

Shalom

FREE

ROSH HASHANAH / FALL 2025

Magazine

EDITION 49



שָׁנָה
טוֹבָה
וּמְתוּקָה

CareOne

Trust in our Care



After a hospital stay, you or your loved one might need a skilled nursing facility to help **recover, restore** abilities, and **return home**. We offer both short and long-term care options. CareOne's post-acute rehabilitation programs are backed by the **highest clinical standards** and **provide specialized therapies** — including **advanced** care from a **dedicated** medical and physical rehabilitation team.



With multiple locations throughout Eastern Massachusetts and the surrounding areas, we are here to provide **exceptional care** for you and your loved ones when you need it most.



Our highly trained staff is ready to **support your journey to recovery!**

Sub-Acute Rehab & Long Term Care

CareOne at Brookline
99 Park St., Brookline, MA 02446
(617) 991-2774

CareOne at Concord
57 Old Road to Nine Acre Corner,
Concord, MA 01742
(617) 371-3400

CareOne at Essex Park
265 Essex St., Beverly, MA 01915
(978) 927-3260

CareOne at Lexington
178 Lowell St., Lexington, MA 02420
(781) 778-3600

CareOne at Newton
2101 Washington St., Newton, MA 02462
(617) 969-4660

CareOne at Peabody
199 Andover St., Peabody, MA 01960
(978) 531-0772

CareOne at Randolph
49 Thomas Patten Dr.,
Randolph, MA 02368
(781) 961-1160

CareOne at Weymouth
64 Performance Dr.,
Weymouth, MA 02189
(781) 340-9800

CareOne at Wilmington

750 Woburn St., Wilmington, MA 01887
(978) 969-0888



Assisted Living & Memory Care

Experience **exceptional** care and a **vibrant** community at CareOne at Sharon, where Assisted Living and Memory Care come together to create a **warm** and **supportive** environment.

Harmony Village, our memory care neighborhood offers a **secure, specialized** setting designed to **support** residents with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia. Through personalized care plans, **engaging** activities, and a **focus** on **enhancing** quality of life, Harmony Village ensures residents feel **valued, comfortable, and safe**.

Whether you're looking for assisted living or **dedicated** memory care, CareOne at Sharon provides the **compassionate care** and **enriching** lifestyle your loved one deserves. Schedule a tour today and discover why our community feels like home!

CareOne at Sharon

675 S. Main St.,
Sharon, MA 02067
(781) 784-0111



Scan the QR code to visit our website and chat live with us!
Or give us a call at (855) 277-8550



CAREONE
TRUST IN OUR CARE

Shanah Tova
U'metuka from
jalsa
JEWISH ALLIANCE FOR
LAW & SOCIAL ACTION



Put Your Jewish Values Into Action!

JALSA engages the Jewish community and our allies in the pursuit of social, economic, environmental, and racial justice.

E-mail JALSA at office@jalsa.org or scan this QR code to visit our website and sign up for our weekly Action Alert e-mail.



Connect with JALSA at www.JALSA.org and on social media at:

/JALSABoston

/jalsa_boston

/jalsaboston.bsky.social



AMERICA'S LOCAL KOSHER BUTCHER
WISHES YOU A

שנה טובה

HAPPY HEALTHY SWEET NEW YEAR

תשפ"ב

Pro-Peace Protests in Israel

Photo: Yair Paly



More than one million Israelis gathered at Hostage Square in Tel Aviv on Sunday, Aug. 17, in one of the largest demonstrations since the start of the Gaza war. The protest took place as part of a nationwide general strike, despite the lack of formal backing from Israel's powerful Histadrut trade union.

The demonstrators demanded that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government reach an agreement to end the war in Gaza and secure the release of the remaining 50 hostages – only 20 of whom are believed to still be alive. Families of the hostages played a central role in the protest, calling for immediate action to bring their loved ones home.

In response, Netanyahu claimed that the protests were undermining ongoing negotiations with Hamas by pressuring his government into making premature concessions.

#BringThemHome

שנה טובה ומתוקה

Happy and Sweet New Year

Jewish High Holiday 2025 schedule

(all Jewish holidays begin and end at sundown)

Elul 5785 - Tishrei 5786

Rosh Hashanah

Begins sunset of **Monday, September 22**

Ends nightfall of **Wednesday, September 24**

Shofar blowing on both mornings of **September 23 and 24**

Tashlich recited **Tuesday, September 23**

Fast of Gedalia is **Thursday, September 25**

Kapparot is performed between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur

Yom Kippur

Begins sunset of **Wednesday, October 1**

Ends nightfall of **Thursday, October 2**

Yizkor is recited on Yom Kippur, **Thursday, October 2**

Shofar blowing at the end of Yom Kippur

Sukkot

Begins sunset of **Monday, October 6**

Ends nightfall of **Monday, October 13**

Shmini Atzeret and Simchat Torah

Begins sunset of **Monday, October 13**

Ends nightfall of **Wednesday, October 15**



Follow us for daily updates

www.ShalomMA.com



CAMP JORI
A Tradition Since 1937

Take your summer to the next level!



Book a tour!

Overnight Options
ages 7-16



Day Camp
K-3









Scholarships Available!

Learn more at CampJori.com





Shalom Magazine 2025
Published by Farber Marketing Inc.

**Uniting the Jewish communities
in Massachusetts since 2009**
Editor & Publisher: Shirley Nigri Farber
Marketing Director: Scott A. Farber
Web Designer: David M. Farber

Contributors:

David Bernat, Ph.D.
Rabbi Moshe Y. Bleich
Rabbi Jessica Lowenthal
Lewis Finfer
Ed Gaskin
Rabbi Dr. Yosef P. Glassman, MD
Rabbi Jonathan Hausman
Rabbi Stanley Helinski, Esq.
Rabbi Shlomo Pereira
Rabbi Yosef Rodrigues, Ph.D.
John J. Michalczyk, Ph.D.
Ronit Treatman
Rus Devorah Wallen, LCSW, CIMHP

Design: Farber Marketing

Signed articles are the writer's responsibility and do not necessarily reflect the editor's opinion or Shalom Magazine advertisers. No article or photo can be reproduced without written permission from the publisher. Shalom Magazine is a free quarterly publication distributed in Massachusetts at stores, synagogues, and schools. We are not responsible for the products, services or the Kashrut certification offered by any advertiser.

Readers are welcome to submit articles and photos. Please contact the organizer before attending any event.

**To receive your free online subscription,
send an email to: ShalomMA@msn.com**
Cover photo: Dan Eliasoph - istockphoto

*Shalom Magazine has been published 3 times a year
since April 2009. Free copies are distributed in
Massachusetts and available at www.ShalomMA.com.
Follow us on [X@ShalomMagazine](https://twitter.com/X@ShalomMagazine)*

EDITORIAL

Happy Rosh Hashanah



Gaby Weisman

The arrival of the Jewish New Year calls us to reflect on the meaning and purpose of being Jewish in this world.

As we enter 5786, we carry the weight of sorrow, fear, and longing – for peace, for justice, for healing. The scars of war run deep in Israel today – scars that mark not only the body, but the soul. Spiritually there are no winners in the war.

I admire the strength of those marching in Israel to demand the return of the hostages and an end to the war. Their courage is a cry for life over death, for peace over despair. But even as we stand with them, we must acknowledge a painful truth: protest alone may not move those who hold innocent lives in captivity.

As American Jews, we are privileged. We speak from a distance. We do not bear arms and most of us do not send our children to the front lines. We can question, criticize, and advocate without fear. That freedom is sacred – but, as a Jew, it comes with responsibility.

To be pro-Israel is not to support any leader or party. It is to believe in the right of the Jewish people to live peacefully in their own homeland. It is to believe in the strong and holy bond between the land and the people of Israel. And while we fight antisemitism here in the diaspora, we must not forget to support our brothers and sisters in Israel who face existential threats daily.

This New Year, may we open our hearts to compassion and clarity. May we reinforce the bond between Jews around the world, and pray for peace and the safe return of every hostage. May we remember that Israel's strength lies in the history and unity of the Jewish people.

May 5786 bring peace to Israel, love for all human beings, and blessing to the world.

Shana Tovah U'Metukah.

Shirley Nigri Farber - Publisher



Like Us at: www.facebook.com/ShalomMagazine

www.ShalomMA.com

**TO ADVERTISE, PLEASE
CALL SCOTT AT 781-975-0482**

WWW.COURTNEYSERVICESINC.COM



Dumpster Rental 617.590.1307

Tisha B'Av Event



At the conclusion of the event, rabbis present blew their shofars so that their message would ring out

On Aug. 3, recognizing the Tisha B'Av holiday, more than 400 Jewish community members assembled outside of the regional headquarters of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in Burlington, for an event called *Rebuild Sanctuary: A Tisha B'Av Action on Immigration*. Attendees called on our elected leaders at the state and federal levels to actively resist the assault on the dignity, safety, and well-being of undocumented immigrants in our community. Attendees also urged state legislators to pass the Dignity Not Deportations Act. The event was organized by T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights; the Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action (JALSA); and Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism - Massachusetts (RAC-MA). The event was co-sponsored by more than 30 local Jewish organizations and congregations.

Israel Independence Day Celebration in Boston



Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll

The Israel Independence Day, *Yom Ha'atzmaut*, marking 77 years of the State of Israel, was celebrated on May 12 at the UMass Club, Boston. Hosted by Consul General Benny Sharoni, the event brought together many Jewish leaders and allies, including Massachusetts Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll, Rhode Island Lt. Governor Sabina Matos, and Massachusetts State Senator John Velis.

Consul Benny Sharoni and Senator John Velis



HEALING FROM WITHIN: REBUILDING ISRAEL'S SOCIAL FABRIC IN THE NORTH

October 20, 2025 | Boston, Massachusetts

This fall, we honor the Boston-Haifa connection like never before. Join us to celebrate community, explore groundbreaking ideas, and imagine the future of Israeli academia, together.

Come learn with us. For more information, please reach out to info@afuh.org or call (917) 510 - 3835



WELLESLEY-WESTON



*Judith Ranaan and
Geni Bleich*



*On June 25, 200 people joined the
Wellesley-Weston Chabad to hear released
 Hamas hostage Judith Ranaan tell her
 riveting story.*

*A beautiful summer
gathering of 20 women
at the Wellesley-Weston
Chabad on July 23*



JALSA MEETING



Roger Herzog, Cindy Rowe, Marc Draisen

On June 17, the Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action (JALSA) held its 2025 Annual Meeting at WBUR CitySpace. Hundreds of JALSA members gathered to celebrate the organization's accomplishments over the past year in its ongoing work for social justice. Among the awards handed out, JALSA bestowed Lifetime Recognition Awards to Roger Herzog, Executive Director of the Community Economic Development Assistance Corporation (CEDAC), and Marc Draisen, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC). JALSA also bestowed Community Leadership Awards to Rachel Miller Munzer of Mamaleh's Delicatessen and Irene Shiang Li of Mei Mei in recognition of their commitment to equity for workers in the restaurant industry. You can learn more about JALSA's work at www.JALSA.org.

Shana Tova!

Happy Rosh Hashanah

**Aaron
Michlewitz**
STATE REPRESENTATIVE



Live Your Best Life



SERVICES

- Maintenance service
- Housekeeping service
- Casual & fine dining
- Chauffeured transportation
- Cultural and educational programs

AMENITIES

- 200-seat theater
- Full service health club
- Heated indoor swimming pool
- Arts & crafts / woodworking shop
- 3-acre park with walking paths

Independent Living | Assisted Living



**Southgate
at Shrewsbury**

Exploring. Growing. Learning.

