Hi Temple Israel Book meisters & friends:

We are going to read "Mad Honey" by Jodi Picoult & discuss it on Wednesday March 13th at 4:30pm on ZOOM. Aida has been preparing many great questions about the story and Benay is very enthusiastic about the great discussion they will stimulate.

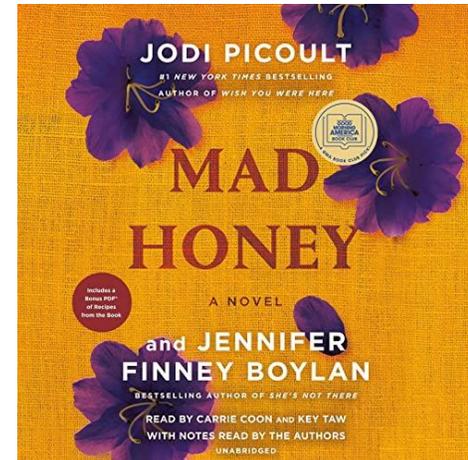
For more information about the book, visit our online calendar at <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ufHpPW11M6qj-XFkPO9Z4qxUPSkcTYtL37R9dXphzN0/edit#gid=905219313>.

Adequate copies should be available from your local library and of course online at your favorite book seller.

Until then,

Shalom, Peace, Shalom,

Aida, Benay and Ken



We thank our many volunteers & donors

thank you
todah raba
thank you
todah raba
thank you
todah raba

- Liz and Larry Eckman for our kitchen and bathroom supplies
- Jeff Klein for taking care of the myriad building issues
- Stephen Singer and Jeff Klein for organizing Wednesday morning minyans
- Ken Cohn, Jeff Klein, and Josh Nathan for help with the yahrzeit boards
- John Weber and Leigh Musicof for their work on our security grant
- Michael Sydney for overseeing our cemetery
- Carol Sternberg Chairperson of the Gift Shop
- Kiddush Krew –Merle Paltrow, Ken Cohn, Monique Shaffer, Carol Pressman, and Carol Sternberg
- Ruth Chevion for her stories about her family's escape from the Holocaust to America
- Temple Israel Book Club Leaders - Ken Cohn, Aida Koocher and Benay Birch
- Rick Notkin for his safety & security initiative
- Steve Saulten for taking care of our security services

Tzedaka

Ruth Chevion in memory of Herta Grabstald
Carolyn Corliss in memory of Goldie Wilinski
Amy Gordon in memory of Samuel Gorenstein
Hinda Groom in memory of Hymen Falk
Karen Jacobs in memory of Eric Jacobs
Phyllis Levine in memory of Ida Cavall
Roberta Pavoll in memory of Murray Cooper Moshe
Steven Riffkin in memory of Leon Riffkin
Irving Taube in memory of Louis Taube

Carolyn Corliss in memory of Bertha Knaiger
Amy Gordon in memory of Anna Gorenstein
Hinda Groom in memory of Sadie Falk
Sandra Hoexter in memory of Herbert Hoexter
Jeff Klein & Michelle Rosenthal in memory of Sami Klein
Phyllis Levine in memory of Nathan Shulman
Gary & Rochelle Lindner in memory of Philip Haller
Monique Shaffer in memory of Henri Knopf
Richard Thorner in memory of Melvin Thorner

Other

Jeff Parker in honor of Michelle
Roenthal & Jeff Klein

Dina & John Weber for the
Rabbi Discretionary Fund

Ruth & Jay Zax for Kibbutz Azza
Morgan & Peter Hallock for Kol Nidre

Herta's Bag by Ruth Chevion

When the Soviets finally drove the Germans out of Krakow on January 18, 1945, my mother was officially liberated. She walked out onto the street in broad daylight for the first time since May of 1943.

She was in reasonably good shape, considering. But she left her hiding place with nothing, no place to go and no family to find. Everything was gone. She walked around until she came upon a free store set up overnight by three Jewish American charities: ORT (Organization for Rehabilitation through Training), HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) and JOINT (Joint American Distribution Committee). At the free store Mom got all the clothes she needed - coat, shoes, everything.

She was Herta Hausknecht again. No more alias. The false ID papers she had with the name Halina Orzeskowa she threw away.

The scene must have been bizarre because Jews were coming out into daylight confused and dazzled, just wandering. Apparently, Jews had been hiding all over Krakow. In this strange scene, my mother bumped into someone she knew - a school friend from Tarnow, who told her that her pre-war boyfriend, Pelek Fessel was alive, and that Pelek had gone back to Tarnow, their home city.

The distance from Krakow to Tarnow is 58 miles. My mother stood by the side of the road until a truck came by carrying Soviet Russian troops. They picked her up. "They never touched me," she said. "They were kind...they gave me some food to eat, and they never touched me. They sang Soviet songs on the way, and then dropped me off." From the way my mother told this story, from her tone of voice, you could deduce how scared she had been to accept the ride, and how grateful she was for their gracious behavior.