508-842-8331

www.southgateatshrewsbury.com

JACQUELINE'S
Bridal

Jacqueline's Bridal offers an extensive selection of Wedding & Evening gowns with on-side alteration service.
Ranging from size 00 to size 26

We also design custom-fit couture dresses from scratch.

By Appointment only
555 Washington Street, Wellesley, MA
781-862-1085
www.jacquelines-bridal.com



Residents of Center Communities of Brookline, local and state officials, and Hebrew SeniorLife staff celebrated the opening of the newly constructed 108 Centre Street, Brookline apartments for older adults during ribbon-cutting ceremonies on June 26.



June 15 solidarity manifestation in front of the Jewish owned Butcherie store in Brookline, after two masked individuals threw a brick through the storefront window (photo: Scott Hayes)

Shana Tovah!

from

TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM

Rabbi David Grossman

Rabbi Joshua Grossman

600 Nantasket Avenue, Hull, MA 02045

781-925-0091

www.tbshull.org

templebethhull@comcast.net

Tu B'Av WHITE PARTY



The Young Jewish Professionals' Tu B'Av White Party took place on Aug. 10 at The Essex Boston. The rooftop party gathered close to 300 people. For more photos, visit www.yjpboston.org.





Cape Ann Jewish Cultural Festival

History was made on June 11 at the First Annual Cape Ann Jewish Cultural Festival, where more than 400 people gathered to celebrate Jewish pride, culture, and unity. With sunshine, music by the world-renowned Klezmer Conservatory Band, a special performance by Rabbi David Meyer, and joyful activities for children, the event was both vibrant and deeply meaningful. Hosted by the Chabad Jewish Center of Cape Ann at the Stage Fort Park, Gloucester, the festival brought the community together in a powerful expression of heritage and togetherness.



Young Jewish Professionals of the North Shore

NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY



Hostage Talk with Judith Raanan

On June 23, the Chabad Cape Ann Jewish community had the privilege of hearing from Judith Raanan, recently released from captivity in Gaza. Her moving account of faith, courage, and resilience left a profound impact on all in attendance. As she shared: “If G-d allowed this to happen, there must be a reason. I chose to be strong, to be a proud Jewish woman, and to keep my faith.” Her strength and light inspired everyone present – an evening that will be remembered for years to come.

SNOWBIRD & HIGH HOLIDAY SPECIAL

\$50 OFF ROUND TRIP RIDE SEP/OCT

M TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Call Today
781-831-3862

Visit Our Website
WWW.MTSBOS.COM



LIMOUSINE - AIRPORT SERVICE - PRIVATE JET SERVICE





Your Journey. Your Impact. Your Israel.

Discover meaningful ways to give back in Israel.

The new AI-powered Volunteer Hub connects you to Jewish volunteer opportunities that make an impact and make your time in Israel unforgettable.

Start your search now:
volunteerhub.mosaicunited.org



Sukkot: The Often Overlooked Holy Day

By Rabbi Jessica Lowenthal



Living in the West, the beauty of the Hebrew calendar is often obscured. While we are negotiating back to school schedules, we have to constantly remind ourselves (and often our schools) that our major Holidays fall in the midst of this season. By break-fast on Yom Kippur, many Americans are ready to go back to their secular lives, overwhelmed with negotiating between the holidays and the ongoing world that doesn't pause.

Consequently, many American Jews miss out or minimize a necessary part of the high holiday package.

Sukkot serves many functions, one being the emotional off ramp from the intensity of Yom Kippur. After spending two weeks focused on renewal, life and death, forgiveness and sorrow, Sukkot's message reminds us that we are only human.

Rosh Hashanah functions both as a New Year celebration and an opportunity for honest reflection. Many people spend the 10 days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur thinking of all the people they have wronged, every harm they may have committed. On the day itself, we not only atone for all that we have personally done, but also all that has been done in the name of humanity. We take the literal weight of the world upon our shoulders and beg God for forgiveness. It can feel like we are not only responsible, but capable of immense impact in the world.

Just as we are grappling with feeling as if we must do 'more', that we are failing our mission of *tikkun olam* (repair the world), Sukkot comes to ground us. We need a reminder that we are not, in fact, able

Hefez & Sons Jewelers



www.hefezandsons.com

hefez@aol.com



*Specialized in diamond engagement rings,
wedding bands, custom design,
jewelry repairs and more.*

Sharon
and 3 other locations in Massachusetts
781-784-5683



L' Shana Tova

L'SHANA TOVAH!

*Thank you for making us part of your
holiday table for over 75 years.*

*From our family to yours, we wish you a
happy, healthy and sweet New Year.*

SHUBIE'S

16 ATLANTIC AVENUE • MARBLEHEAD • 781.631.0149 • www.shubies.com

ShubiesMarketplace @Shubies

Sukkot: The Often Overlooked Holy Day

to stomp out all of the atrocities we see. We can barely change parts of ourselves each year, let alone the world.

In memory of the 40 years the Israelites lived as nomads in the desert, each Sukkot we build a sukkah, a temporary home. This structure must have at least 3 sides, should be large enough to eat in, and the top should be open just enough to see the stars. We spend as much time as possible living in the sukkah, inviting people for meals, and sleeping under the stars. Experiencing the elements in this way helps us reset after the intensely emotional and mind-focused days of awe.

On Yom Kippur, we are elevated beyond our normal human reality in order to atone, and each year we are granted that ability. The gates of heaven open and humanity is given some level of forgiveness. When the whole Jewish community comes together, giving an honest accounting of our failures and seeking forgiveness, we are indeed powerful. But that state of cohesion can only last a short time, and only in a particular context, lest we think we can harness that power as we wish. Sukkot then comes, shoving us back into our individual realities.

The ritual of shaking the lulav and etrog makes it clear to us – humans have no control over this world. We cannot cause the rain to fall or crops to grow. We can try our hardest, and still are powerless in the face of nature.

After the mourning period of Av, the preparation of *Elul*, the month of *Tishrei* raises us all the way up to heaven and then gently places us back down on earth. No longer must we atone for all the awful things happening in our world; that moment is over. The calendar is structured so that we are continually finding the balance between our connection to the Divine and our helplessness as human beings. Sukkot does not come harshly to rebuke us for imagining we have such power, for wishing that we could come together and change our world immediately. Rather, it provides us with an experience, one of helplessness and beauty.

We cannot mold our world to fit our wishes, no matter how valiant and righteous our wishes might be. But by living within it, dealing with the elements and our thin human skin, we are filled with awe at the incredible force of power and beauty of the created world.

This Sukkot, make sure you find a sukkah and spend time inside, eating and laughing, feeling the weather change around you, watching the sun go down and perhaps even sleeping within it. Stave off the return to our secular world a little bit longer and enter into the high holiday of Sukkot, allow your heart to heal from Yom Kippur, and recognize the gift we are given each year – the gift of life, of community, and of the majesty of our world.

Rabbi Jessica Lowenthal was ordained in June 2019 from Hebrew College. She now serves as the Rabbi at Temple Beth Shalom in Melrose.

CELEBRATING 41 YEARS!

DAYLE'S

EUROPEAN SKIN CARE & MED SPA

*Thank you for all your support, loyalty,
and for making us the Best Spa on the North Shore!*



Shana Tovah

Dayle Ciampa-Goldstein Founder / Owner

Master Medical Aesthetician for over 46 years, specializing in
Luxury Aesthetic Skin Care with a Medical approach.

COMBINING ADVANCED AESTHETICS AND MEDICAL SKINCARE

NEW!

DERMOTECHNOLOGY - MICROCURRENT
PATENTED NON-INVASIVE FRENCH TECHNOLOGY
LIFT/TONE/CONTOUR

- SALMON PDRN AKA "MERMAID FACIAL"
- SKINSTYLUS MICRO-NEEDLING
- DR. PLATON COLD PLASMA
- NUERA TIGHT FACE/BODY
- HYDRAFACIAL MD / LED LIGHT
- OXYGEN INFUSION FACIAL
- VIVACE RF MICRO-NEEDLING
- HOP + PILLEO NEEDLELESS FILLER FACIAL
- GUA SHA / HERBAL POULTICE FACIAL INFUSION
- BUCCAL FACIAL MASSAGE TREATMENT
- BIOREPEELCL3 / PRX DERM PERFEXION
- 24KT GOLD LEAF FACIAL
- PARAMEDICAL DMK ENZYME THERAPY
- LASER HAIR REMOVAL
- AGE SPOT REMOVAL
- SPIDER VEIN REMOVAL
- DERMAPLANING
- BOTOX / FILLERS
- KOREAN SKINCARE
- CRYOCLEAR / COOLIFTING
- EYELASH LIFT / TINT
- EYELASH EXTENSIONS
- WAXING / NAIL CARE
- JANE IREDALE MAKE-UP
- BODY MASSAGE / TREATMENTS
- CO2LIFT® CARBOXY GEL
- LIGHT EYES ULTRA
- SKINFILLED BACIO

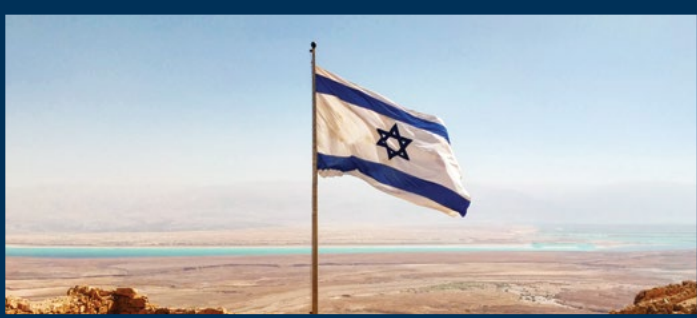
CALL TODAY TO SCHEDULE A COMPLIMENTARY CONSULTATION!
MENTION THIS AD AND RECEIVE 15% OFF YOUR FIRST TREATMENT



781.631.2090 | DaylesMedSpa.com



261 Washington Street, Marblehead, MA 01945



CAMERA on CAMPUS

Get the facts. Get Israel.

Learn more about our student fellowship at:
cameraoncampus.org



STOUGHTON



ATC Mah Jongg Tournament in June

While the media has noticed the recently renewed interest and current rise in Mah Jongg's popularity in American culture Ahavath Torah Congregation in Stoughton has held Mah Jongg tournaments for a number of years. The tile-based game with roots in 19th century China has evolved into a global cultural phenomenon, symbolizing social connection and community. As the tradition continues, this past June we welcomed people from Northern and Southern Massachusetts and even New Hampshire. The social hall was filled with over 100 men and women gathered to play Mah Jongg. Everyone was "Cracking" their "Bams" and "Dots" while hoping to get as many "Jokers" as possible. It was a great and successful FUNdraiser for ATC bringing together old friends, while making and creating new friendships. New to Mah Jongg? Haven't played in a while? Dust off your sets or find a friend to teach you and come and join us next time! Upcoming dates in 2026 are: Jan. 11, March 22, and June 7. For more information contact the Temple office at 781-344-8733.

Est.



1920

Pride of Lynn
 Chevra Mishna



PRIDE OF LYNN CEMETERY

*Serving Greater Boston Jewish
 and Interfaith Families*
 Temple or synagogue
 affiliation not required.

Jewish Burial

Interfaith Burial

Cremation • Chapel

89 Lake Shore Road, Lynn, MA

978-594-4249

polcemetery@gmail.com

prideoflynn.org



Jewish Heritage Center

The Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center (JHC) at American Ancestors welcomed the community on August 7 for an open house in its newly renovated Newbury Street building. Visitors explored archival treasures, learned about the JHC's mission to preserve New England Jewish history, and toured the Family Heritage Experience exhibition.

Rhode Island New Jewish Deli

Maven's is a new modern, traditional Jewish deli located on the Providence/Pawtucket, RI line at Blackstone Plaza. It pays homage to the delicatessens of the past while adding a playful, contemporary twist. Set in a convivial and energetic atmosphere, Maven's advances Jewish cuisine while introducing new items they hope will become part of future culture and tradition. Jason Sugarman, the founder, says he wants his customers to be surrounded by the nostalgic smells and tastes of the past. All meats are smoked and prepared in-house, and all bakery items are made from scratch daily on the premises. While Maven's is not certified kosher (there is no shellfish or pork on the menu), it is certified delicious!



Maven's
DELICATESSEN
EST. 5783

A MODERN TRADITIONAL JEWISH DELI

BREAKFAST · LUNCH · DINNER · OPEN EVERYDAY

Need a caterer? Maven's!

BAR/BAT MITZVAHS · SHIVAS · PARTIES · LUNCHEONS
WEDDINGS · REHEARSAL DINNERS · PRIVATE EVENTS

727 EAST AVE • PAWTUCKET, RI 02860
(401) 205-8560 • MAVENSDeli.COM



@MAVENSDeli



The Wyner Family
Jewish Heritage Center™
at AMERICAN ANCESTORS

The JHC wishes you and your loved ones
a sweet, healthy, & meaningful new year.

L'Shanah Tovah!

Join us to learn about history & heritage at
JewishHeritageCenter.org



@jewishheritagecenter



facebook.com/jewishheritagecenter

JewishHeritageCenter.org





**CLASSIC
FRANKFURTERS**
Since 1947

Bring home the taste of tradition

Visit PearlMeat.com today!

FREE SHIPPING NATIONWIDE

LOST CONNECTIONS: WHY DEPRESSION MAY BE A SIGNAL, NOT A MALFUNCTION

*A Review of Johann Hari's
Wake-Up Call on Mental Health*

By Rus Devorah (Darcy) Wallen, LCSW, CIMHP

A few months ago, I read a book that continues to have reverberations in my mind since I see people every day who struggle with depression, isolation, anxiety, and more!

Have you ever felt like the story we've been told about depression doesn't quite add up? For decades, the most common explanation has been that depression is caused by a **chemical imbalance** in the brain – especially a shortage of serotonin – and that the solution is usually a pill. For some people, antidepressants do help, and there's nothing wrong with that. But what if that story isn't the whole story? What if our depression and anxiety are actually signals, pointing us to what's missing in our lives?

That's the core message of Johann Hari's powerful book, *Lost Connections: Uncovering the Real Causes of Depression – and the Unexpected Solutions*. Hari, who has lived with depression himself, set out on a years-long journey to understand why so many people are feeling disconnected, anxious, and hopeless. What he discovered will make you think differently about mental health – and perhaps about life itself.

More Than Brain Chemistry

Hari shows that depression and anxiety often have social and emotional causes – not just biological ones. He explains that while brain chemistry plays a role, many of us feel depressed because we are **disconnected** – from meaningful work, from supportive relationships, from nature, from meaningful values, and even from a hopeful future.



EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES

At Residence Inn by Marriott® Boston Needham, we provide spaces and experiences that allow you to travel like you live. Enjoy a variety of amenities including outdoor spaces with fire pit and grill, fitness center, indoor pool, complimentary hot breakfast and Wi-Fi.

Corporate Rates, Long Term Stay Rates & Group Rates available.



BOSTON-NEEDHAM

Residence INN
BY MARRIOTT

80 B STREET, NEEDHAM, MA 02494

781.400.2703

LISA BETTENCOURT, DIRECTOR OF SALES

LISA.BETTENCOURT2@MARRIOTT.COM

MARRIOTT.COM/BOSNH

MEMBER OF MARRIOTT BONVOY®

Some Restrictions and/or blackout dates may apply

LOST CONNECTIONS: WHY DEPRESSION MAY BE A SIGNAL, NOT A MALFUNCTION

"Your distress is not a malfunction. It's a signal... saying you shouldn't have to live this way. And if you aren't helped to find a better path, you will be missing out on much that is best about being human." (Hari, 2018)

Instead of rushing to "muffle the signal" with medication alone, Hari suggests we need to **listen** to what that signal is telling us. Just like physical pain alerts us to injury, emotional pain alerts us to missing connections.

Grief, Advertising, and Hope

One of the most moving chapters in *Lost Connections* compares depression to grief. When we lose a loved one, our sadness is not a sign of illness – it's a sign of love. Hari writes, "Depression, I realized, is itself a form of grief – for all the connections we need, but don't have."

He also critiques how modern culture feeds us constant advertising designed to make us feel inadequate – convincing us we need more "stuff" to be worthy. As one advertising executive admitted: "Our job is to make people feel inadequate – and then offer the product as the solution to the sense of inadequacy we created."

The book doesn't stop at criticism. It offers hope, sharing stories of people who healed not just through pills but by **reconnecting** – finding community, meaningful activity, and shared purpose. For example, one English health center changed its approach to depression by asking not, "What's the matter with you?" but "What matters to you?" They helped people find meaning, not just manage symptoms.

Why This Matters for Us

Whether or not you struggle with depression personally, we all know someone who does. And in Jewish life, we understand the power of

connection – *chevruta* (study partnerships), community meals, visiting the sick, celebrating holidays together. We are wired for connection. When that's missing, people suffer.

This book is a call to action – not only for individuals but for communities. It urges us to ask deeper questions:

- How can we support each other beyond quick fixes?
- How can we create spaces where people feel they belong?
- How can we honor grief and pain instead of rushing to silence it?

Final Thoughts

Lost Connections is not anti-medication, nor does it deny that brain biology matters. But it shifts the focus to something deeply human: the need for

belonging, purpose, and love. Hari's message is simple yet profound: depression may not mean you are broken. It may mean you are *human* – and your soul is calling for connection.

If you've ever felt alone in your sadness, or if you care about someone who struggles, this book will move you. It may even inspire you to reconnect – with others, with nature, with what matters most.

References

Hari, J. (2018). *Lost Connections: Uncovering the Real Causes of Depression – and the Unexpected Solutions*. Bloomsbury.

World Health Organization (2011). *Mental health: A state of well-being*. Retrieved from https://www.who.int/features/factfiles/mental_health/en/

Rus Devorah (Darcy F.) Wallen, LCSW, CIMHP, PC is a clinical consultant, social worker, psychotherapist and motivational entertainer. To subscribe to her newsletter, visit <https://toratherapeutics.com/torabundance/>

"Your distress is not a malfunction.
It's a signal"



Israel Discovery Tours

Let Us Welcome You Home!

Discover...

- Our meticulously planned, world renowned tour
- Our dynamic, well-routed itinerary
- Our luxury hotels - including The King David & Waldorf Astoria Jerusalem
- Our guides - the most requested team in Israel
- Our exceptional **FREE** offer for your Bar/Bat Mitzvah child
- Most departures include overnight at Dead Sea Spa/Resort & Eilat!

FOR MORE INFORMATION
1-800-362-8882

Family - Bar/Bat Mitzvah Tours

12 DAY LUXURY TOURS

June 11- June 22, 2026	June 25 - July 6, 2026
June 18 - June 29, 2026	Aug 20 - Aug 31, 2026

12 DAY DELUXE TOUR

July 23 - Aug 3, 2026

DECEMBER LUXURY TOUR

Dec 23, 2026 - Jan 2, 2027

15 Day Adults Only Tours

LUXURY TOURS	DELUXE TOURS
May 4, - May 18, 2026	Apr 27 - May 11, 2026
Oct 5 - Oct 19, 2026	Oct 12 - Oct 26, 2026

www.israeldiscoverytours.com



BETH TIKVAH Synagogue

A welcoming Jewish community
for Central Massachusetts

New Home at 3 Grafton Common, Grafton, MA

Join our vibrant,
inclusive Hebrew School!

Services also available
live online

Beth Tikvah Synagogue is home to Jewish individuals and families of all backgrounds! As an unaffiliated congregation, we lean traditional in prayer, and egalitarian in community. We believe that Jewish community is what we make it, and we welcome new members to continue to build that community with us in our new home in Grafton!

To learn about joining our Hebrew School or see upcoming services, visit our website at:

www.bethtikvahsynagogue.org

NOBODY WANTS THIS: INTERFAITH RELATIONSHIPS

By Stanley Helinski

Today I'm reflecting on a new and popular Netflix series, *Nobody Wants This*, a romantic comedy starring Kristen Bell and Adam Brody. Brody plays a rabbi; Bell, a self-described "*shiksa*"— a Yiddish term that, while often pejorative, I interpret as meaning a pretty, non-Jewish woman who steals a Jewish man's heart. On paper, they have nothing in common. Bell is a provocative podcast host, and Brody is the pulpit rabbi of a large congregation. But the two quickly discover a strong romantic connection.

The series explores the challenges that arise when people of different religions date in today's world— judgment, assumptions, and real-life complications— which brings me to this article's theme: interfaith relationships.

I was raised without religious practice. I later married a non-Jewish woman and had a daughter. After divorcing, I became a deeply observant member of a Jewish community and eventually received *smicha* (rabbinic certification). Today, I live somewhere in the gray area between these life chapters. My personal journey gives me a unique perspective on the tensions presented in *Nobody Wants This*.

Thanks to the internet, Zoom, and global interconnectedness, America— the ultimate melting pot— has become ground zero for interfaith relationships. Marrying within one's religion is no longer the default. I fully understand the Jewish people's long and painful history, the maternal recognition of Jewish lineage, and the urgency many feel to preserve Jewish continuity.

The show portrays the comedic and painful aspects of these tensions, especially between an observant Jewish man and a non-Jewish woman. Bell's character, unfamiliar with Jewish customs, faces awkward and judgment-filled moments— particularly since Brody is poised to become the "Head Rabbi" and is expected to have a Jewish wife. Eventually, Bell agrees to convert, supporting Brody's career

עֲדָת מִינְיָן
דָּרְכֵי שָׁלוֹם / MINYAN
DARCHEI
SHALOM

NEWTON / MASSACHUSETTS

Minyan Darchei Shalom

wishes everyone

Shana Tova Umetuka

**You are invited to join Minyan Darchei Shalom for traditional, egalitarian,
lay-led services for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.**

**All services are held in the Chapel at Temple Shalom,
175 Temple Street, West Newton.**

Minyan Darchei Shalom charges no fees.

**Rosh Hashanah: September 23 and 24, 9 a.m.
Yom Kippur Kol Nidre: October 1, 5:45 p.m.
Yom Kippur: October 2, 9 a.m.**

darcheishalom.org

For more information, email info@darcheishalom.org



NOBODY WANTS THIS: INTERFAITH RELATIONSHIPS

aspirations and seemingly resolving the tension.

Judaism honors sincere converts as fully Jewish. In fact, our tradition teaches that all Jews at Mount Sinai had to accept the Torah – making them, in essence, converts too. Conversion, when genuine, is one of the most sacred undertakings in Judaism.

Despite the show's comedic tone, the struggles are real. Try explaining Shabbat to a new boyfriend or girlfriend – “no phones,” “no cooking” – and you may get a blank stare. While general awareness of Jewish practices is low, I've found a genuine curiosity often exists. Most people don't know what makes something kosher or why we break a glass at weddings (a remembrance of the destruction of the Temple, reminding us never to be completely joyful). These barriers are real, but not insurmountable.