When Mom got to Tarnow, she found her boyfriend (who would become my father), together with his mother and his sister, living in an apartment near where they had lived before the war. They invited my mother to move in and live with them, and so began the next stage of Mom's life.

But all this is background, dear reader, for a story that was to become legendary in my world. It is the curious matter of my mother's bag.

My mother had a bag that she always kept with her. While living with her future husband and future in-laws, she took her bag everywhere, even into the bathroom. She kept it right next to her bed at night. It made everyone curious to know what was in the bag. My dad's sister asked him if he knew what was in the bag. He didn't know. Even grandmother Miriam was moved to ask what was in the bag. But Mom simply did not answer, and she did not tell Pelek when he asked her.

It was many years later in America, when I was grown up, that I asked my mother what was in the bag. Looking me right in the eye, with a little smile, she said, "There was nothing in the bag. It was empty."

Interesting, isn't it? Wasn't my mother just the cat's pajamas, dear reader? What was in her mind with this bag? It's just one of the many things I would still like to ask her, but what would she say? Was it something she could describe in words? I leave you with the question.

I would just add a few words of postscript about the free store where my Mom got her clothes, and probably also her famous bag. I feel a need to acknowledge that American charities were instrumental in many people's survival stories.

ORT was a Jewish organization for teaching vocational trades and skills like carpentry and sewing. ORT still exists today.

HIAS also still operates, and helps refugees all over the world, in particular Jewish refugees.

As to the JOINT, it raised 70 million dollars during the Holocaust, and another 300 million dollars immediately afterwards, with which it gave significant help to Jewish refugees wherever they had landed - in Europe, and also in Shanghai, China, in India, and in Latin America.

Though Alicia Moskalska, who hid my mother, did not receive payment during the war, many people who hid Jews received monthly stipends from the American Joint.

Many thanks to all American Jews and non-Jews who helped Jews survive the Holocaust by donating funds for their upkeep in hiding. This was a very difficult, dangerous secret project primarily carried out by the American Joint Distribution Committee, which is little recognized today, but which made the difference for many Jews in hiding.



After receiving new coats from the Joint, 83 Rock, 1946. From the collection of American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee Archives.

In this photo I found on the internet, you can see children wearing coats made by ORT.

February 2024 – Shevat 22 to Adar I-20



Feb 1 - Tim Russell

Feb 3 - Barbara Shepler

Feb 8 - Elizabeth Sommers

Feb 14 - Ian Felder

Feb 18 - Sean Themea

Feb 19 - Elizabeth Gaby

Feb 20 - Alan Gaby

Feb 21 - Linda Kropp Sinrow

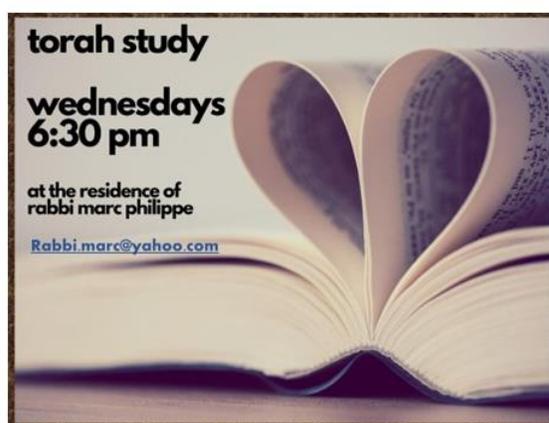
Feb 21 - Joan Vieck

Feb 25 - Ethan Felder



Stephen & Pamela Saulten - February 11, 2024 – 46 years

Rabbi Gary & Iris Atkins - February 16, 2024 – 27 years



Coming in February

Feb 2 – 6:30am – Friday Shabbat Service & Dinner. Please RSVP.

Feb 4 – 10:00am – Schmooze & Schmeat with Rabbi Marc.

Feb 4 – 10:00am-12:30pm – Gift Shop Sale.

Feb 10 – 6:00pm – Havdalah Service and Dinner. Please RSVP by noon, Jan 30.

Feb 19 – President's Day – office closed.

Feb 24 – 9:45am – Saturday Shabbat Service & Kiddush

Hevra Kadisha of Central New Hampshire

Our Hevra Kaddisha is ready to help you in your hour of need to perform the ritual preparation of a deceased for burial in accordance with Jewish tradition. Do not hesitate to call us when needed. We are here for you!

Please call 603.746.5218 to initiate the process or for more information.



Jewish Burial Plots Available
For Temple Israel Manchester Members

Email: office@templeisraelmht.org
or

Call: 603.622.6171