Season One ends with a cliffhanger as Bell and Brody face a painful choice. You'll have to watch it to find out how it unfolds, but Season Two is already in production.

Earlier this year, a series of small, seemingly random events led me to meet my best friend and current partner. Had even one thing gone differently, we likely never would've crossed paths. Some argue that the intricacy of the human ear disproves random evolution – it's too perfect to be by chance. I see our meeting the same way: divine orchestration. After enduring painful marriages and divorces, we both believe our meeting was God's doing.

We both share a deep love of our Creator and express it in our own ways. While I'm Jewish, my partner – something I didn't learn until later – was born Muslim. Faith wasn't our starting point; getting to know each other as people came first. As our relationship deepened, we also discovered surprising overlaps in our traditions.

My own father wasn't Jewish. When my Jewish mother married him despite her family's fierce objections, she was excommunicated. She

died without ever reconnecting with them – a tragedy I carry with me. That kind of judgment – cutting off loved ones for marrying outside the faith – is thankfully far less common today.

In contrast, not a single person in either of our families objected to our relationship. At our first shared Shabbat dinner, her family joined us in lighting candles and praying together. We're in our fifties and late thirties, so children aren't part of our picture. But what matters is the connection – not the label.

Interfaith relationships can work, even when one partner is observant. They may require patience, open dialogue, and mutual respect, but they are increasingly accepted in a modern world where human connection is being prioritized over rigid traditions. That said, interfaith relationships that include Judaism often involve deeper layers of complexity due to *halachic* (Jewish legal) restrictions, especially concerning marriage and conversion. But as we see with Bell and Brody, and in my own life, those complexities don't

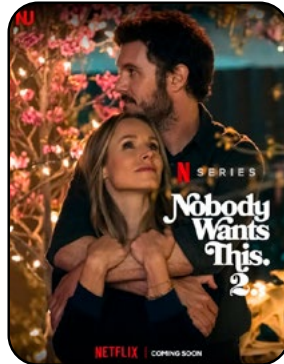
make love impossible.

The avoidance of relationships, romantic or otherwise, based solely on third-party perceptions is becoming a thing of the past. Judgmental stories like my mother's are no longer the norm. As authentic human connection rises in importance, we're moving in a more compassionate direction.

Religion, after all, should never stand in the way of real, soulful connection.

I'd love to hear your thoughts.

Rabbi Stanley Helinski, Esq. is a Boston trial lawyer who received his rabbinical ordination from Yeshiva Machon L'Horah. He lives in Wellesley.



APEX

ENTERTAINMENT®

FOOD • ATTRACTIONS • EVENTS

MARKS THE SPOT FOR YOUR NEXT BAR/BAT MITZVAH!

Contact Our Sales Team Today
apexsalesteam@apexentertainment.com
508.251.8666 x3
21 Apex Drive | Marlborough, MA

are you kidding with this place!?

PRIVATE EVENT ROOMS GREAT FOOD & DRINKS BOWLING | LARGE ARCADE LASER TAG | MINI GOLF | & MORE

apexentertainment.com



L'Shana Tova to the entire Jewish Community

244 Needham Street, Newton, MA 02464

Ladling out Love for over 30 years!



ORDER ONLINE
<https://newenglandsoupfactory.com>

WHEN THE WORLD HOLDS ITS BREATH

By Yosef Rodrigues, Ph.D.



In recent months, many of us have felt the weight of the world more tangibly than ever. Headlines tell of conflicts without resolution, communities divided, and nations restless. The natural world mirrors this turbulence.

This summer, the heat has been almost unbearable across much of the globe, shattering records and altering landscapes. I think of Sintra, in Portugal, a place I have visited each summer for as long as I can remember. Its hills and palaces once

promised cool mists and ocean breezes. This year, the air felt heavier, the nights less refreshing, and the forests seemed brittle, as if holding their breath before the spark of fire.

Some will explain this in scientific terms: global warming, shifting weather patterns, human impact. All of that may be true, but as a rabbi, I hear something more: the voice of the universe and the voice of the Creator, urging us to pay attention.

Rosh Hashanah is the perfect time to listen. It is not merely the Jewish New Year, not simply a cultural festival or family gathering. It is the anniversary of creation itself, *hayom harat olam*, the day the first human being was brought into existence and the world was given its purpose.

On this day, the Kabbalists teach, the divine energy that sustains all reality is withdrawn for a brief moment, and all existence holds still. Through our prayers, the blasts of the shofar, and our sincere return to the Source, that energy is renewed and the world is granted life for another year. In that pause lies an invitation: to reset, to realign, and to step into the coming year not as passive witnesses, but as active participants in the unfolding of the Divine plan.

The Baal Shem Tov likened Rosh Hashanah to the moment when a king leaves his palace and walks into the fields to meet his subjects face to face. There, without the barriers of protocol, the people can approach and speak openly. This is our spiritual opportunity now, a time for honest conversation with Him and with ourselves.

Yet this year, the noise of the world is overwhelming. We live in an age of constant alerts, breaking news, political shouting matches, and the hum of technology that never rests. Our attention is pulled in a hundred directions, leaving no room for the still, small voice of the soul. Spiritual life fades not because G-d's presence has weakened, but because our awareness has been stolen.

Against this backdrop, the cry of the shofar is more necessary than ever. It is not a melody or a song, not even speech; it is the sound before speech, the primal cry that bypasses words and goes straight to the soul. Maimonides calls it a spiritual alarm clock: "Awake, you sleepers, from your slumber! You who are in deep sleep, arise!"



- Can't find your stuff?
- Overwhelmed by piles?
- Deadlines sneaking up on you?

Maybe clutter is the problem!



Before



After

Shira Frager
Professional Organizer
Set Things Straight
contact@set-things-straight.com
617-676-7511



#IStandWithIsrael

WHEN THE WORLD HOLDS ITS BREATH

I believe the events of our time, from climate extremes to the instability of nations, are also a kind of shofar blast, sounded in the language of history and nature. They remind us that nothing is guaranteed, that the world we know can shift overnight, and that we are urgently needed as agents of repair. And yes, the wars continue in the Middle East. Reports say there are still 20-25 living hostages. It is sobering how quickly the news cycle moves on, and how easily we forget those still waiting for deliverance.

From a Kabbalistic perspective, nothing in the physical world happens without a spiritual root. Changes in the climate, whether human-made or part of larger cycles, reflect an imbalance within the human soul. The Torah entrusted us with the care of creation: *"The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it"* (Psalm 24:1). When greed outweighs responsibility, the natural world responds in kind.

The unbearable heat, the droughts, the fires, these may be the earth's own form of prayer, a cry for healing that echoes our petitions on Rosh Hashanah. For me, Sintra's changing weather has become a personal symbol of the change we are all called to make. If even the climate of a place that felt timeless can shift, so can we.

Just as we ask Hashem to renew our lives for the year ahead, we must also pledge to restore the life of the planet He has given us. This is not a political statement, it is a spiritual obligation. The same G-d who commands us to honor Shabbat, to keep kosher, to give *tzedakah*, also commands us to choose life (*u'vacharta ba'chaim* - וּבַחֲרַתְּ בַחַיִּים) and to protect that which sustains life.

Rosh Hashanah is a coronation. When we stand in synagogue and proclaim *HaMelech*, "The King", we are not merely acknowledging the Creator's sovereignty, we are accepting our role in His kingdom.

To crown Hashem is to live as if His will matters in every choice: in how we speak, how we spend, how we care for the world.

This is the heart of *tikkun olam*: not a slogan, but the daily work of repairing what is broken, restoring harmony where there is discord, and bringing light where there is darkness. It is also the antidote to a distracted, anxious world, the grounding force of sacred customs, prayer, study, and deeds done quietly and with humility.

This year, as the shofar sounds, may its cry extend beyond synagogue walls into forests and fields, seas and skies. We cannot stop the seasons from changing, but we can change how we live within them. We cannot end all conflicts overnight, but we can plant seeds of peace in the soil of daily life.

On Rosh Hashanah, three books are opened before the King: the book of life, the book of death, and the book of those in between. Each year, each of us is given a new page, perhaps a new chapter, to write. Let us write wisely, with courage, humility, and faith.

May this be a year in which the earth cools and the fires are quenched, the storms pass, and the winds carry blessing. A year in which our hearts are renewed, our communities strengthened, and our connection to the Creator deepened. And may we merit to see not only our own lives blessed with goodness, but a world healthier, kinder, and more at peace.

L'shanah tovah tikateivu v'teichateimu (לְשָׁנָה טוֹבָה תִּקְּטְבוּ וְתִיחַתְּמוּ) – may you be inscribed and sealed for a year of life, blessing, and renewal.

Yosef Rodrigues, Ph.D., is the Director of the Portuguese Language Center Camões, I.P. at UMass Boston and a faculty member at Boston College and UMass Boston. He received rabbinic ordination in June 2025 from Machon Semicha Yeshiva – Institute of Halachah, New York.

“God...commands us to choose life”

(*u'vacharta ba'chaim* - וּבַחֲרַתְּ בַחַיִּים)

YOU HAVE OPTIONS

Purchasing a grave before you need it can be one of the best purchases you can ever make



Traditional Jewish - Orthodox - Interfaith Sections

Graves available in

Everett - Natick - West Roxbury

(774) 300-8400

info@fullerservicecompany.com

FULLER SERVICE COMPANY

Grave prices range from \$1,500 - \$3,550,
depending on cemetery.

Option of cremation graves as well

Reimagining Our Relationship With God

Shana Tova! Wishing all a Happy and Healthy New Year!



SETH STOLLMAN

Broker Associate | Realtor®, MBA, CRS, ABR

781-363-0292

seth.stollman@kw.com
www.sethstollman.com



KAREN TANZER

Realtor®, SRS, ABR

781-696-6809

karentanzer@kw.com
www.karentanzer.com



Whether Selling or Buying, Seth Stollman and Karen Tanzer
are your Realtors of choice!

By Rabbi David Ehrenkranz

Before the tragic events of Oct. 7, when preparing for the holidays my students would typically ask me questions about various customs and laws of the holidays. But after Oct. 7, my students asked me questions such as, “How can we celebrate the holidays when the hostages are suffering”, or “How can we be happy when they don’t have the chance to be happy?” I told my students we cannot let the terrorists win. We must show them that we are life affirming, and that our relationship with God remains as strong as ever. If we do not celebrate the holidays or if we let despair overtake our joy then we are giving the terrorists a partial victory. As Pesach and Shavuot approached I repeatedly answered these questions, so I was relieved when Rosh Hashanah and Yom HaKippurim approached because I rarely get asked about the “joy” of celebrating the *Yamim Noraim*, the days of Awe. And, as expected, a week before Rosh Hashanah as I was reviewing the laws and customs of the Yamim Noraim in class, I was not asked about tempering our joy while celebrating Rosh Hashana and Yom Hakippurim, but there were other questions I was not prepared for.

“What sins did we do that caused this tragedy” and “The hostages don’t have to undergo the process of *Teshuva* (repentance) because they have already been punished, right?”

I think we sometimes have a misconception of our relationship to God, especially around Rosh Hashanah and Yom HaKippurim. There is an overwhelming sense of dread and fear that leads to shame that can be paralyzing. I know that sometimes children view God as only a punisher, One who constantly condemns and destroys, a sort of Zeus-like figure who cannot wait to hurl thunderbolts at humans when they

לשנה טובה תכתבו ותיחתמו

Shana Tova

Congregation Sha'aray Shalom
The South Shore's Lighthouse for Reform Judaism
Wishes You a Sweet New Year This Rosh Hashanah 5786!

Rabbi Eric Berk
Cantor Steven Weiss
Rabbi Emerita Shira Joseph
Executive Director Ellen Bernstein
Steven Pohl, President

Families of all ages are warmly invited to join us for inspiring worship and vibrant educational experiences for both children and adults.

www.Shaaray.org
1112 Main Street Hingham, MA 02043
(781) 749-8103

CONGREGATION



Sha'aray Shalom



Reimagining Our Relationship With God

are bad, but that is not the relationship that God wants. It is true we refer to Him as our King throughout the days of Awe, but we also refer to Him as our Father, one who loves us and wants to be close with us. Our prayers on Rosh Hashanah and Yom HaKippurim reflect this type of relationship: Besides the usual phrases that appear in all the other holidays such as “אתה בחרתנו מכל העמים, אהבת אותנו ורצית בנו”, meaning, You have chosen us from among all peoples. You have loved and favored us, and “נתת לנו ה' אלֵינוּ בְּאַהֲבָה אֶת יוֹם - and You, Lord our God, have given us in love this **day** (whatever holiday it is) we find phrases in our Rosh Hashanah *Shemoneh esreh* such as, “וְגַם אֶת נֹחַ בְּאַהֲבָה...”, “You also remembered Noah with love...” (This phrase continues into a litany of remembrances that culminate in God’s love for Israel) and “Is Ephraim not a treasured son to Me, My child of delights?” (quoted from *Yirmiyahu* 31), and “I remember of you the kindness of your youth, your love when you were a bride; how you walked after Me in the desert, through a land not sown.” (*Yirmiyahu* 2). There are many more examples of God’s love of and for us in the prayers of the *Yamim Noraim*. Throughout Rosh Hashana and Yom HaKippurim prayers there are numerous mentions of individual love as well as love of our nation. This is not to say that there is no sense of awe or reverence of God throughout these prayers; they are very much prevalent throughout, but the objective of these days is to rejuvenate and strengthen our relationship with God through love, commitment and loyalty. We say during Yom HaKippurim that “Your way, our God, is to be slow to anger”, we reference God’s loving kindness and compassion over 100 times during the course of the prayers of the

“.. the objective of these days is to rejuvenate and strengthen our relationship with God through love...”

Days of Awe. These *Tefillot* reflect the ideal relationship between us and God. I believe that when we end Yom HaKippurim by chanting together the phrase “The Lord, He is God” seven times, that is meant to bring us closer, to think of Him as a loving parent who cares deeply for every individual as well as the nation as a whole.

So when my students ask me “What sins did we do?” I tell them I don’t know, but engaging God with only the fear of punishment and not with love may be an impediment for repairing our relationship with God as well as with this world. And in terms of the hostages being exempt from the *Teshuva* process, or being exempt from praying or doing other *Mitzvot*, I would like to quote Agam Berger who was a

hostage for 482 days in Gaza:

“I really wanted to pray in captivity and I prayed to God to send a Siddur. I also asked one of the terrorists if they had a book with Jewish prayers? He laughed, and two days later he brought me a Rinat

Yisrael siddur. He told me: Your God must really love you. We found it. It is likely that one of the soldiers forgot it in Khan Yunis.”

Agam’s testimony is a powerful reminder: even in the darkest moments, the human soul reaches out for God. The desire to connect, to pray, to reaffirm the relationship - that is the essence of our faith.

As we enter this new year, may we all strive to see God not only as our Judge, but as our loving Father. May our awe be deep, but our love deeper still. And may every member of *Klal Yisrael* - in freedom and captivity alike - be reunited with their families, their communities, and with the God who loves them beyond measure.

Rabbi David Ehrenkranz has been teaching at the Maimonides School in Brookline since 1996.



**Registration for *Kayitz* (summer) 2026 is open!
Come be a part of the Yavneh mishpacha (family)!**

For more information: info@campyavneh.org, or www.campyavneh.org

On the Soviet Origins of Modern Anti-Zionism

By Rabbi Shlomo Pereira

A Perplexing Turn

In the wake of the Oct. 7 massacre perpetrated by Hamas, Jewish communities throughout the world found itself confronting a bewildering reality: while images of unspeakable violence circulated globally, many corners of academia, media, and activist culture responded not with outrage, but with rationalization, deflection, or even celebration. Within days, slogans accusing Israel of genocide and apartheid replaced calls for empathy. Rallies denounced “Zionism” with vehemence that, for many Jews, was indistinguishable from anti-semitism.

This response was not simply a spontaneous eruption of protest. Rather, it revealed the long-maturing effects of an ideological framework in which Jewish national identity is uniquely delegitimized. The rapid shift from mourning to condemnation, and the moral inversion that portrayed the victims as aggressors, appeared from a discourse that has long painted Zionism not as a liberation movement but as a form of imperialist domination. That discourse did not originate in Gaza, Berkeley, or London. It has roots in Moscow.

To understand how anti-Zionism evolved into a dominant moral language on the progressive left, and how the Palestinian cause came to be seen as the paradigmatic struggle against oppression, we must look back to the Cold War.

It was the USSR that systematically redefined Zionism as racism, casting Israel as a colonial settler-state and recasting the Arab Israeli conflict as a global struggle between oppressors and the oppressed. It was in the USSR, that a state-sponsored “discipline” known as Zionology [Зионология] appeared as a propaganda tool aimed at vilifying Zionism and the State of Israel masquerading as an objective social science cloaked in the language of academic research.

From ally to bitter enemy

In the decades following World War II, the USSR played a decisive role in reshaping global attitudes toward Zionism and the State of Israel. What began as a brief period of Soviet support for Jewish statehood in the late 1940s quickly gave way to a sustained and ideologically driven campaign of anti-Zionism, one that has profoundly influenced international institutions and left-wing political thought to this day.

In 1947, the USSR voted in favor of the UN Partition Plan, which called for the establishment of a Jewish and an Arab state in British Mandatory Palestine. The Soviets saw the Zionist project, then dominated by socialist and left-leaning movements, as a potential ally against British influence in the Middle East. In May 1948, the USSR was among the first countries to officially grant recognition to the new State of Israel.

This early support, however, was short-lived. By the early 1950s, Soviet policy had undergone a dramatic shift. At home, antisemitic undercurrents reemerged in Stalinist purges, with Jewish intellectuals targeted, Zionist organizations shut down, and expressions of Jewish identity under suspicion. The infamous Doctors’ Plot of 1952, which accused Jewish physicians of conspiring to kill Soviet leaders, exemplified the regime’s increasing paranoia toward Jews, particularly those with ties to the newly founded Jewish state.

Meanwhile, on the international stage, the Cold War realigned Soviet strategic priorities. Israel’s growing ties to the United States and Western Europe undermined hopes that it would serve Soviet geopolitical interests. In contrast, the USSR saw in Arab nationalism, particularly in Egypt, Syria, and Iraq, an opportunity to extend its influence in the Middle East. These Arab regimes were vocally anti-Zionist, and the USSR began to adopt and amplify their rhetoric.

This ideological transformation culminated in the Soviet promotion of a narrative that depicted Zionism not as a legitimate movement for Jewish national self-determination, but as a reactionary, imperialist ideology aligned with Western capitalism and Israel as a racist, expansionist aggressor.

The Six-Day War in 1967, in which Israel decisively defeated Soviet-backed Arab armies, further intensified Soviet hostility. The USSR severed diplomatic ties with Israel and began an even more aggressive campaign to delegitimize the Jewish state on the international stage.

This campaign bore fruit in 1975 with the passage of a UN General Assembly resolution, which declared that “Zionism is a form of racism.” The resolution, pushed by the Soviet bloc and Arab states, marked a high point in the institutionalization of anti-Zionism within the global order. Although the resolution was revoked in 1991 its legacy endures in international discourse.

The Soviet influence extended far beyond diplomatic circles. Beginning in the 1960s, Western left-wing intellectuals and activist movements increasingly adopted Soviet-influenced critiques of Zionism. For many shaped by anti-colonial struggles and Marxist thought, Israel came to be viewed not as a haven for Holocaust survivors, but as a settler-colonial state oppressing indigenous Palestinians. This framing, aggressively spread through international institutions, Third World movements, and cultural production, laid the foundation for much of today’s anti-Israel rhetoric.

Rabbi Richard S. Winer

Traveling far & wide creating
custom memorable ceremonies

Jewish & Interfaith

Weddings

Life Cycle Events

Baby Naming

Funerals

Counseling

Rick@RabbiWiner.com
508-877-9900
www.RabbiWiner.com



On the Soviet Origins of Modern Anti-Zionism

Shaping the Palestinian National Movement

During the Cold War, the USSR played a decisive role in transforming the Palestinian national movement. Through ideological, military, and diplomatic support, the USSR redefined Palestinian identity, resistance tactics, and how the international community perceived the Arab Israeli conflict.

Before Soviet involvement, Palestinian nationalism was a local response to Zionist immigration and British colonial rule in Mandatory Palestine. The 1936-1939 Arab Revolt and, later, the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians following the creation of Israel in 1948 shaped early Palestinian consciousness. However, political leadership was fragmented, and the movement often lacked strategic independence, relying heavily on the agendas of neighboring Arab states such as Egypt and Jordan.

By the 1950s and 60s, as the USSR distanced itself from Israel and embraced pan-Arab nationalism, particularly with the emergence of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in 1964 and Yasser Arafat's rise to leadership in 1969, the Palestinian cause increasingly caught their attention. The USSR offered direct support to Palestinian factions, especially those aligned with Marxist-Leninist ideology, such as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. These groups received military training, weapons, and operational support.

Most significantly, these groups were provided with an ideological framework. In this Soviet-inspired narrative, Zionism was recast as a form of Western imperialism and racist settler-colonialism, an outpost of American and European dominance imposed on the Arab world. Palestinians, in contrast, were cast as heroic symbols of oppressed peoples everywhere, aligned with anti-colonial movements in Africa, Latin America, and Asia.

This ideological shift had practical consequences. Palestinian factions began adopting revolutionary symbols, like red flags,

Marxist language, and iconography of figures like Che Guevara. They also began embracing tactics associated with armed revolutionary movements, including airplane hijackings, embassy takeovers, and guerrilla-style attacks. They justified their acts of terror as revolutionary violence, modeled on global liberation struggles.

Soviet influence also transformed the diplomatic landscape of the Palestinian cause. With Moscow's backing, the PLO gained international recognition as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. In 1974, it was granted observer status at the UN. The following year, the USSR and its allies helped pass the infamous UN General Assembly resolution declaring that Zionism is a form of racism.

Soviet engagement also extended to education and political formation. Thousands of Palestinian students received scholarships to study in Soviet universities, where they were immersed in Marxist theory and Cold War geopolitics. These students often returned to the Middle East as political cadres, intellectuals, and organizers, reinforcing Soviet-style ideology within Palestinian institutions and discourse.

The Enduring Soviet Legacy

Although the USSR collapsed in 1991, the legacy of its involvement endures. Today, many of the rhetorical patterns pioneered by Soviet anti-Zionist campaigns are still visible. Accusations that Israel is an apartheid state, a proxy of Western imperialism, or a uniquely malevolent global actor echo the Soviet-era lexicon. UN bodies continue to disproportionately focus on Israel, a pattern rooted in Cold War-era bloc politics shaped by Soviet leadership. Understanding this legacy is essential to navigating today's debates over Israel, antisemitism, and the boundaries of legitimate criticism.

Rabbi Shlomo Pereira is the director of adult education at the Chabad of Virginia, Richmond. He can be reached at shlomo@chabadofva.org.

Discover Elegant Independent and Assisted Living, with Exceptional Alzheimer's Care.

Ask about our
**30 Day
Trial Stay**

Try us for 30 days. Taste our food,
enjoy the many activities, and relax!
You'll love our friendly people
and warm, vibrant atmosphere.

W

WINDSOR PLACE

OF WILMINGTON

An Assisted Living Residence

92 West Street, Wilmington, MA

Just off I-93 at Exit 38, One Exit North of I-95/128

WindsorPlaceOfWilmington.com • Call for a tour today: 978-988-2300.



CENTRAL MASS



Jewish Federation of Central Mass Young Adult Division (YAD) enjoyed cooking, Shabbat, puttering around, on the lake, happy hour and hiking throughout June and July



Jewish Heritage Night 2025 at the Woo Sox on June 17




PJ Library cherubs at Dean Park in June

Jim McGovern
Democrat ★ Congress

Join our movement: jimmcgovern.com

Shana Tova!
I wish you and your family a
healthy and blessed
New Year.

All my best,
Jim McGovern




Instagram: @jimmcgovernma
Twitter: @mcgovernma
Facebook.com/McGovernForCongress

Paid for by the Re-Elect McGovern Committee

VISIT THE
City of Peace

Where Design, History, Innovation, Art,
Food, Ideas and Farming come to life.



Hancock Shaker Village
PITTSFIELD, MA
HancockShakerVillage.org

CENTRAL MASS



The Jewish Healthcare Center, in Worcester hosted their 50th Golf Classic on August 4 at The Pleasant Valley Country Club in Sutton. The Jewish Federation of Central Mass joined us for this annual fundraiser. Pictured from left to right are Ben Lyons, Mark Shear and Steven Schimmel, Executive Director of JFCM.



Jewish Federation of Central Mass Chaverot's Ladies Cafe meets almost weekly during the summertime



Jewish life is thriving in Worcester.

Jewish life is great in Central Massachusetts.

www.jfcm.org

We'd love to see you!

Wishing our Jewish friends and family here in Massachusetts and around the world and in Israel, a happy, healthy, peaceful and prosperous new year.

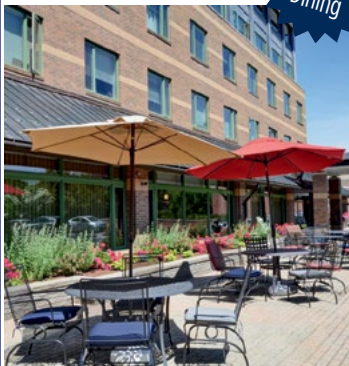


Eisenberg Assisted Living Residence

An Affiliate of Jewish Healthcare Center

Spacious Apartments | Beautiful Courtyards | Comfortable Common Areas

Kosher Dining



- Close to Boston & Metrowest Area
- Kosher and Highly Rated
- Affordable & Close to Boston
- Onsite Shabbat & Religious Services
- 24/7 Professional, Caring Staff
- Transportation to Appointments
- Housekeeping & Linen Services
- All Inclusive Pricing

Open for Admissions | Schedule a Tour Today!

(508) 757-0981 | www.eisenbergal.org
631 Salisbury St., Worcester, MA 01609

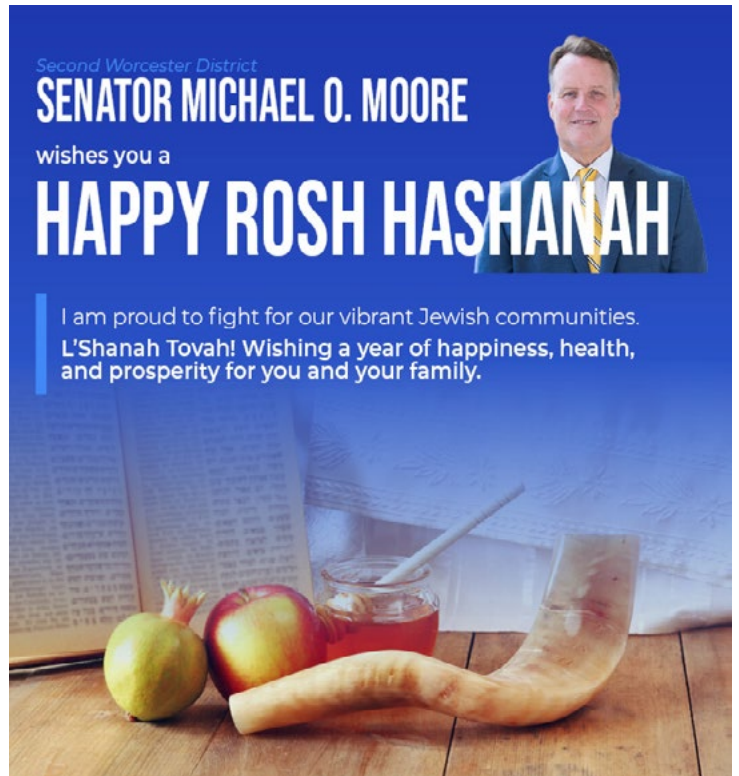
Second Worcester District

SENATOR MICHAEL O. MOORE

wishes you a

HAPPY ROSH HASHANAH

I am proud to fight for our vibrant Jewish communities.
L'Shanah Tovah! Wishing a year of happiness, health, and prosperity for you and your family.



Innovative Programming Attracts Participants from Chelsea and Beyond

By Tom Barth

The historic Walnut Street Synagogue of Chelsea continues to provide diverse and innovative in-person and online programs, drawing an audience from all around Greater Boston and across the country.

In early June, the shul screened the film *Shared Legacies* at the Williams School in Chelsea. The film is a moving documentary about the critical historical lessons of the Black Jewish Alliance during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. Following the film, there was a conversation with personal and local perspectives featuring Chelsea City Councilor Leo Robinson and Janna Kaplan from Brandeis University. Kaplan's late husband Edward and his father Kivie were lifelong residents of Greater Boston and they were key players in the Civil Rights movement. Kivie's wife Emily was from Chelsea and her family was affiliated with the Walnut Street Synagogue. Robinson is a lifelong Chelsea resident and is the longest serving member of the Chelsea City Council. The program was funded in part by grants from the Chelsea Cultural Council and the Congregation Ahabat Shalom Religious Fund.

On Sept. 7, *Chelsea's Immigrant Jewish Artists and Artisans* will be presented in the synagogue. Speakers include Dr. Samuel Gruber and Simona Di Nepi, who will introduce the work of Jewish immigrant artists and artisans in Chelsea and Greater Boston active during the early 20th century. Dr. Gruber is an art and architecture historian who has been a leader in the documentation, protection, and preservation of historic Jewish sites worldwide and Di Nepi is the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Curator of Judaica at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. They will explore the immigrant artists and artisans' legacy and how their work is utilized, preserved and appreciated today, inside original locations, such as the Walnut Street Synagogue, and in new locations with new purposes and new audiences. One of the prominent artisans that will be discussed is Sam Katz, a prolific woodworker and cabinetmaker who built numerous synagogue Torah arks in the Boston area. Katz was born in modern-day Ukraine, immigrated to America in 1910 and established himself in Chelsea around 1916. The program is funded in part by a Chelsea Heritage Celebrations Grant from the Chelsea Cultural Council.

The shul began the four-part online urban exploration series,

Walkabout Tel Aviv: Tel to Towers in August and it continues through December. The series explores how Tel Aviv, a city built on layers of history, architecture, culture, and flavor, has evolved from an ancient port to a global hotspot. The virtual tours are being led by award winning Tel Aviv-based tour guide Gila Levitan. This series is funded in part by a grant from the Congregation Ahabat Shalom Religious Fund.

The Walnut Street Synagogue was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1993 and is open for individual, family and group tours by advance reservation.

For more information and to register for programs or tours, please visit walnutstreetsynagogue.com. Contact the synagogue by email at info@walnutstreetsynagogue.com with questions.

WISHING YOU A HAPPY, HEALTHY AND SWEET NEW YEAR - שנה טובה ומתוקה FROM THE WALNUT STREET SYNAGOGUE OF CHELSEA



- Located at the corner of Walnut and Fourth Streets in Chelsea since 1909
- Added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1993



visit us at walnutstreetsynagogue.com
to register for our many programs and tours of our historic building
and to about our extensive collection of artifacts from Chelsea and across
Greater Boston

Israel and the Diaspora, Moving Forward Together

By Benjamin Sharoni, Consul General of Israel to New England

As we prepare to welcome 5786, I extend warmest wishes for a meaningful and sweet New Year to Jewish communities across New England. Rosh Hashanah offers us not just a celebration of creation – but a time for reflection, recalibration, and renewed commitment to the values that bind us as a people.

The High Holidays are a uniquely powerful period in the Jewish tradition. More than a festive marker of time's passing, they are a spiritual checkpoint – a moment to look both backward and forward. We reflect on who we have been over the past year, what we have learned, where we have fallen short, and how we might strive to become better – individually and collectively – in the year ahead.

For Israel and the Jewish people around the world, this past year has brought with it both profound challenges and historic opportunities. We have faced moments of crisis that tested our resilience and our unity. At the same time, we have seen the enduring strength of our shared identity, the brilliance of Israeli innovation, and the growing partnerships between Israel and countries near and far – including in our own backyard here in New England.

Serving as Israel's Consul General to this region has given me a front-row seat to one of the most passionate, engaged, and dynamic Jewish communities in the diaspora. From Boston to Bangor, from Nashua to New Haven, I have met educators, students, rabbis, entrepreneurs, government officials, and community leaders who are committed not only to Jewish life here in New England but also to nurturing the vital bond between this region and the State of Israel.

That bond is built on more than shared history – it is built on people-to-people connections. On mutual respect. On a sense of collective purpose. It is expressed in countless ways: through sister-city programs, academic exchanges, joint ventures between Israeli and New England tech companies, and the cultural connections that bridge our two homes.

One of those cultural connections is the deep pride New Englanders take in their sports teams – a pride that unites people across

backgrounds and generations. Whether it's the Red Sox bringing Fenway Park to life with the grit of legends like Kevin Youkilis and the fresh spark of Alex Bregman; the Celtics, my favorite team since childhood, chasing another championship banner; or the Patriots rallying fans on crisp autumn Sundays, these teams remind us what loyalty, perseverance, and teamwork can achieve. They show us, as does our community, that victories are greater when shared, and challenges are best met together.

In a world that too often feels divided, the partnership between Israel and Jewish communities abroad is a source of stability and inspiration. It reminds us that while our contexts may differ, our futures are linked – and our responsibilities to one another remain.

This Rosh Hashanah, I reflect on the spirit of renewal that lives in the soul of the Jewish people. Across generations, we have faced adversity with determination and transformed hardship into hope. In Israel and in Jewish communities worldwide, we continue to innovate, create, and care for one another – not just because it is necessary, but because it is who we are.

The sound of the shofar calls us to attention – not only to look inward, but to look outward as well. It reminds us that the work of renewal is not private; it is communal. We build stronger communities, and a stronger Jewish future, when we lift each other up, deepen our commitments, and strengthen the ties that hold us together as one people.

As Consul General, it is a privilege to work with so many partners across New England who are deeply engaged in that work – who understand that Israel's story is not separate from their own, and who invest time, energy, and heart into building that connection. The impact is lasting, and it is mutual.

May the coming year bring health, peace, and prosperity to you and your loved ones. May it strengthen the bonds of unity among our communities, and may we continue to walk forward together – with courage, clarity, and purpose.

Shanah Tovah u'Metukah – from my family to yours.



TEMPLE B'NAI SHALOM



Temple B'nai Shalom of Braintree is a conservative synagogue serving congregants from Braintree and the South Shore.

We are a warm and welcoming congregation with a Hebrew school and currently opening our doors to new members.

Please join us for our weekly Shabbat Services and our High Holiday services in the Fall.

For more information
please call us at 781-843-3687.

TBSbraintree.com

LINO COVARRUBIAS HONORED with MIRA's AWARD



Lino Covarrubias, CEO of Jewish Family Service of Metrowest (JFS), was recognized with Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition's (MIRA) prestigious Community Champion Award at the Give Liberty Gala on May 29, held at Artists For Humanity, Boston.

JFS serves more than 8,000 individuals and families each year across the Metrowest and Greater Boston regions, providing critical support to vulnerable children and families, immigrants, older adults aging in place, and individuals in need.

A first-generation Mexican American, Covarrubias grew up in Southern California's migrant agricultural region.

Additional honorees included Boston City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune and Dr. Robert P. Marlin, Special Advisor on Healthcare Workforce Development at MIRA.

Photo: Covarrubias with family and JFS staff members.

Spivacks Antiques

Wellesley (781) 235-1700

Newton (617) 285-4540

Newton / Wellesley / Brookline
Weston / Dover / Sherborn / Sudbury
Boston / Wayland / Milton / Sharon
Canton / Belmont / Watertown / Waltham

wcedrone@yahoo.com



Located in Wellesley, MA, we are in the Antique Business of buying and selling many types of merchandise, such as: Jewelry, Paintings, China
Having been in this business for over 40 years, we also conduct Estate Sales and the Liquidation of Estates for Auction.

**Get our price before you sell your used or broken jewelry.
No obligation.
Free Appraisal.
You will not be disappointed.
We pay cash.
References upon request.**



We also Conduct Estate Sales
and Complete Clean-Out of Homes

Servicing the Newton, Wellesley and surrounding areas
Silver, Silver Plate, Lighting, Costume Jewelry, Paintings, Military Items,
Furniture, Bronzes, Pottery, Handbags, Oriental Rugs, China, Anything Old.

SUDBURY




*Zach Mayer and Friends "Zeh HaYom"
Album Release concert at the Congregation
Beth El of Sudbury on July 6*




*Shavuot 5785 - Cantor Vera Broekhuysen of Beth El
Sudbury chants Torah at Drumlin Farm in Lincoln*

*Health, happiness, and peace for 5786
from your friends at...*

**Congregation Beth El
of the Sudbury River Valley**

 **Congregation Beth El**
SUDBURY, MA



www.bethelsudbury.org

L'Shanah Tovah!

As we welcome the Jewish New Year, Chelsea Jewish Lifecare and Legacy Lifecare wish you a year filled with peace, health, and happiness.

May this season of renewal bring joy and prosperity to you and your loved ones.



Assisted Living | Assisted Living Memory Care | Short-Term Rehabilitation | Long-Term Care | Long-Term Care Memory Care | ALS, MS & Ventilator Care | Adult Day Health | VNA | Hospice | And More...

To Learn More or Schedule a Tour Contact Jill Hemeon at 857-337-8850 or jhemeon@legacylifecare.org



CHELSEA JEWISH LIFECARE
CELEBRATING LIFE THROUGH
THE JEWISH TRADITION



Legacy Lifecare

Locations in Chelsea & Peabody
Kosher Dietary Laws Observed



A STUDY IN BIAS

By Avraham Wachs Cashman

The reaction I get most often when I tell people I teach an 8th grade class about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is usually one of astonishment. It's not surprising to see this reaction as the subject material speaks to perhaps the greatest pressure point within the Jewish community today. Jewish day schools often have foundational statements about Israel, but they will often avoid direct academic conversations about the Conflict. Parents, and therefore students, have intensive emotional reactions to conversations about this area, and may find it triggering to even begin to explore. This has led to a significant lack of space and skills, even within the Jewish community, for young people to engage in crucial dialogue. I, also a graduate of Jewish Day school and numerous other Jewish institutions, found very little space and opportunity growing up to learn about the origins, events, cycles, and impact of the Conflict. This led many my age to be unaware and ill-prepared to experience the vast array of thoughts about Israel when I stepped out of my bubble.

This led us at MetroWest Jewish Day School to understand the importance of creating a class for our outgoing students so they would be equipped to have this and other difficult dialogues. The quintessential question facing us was "How can I, human in every way, teach without bias?"

The answer is that we cannot, which led to our decision to teach the class through the lens of bias. Like other History/Social Studies classes, academic lenses or theories are often taught so that students have tools to engage in the content. Whether we use Schlesinger's Pendulum theory to identify trends in early American history or apply Burke's *Stages of Revolution* theory to other events, it gives young scholars critical thinking lenses to break apart important and often controversial data.



Wishing you
a sweet,
happy, and
health New
Year.

שנה
טובה

**MetroWest Jewish Day
School**

50 Pamela Road, Framingham, MA
www.mwjds.org

שנה טובה



Fox's
u-bet

*Shanah
tovah!*

Have an extra-sweet
new year with your
favorite flavor U-bet!

FoxSyrups.com

Visit us @foxsyrups and learn how to make an Egg Cream and other delicious recipes with U-bet!

A STUDY IN BIAS

Our class begins with the exploration of cognitive biases and logical fallacies. Our students explore numerous different types of either i.e. Ad Hominem or Dunning Krueger effect, identifying how they themselves regularly fall victim to these traps. Indeed, the running homework assignment each week when I present them with a slide presentation about a stage or event in the Conflict is to identify where my logical fallacies and cognitive biases are present. The goal is not to prove me wrong or criticize me, but to start to be metacognitive about the delivery of information.

For every period or event, our students explore multiple resources on each one that give a variety of facts, perspectives, narratives, and personal truths. We are attempting to expose our students to the vastly different takes on the Conflict, where these perspectives originated from, and how to analyze both the writer's and their own biases/fallacies.

As we move forward in the unit, we explore how our inner biases can be impacted by word choice, visual imagery, perspective, trigger words, and personal truth. There is no expectation or party line of belief a student must have, but a growing ability on how to recognize their own biases and blindspots, as well as why others may have their own. Learning to dialogue with others, instead of falling into righteously indignant camps, has gifted students the ability to create and sustain space for any number of difficult and powerful



“we explore how our inner biases can be impacted by word choice”

conversations.

The reactions we have gotten from our students have been incredible. Even within our pluralistic school where the spectrum of thought about Israel is vast, our students are able to converse about this material in a maturity and dignity often not found in the day-today echo chambers we may live in. It has become one of our most popular and elevated thought classes. Our most constant critique from our students is not about issues of whether we have been “fair” or “balanced”, but that this class and content needs to be taught even earlier; that the anxiety, stress, and intense responses they see from the adults around them about Israel trickles down and that young American Jews have little schema or skill to feel comfortable when the Conflict is brought up.

What now occurs on a regular basis is our students now in other classes and conversations, recognize when they are using a cognitive fallacy or hiding behind bias. They have learned not to weaponize this information, but to allow it to highlight the humanity of everyone in the conversation and to ensure that darkest and hardest exchanges can still occur.

Avraham Wachs Cashman is the Middle School Coordinator and Lead Teacher at MetroWest Jewish Day School in Framingham.



Dedicated to providing expert education and vibrant community for Jewish Studies at Boston University.



for more information, contact:
Boston University College of Arts and Sciences
Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies
 147 Bay State Road, Boston, MA 02215
 617-353-8096 ewcjs@bu.edu
bu.edu/jewishstudies

Learn more about our programs:

- *Jewish Studies minor*
- *Israel Studies minor*
- *Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies major and minor*
- *Research opportunities and funding for students*
- *Elie Wiesel Archive Internship*



JEWISH LEGISLATORS



Jewish leaders and members of the National Association of Jewish Legislators (NAJL) in Boston on Aug. 5.

HADASSAH EVENT



National President of Hadassah Carol Ann Schwartz and local Chapter members at a special Annual Giving Event in Needham, this past spring.

AJC NEW ENGLAND



On June 24, Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll visited Beth Shalom Temple of Needham to participate in *Turning Pain Into Purpose* community solidarity gathering to address concerns across the Jewish community, prompted by acts of anti-Jewish violence. The Lt. Governor offered remarks and encouraged people to know that Massachusetts stands in solidarity with the Jewish community. The event was hosted by American Jewish Committee (AJC) New England, the Connie Spear Birnbaum Foundation, and Temple Beth Shalom, in partnership with CJP, JCRC, ADL New England, and many other co-sponsors.

*Robert Leikind,
Ted Deutch,
Lt. Governor Kim
Driscoll and
Jeremy Burton*



Happy New Year - L'shanah Tovah
**Join us for our Annual
Walk for Women's Health
on October 19th**

REGISTER HERE

<https://events.hadassah.org/hnewalk25register>



AJC NEW ENGLAND
WISHES YOU A SWEET YEAR OF
HEALTH, HAPPINESS, AND PEACE.

לְשָׁנָה טוֹבָה תִּכְתְּבוּ

MAY YOU BE INSCRIBED IN THE BOOK OF LIFE.

AJC
New England

AJC.org/NewEngland/GetInvolved

Where Are You?

By Rabbi Jonathan Hausman

The Days of Awe are upon us; Rosh HaShanah begins Monday evening, Sept. 22. These days that extend from Rosh Hashanah through Yom Kippur are filled with mystery and majesty, awe and wonder. Year after year, they compassionately return to us, again and again, to inspire, to challenge, to renew us. These Days of Awe approach us as G-d approached Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

You may remember the scene. Adam and Eve dwell peacefully in the Garden. They had not a care, not a worry. Living in a paradise serene and beautiful, they are satisfied and fulfilled, naked and unashamed. Yet, the idyllic paradise ends abruptly when Adam and Eve choose to eat of the forbidden fruit. At that fateful moment, conflict is born into the world. Fear is created. Now, aware of their nakedness, Adam and Eve feel ashamed for the first time. Yet, G-d is among them. G-d is so close to Adam and Eve that they literally hear G-d's presence - "they heard the sound of G-d moving about in the garden at the breezy time of day." (*Genesis 3:8*) Feeling naked and afraid, Adam and Eve attempt to hide from G-d's presence. G-d then calls out to Adam with the ultimate, deepest question of questions: "Where are you?"

What a magnificently simple, yet profound question! "Where are you?" Could Adam truly hide himself from G-d? Is it remotely possible that G-d didn't know where Adam was physically? Perhaps, G-d was really asking Adam a more fundamental spiritual question: "Where are you in your life, Adam?", "Where are you in your relationship to Me, your Creator?", "Where are you in terms of who you were created to be?"

These are the questions that G-d now asks of us during these Days of Awe. At this time of year, we are like Adam and Eve. We stand open before G-d's near and loving presence, our hearts and actions over the past year exposed. In the stillness and awe of these Holy Days, G-d's question penetrates our defenses and reverberates in our souls. "Where are you?"

Rabbi Jonathan Hausman serves Ahavath Torah Congregation in Stoughton.



RARE & FOREVER
NATURAL DIAMONDS

Forever to the Moon & Back

*Shana Tova
Umetuka*

Available at:
H. Brandt Jewelers
31 Main Street, Natick, MA
(508) 653-1410
We make house calls

Visit us at
www.ShalomMA.com

שנה טובה

Wishing you and your family a sweet New Year!

תשפ"ו • 5786



BOSTON'S JEWISH COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL

בית ספר יהודי קהילתי

www.jcdsboston.org

OPEN
Hearts.

OPEN
Minds.

OPEN
Worlds.



*To learn about local Jewish events,
follow us at
www.facebook.com/ShalomMagazine
or www.ShalomMA.com*

**BRONZE
MEMORIAL
INC.**

Custom bronze grave markers
for Sharon Memorial Park
Pre-need memorials available

781-828-8383 BronzeMemorial.net Sharon, MA

Boston's Israeli Women Organization



*Pnina Biran, Noa Vardy, Tanya Gordon
and Michal Kennedy*

Since 2014, The Israeli Women Organization, Habostoniot (הבוסטוניות) has been a source of strength and community for Israeli women in Massachusetts.

"What started as a small grassroots effort to connect women has grown into a vibrant community providing access to resources to help through various stages of life. Our mission is to create a sense of belonging. Each month, our all-volunteer team organizes events that bring women together. These events are inspired by, but not limited to, the Jewish calendar, such as a family candle lighting on Hanukkah, a Tu B'shvat terrarium workshop, a celebration of International Women's Day, and more. These programs offer a way for Israeli women to connect, celebrate, share experiences, and provide support," said Noa Vardy, founder and president of the organization.

"Our annual Welcome Party each October is especially meaningful. It brings together newcomers and long-time residents, offering new arrivals an instant community and a warm welcome in their new home," Tanya Gordon, organization coordinator, said.

"Everything we do is powered by volunteers – from planning to logistics to hosting. This spirit of shared responsibility and mutual care is what makes our community so special," said Pnina Biran, organization director.

"As we begin our 11th year, we're excited to continue growing, deepening our impact, and building new opportunities to connect. Our hope is that the broader Jewish community will continue walking with us on this journey – celebrating, supporting, and strengthening this circle of women-helping-women," said Michal Kennedy, organization treasurer.

To learn more about the organization, join an event, or explore ways to get involved, visit Israeli Women Organization on Facebook.

THE CONNECTION BETWEEN JUDAISM AND THE PLANT WORLD



By Rabbi Yosef P. Glassman, MD

Ask any careful student of Hebrew, and they'll tell you – Jewish language and tradition are deeply intertwined with the natural world, especially plant life. Words we use every day carry agricultural echoes. The Hebrew word *siach* means both “conversation” and “shrub.” *Zimra* refers to both “song” and “pruning.” These aren't poetic coincidences; they

reflect Judaism's ancient and enduring link to the rhythms of the earth.

This connection is more than symbolic. It's foundational.

From the Torah's earliest chapters to the Mishnah's detailed agricultural laws, Judaism has always taught that the land and its produce are sacred. Entire tractates like *Kilayim* explore ethical relationships between humans and nature – how we plant, combine, and tend our crops.

Even today, this legacy persists in tangible ways. With the return of the Jewish people to the Land of Israel, we're not only reclaiming our homeland but reviving a plant-rooted consciousness that lay dormant for generations. Israel's agricultural innovation – its drip irrigation, desert farming, and export of world-class produce – reflects more than technical achievement. It signals a reconnection to something ancient, purposeful, and deeply Jewish.

But the spiritual depth of this plant consciousness goes beyond farming.

The 16th-century mystic Rabbi Moshe Cordovero (the Ramak) taught that herbs and plants have spiritual significance. In his commentary *Pri Etz Hadar* on the Zohar (Shmot 15:2), he wrote that herbs derive their character from their “spiritual roots in higher worlds.” This mystical idea suggests that each plant carries a unique energy or essence – a secret waiting to be discovered and understood.

Enter Avraham and Leah Dahan, ethnobotanical researchers

based in the holy city of Tzfat. Their new Hebrew-language book, *Encyclopedia Talmud of Plants* (<https://cth.co.il/en/books/plants-talmud/>), is a masterful work of scholarship, art, and passion. The book takes readers on a journey through the plant life of Israel – from Biblical times to today – with an eye on both tradition and practical relevance.

Part reference book, part cultural revival, the Encyclopedia explores categories such as:

- The Seven Species (*Shivat Haminim*)
- Healing herbs used throughout Jewish history
- Spices and fruit trees
- The sacred ingredients of the *Ketoret* (Temple incense)

Each entry is rooted in Torah sources and brought to life with illustrations, historical context, and insights into the plants' medicinal and spiritual uses. But perhaps most importantly, the Dahans' work invites modern readers to re-engage with a dimension of Jewish life often overlooked: the wisdom of the earth.

This book doesn't just inform—it reconnects. It shows how plants once shaped Jewish ritual, cuisine, medicine, and daily life, and how they still can.

At a time when many are searching for deeper meaning, wellness, and rootedness, looking to the plant world through a Jewish lens offers a refreshing path. Our tradition doesn't separate the sacred from the natural – it unites them. Not only that, but the herbal incense of the Temple sheds light on the deepest secrets of Judaism, once revealed, yet hidden for over 2000 years.

May we continue to grow in our understanding, and rediscover the blossoming wisdom hidden in the soul and soil of our people.

Rabbi Dr. Yosef Glassman, MD is a former IDF Lieutenant, a mohel and geriatrics specialist licensed in MA, NY, NJ, FL and Israel.



DISCOVER THE HUMMUS SHOP



Local Ingredients



Kosher Certified



Vegetarian & Vegan Options



Dairy & Nut Free

Fantastic Falafel in a Pita!




ORDER AHEAD



37 CHARLES STREET, BOSTON

KALANIYOT: FACULTY-LED NATIONAL NETWORK TO STRENGTHEN U.S.-ISRAEL ACADEMIC TIES



Professor Or Hen and Professor Ernest Fraenkel

Kalaniyot is a faculty-led national foundation advancing academic excellence through deeper partnerships with Israeli researchers and stronger, more inclusive campus communities. Founded at MIT by Professor Or Hen and Professor Ernest Fraenkel after the October 7th events, Kalaniyot now includes chapters at Harvard Medical School, Columbia, Penn, Dartmouth, and USC, with more campuses joining soon.

Amid rising challenges to open discourse and collaboration, Kalaniyot supports scholars committed to free inquiry, scientific partnership, and building enduring bridges between leading U.S. and Israeli institutions. Each campus chapter brings together faculty working to foster a principled, welcoming environment for academic exchange.

By empowering faculty leadership, Kalaniyot is helping shape a future where research, discovery, and shared values transcend current-day challenges for the benefit of the U.S., Israel, and the world.

Learn more at kalaniyot.org.

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA

American Friends of the University of Haifa proudly welcomes Derrek Shulman as its new National Director of Philanthropy. A longtime leader in New England's philanthropic and nonprofit community, Derrek previously served as Regional Director of ADL New England and later as Senior Philanthropic Advisor at New Profit. He now brings this wealth of experience to AFUH, leading efforts to expand support for the University of Haifa. His work will help ensure greater opportunity for students in Northern Israel, strengthen groundbreaking research, and sustain the University's role as Israel's most diverse and inclusive academic community. To learn more about AFUH, please visit www.afuh.org.

THE III INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF SEPHARDIC STUDIES

The III International Congress of Sephardic Studies (III CIES), organized by the Center for Jewish Studies of the Amazon (CEJA) in collaboration with the Center for History at the University of Lisbon, will be held in person from Oct. 21 to 23, 2025, at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Lisbon. The event is supported by the Center for Jewish Studies at the University of São Paulo (CEJ), the Interdisciplinary Center for Jewish Studies at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (NIEJ), Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, and the Tikvah Jewish Museum of Lisbon.

This year's theme, "*Jews in the Mediterranean and Their Diasporas*," will encompass Iberian, Berber, Romaniote, Mizrahi, and other Jewish communities across Europe, the Americas, Asia, and Africa. Academics and researchers from around the world will participate. From Boston, Shirley Nigri Farber will present "Zionism Without Aliyah – The Connection Between Sephardic Jews in Rio de Janeiro and Israel." For more information, please visit <https://www.ceja-cies.com.br/iicies-eng>.



FRESH & DELICIOUS CHEF MADE FOOD

OFFICE CATERING | HOME MEALS | NEXTUP EVENTS

bonapita.com | catering@bonapita.com | kosher (617)369-3909



ORT America's Eastern MA Chapter Wishes You a Shana Tova U'Metukah!

ORT America is dedicated to transforming lives through education and training, fostering a global network of Jewish values and innovation. Our programs impact over 200,000 individuals annually across more than 30 countries, empowering students and educators with the skills necessary to thrive in the 21st century. We are driven by the principles of *tikkun olam* and a commitment to bridging the gap between potential and opportunity.

P.O. BOX 320780
NEEDHAM, MA 02492
781-444-5954
EASTERNMASSORT@YAHOO.COM
WWW.ORTAMERICA.ORG

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE OF METROWEST



Debbie Gotbetter and Temple Beth Elohim's Leadership Team



JFS CEO Lino Covarrubias and Middlesex Savings Bank CEO Dana Neshe



JFS board members Shirley Farber, Barbara Schultz, and Denise Rosenblum with Dana Volman

Over 400 guests joined Jewish Family Service (JFS) of Metrowest at the 35th Annual Seize the Dream Celebration on May 7, at the Westin Waltham Boston. The evening honored Debbie Gotbetter and the Leadership Team of Temple Beth Elohim's Immigration Justice Group – Michael Gilman, Jessica Lasser, Lina Musayev, Ed Shapiro, and Susan Sidel – for their extraordinary work welcoming refugee families, and recognized Middlesex Savings Bank and Middlesex Savings Charitable Foundation with the JFS Max Michelson Humanitarian Award. Together, vital funds were raised to support thousands of families, immigrants, and older adults who rely on JFS's life-changing programs and services.

Photos: David Fox Photography

MAKE THE MOVE to Assisted Living



Offering residents enriching, everyday opportunities aimed at **promoting independence, inspiring curiosity, and encouraging connections** with others.

- Concierge-style services & wellness offerings
- EnrichedLIFE experiences & adventures
- Award-winning brain healthy cuisine
- Expansive dining, fitness, piano lounge & courtyard
- Onsite rehabilitation services
- A renowned Compass Memory Support Neighborhood on the same campus, featuring evidence-based programming aimed at slowing the symptoms of the disease
- Unique short-term and trial stay option with "no minimum stay" requirement! Stay as long or as short as you need.



175 Revere Street, Canton MA
781.821.3616 | CornerstoneCanton.com



2121 Central Street Stoughton, MA
781.344.0310 | BrookmeadowSLR.com



35 Christy's Place, Brockton, MA
508.580.4300 | HeightsCrossing.com

From Silence to Strength: Healing Jewish Pain in the Face of Traumatic Invalidation



By Dr. Miri Bar-Halpern

Since Oct. 7, 2023, Jewish communities around the world have not only faced a rise in antisemitic incidents, they've also encountered something quieter, more insidious, and deeply wounding: traumatic invalidation. This occurs when a person's pain is dismissed, minimized, or denied by others, especially in moments when empathy and acknowledgment are most needed. When our suffering is erased, whether in conversations, on social media, or by institutions, it compounds the original

trauma, leaving many feeling isolated, mistrustful, and despairing.

Below are evidence-informed strategies to help Jewish individuals begin healing from traumatic invalidation.

1. Name What's Happening

The first step toward healing is recognizing the experience for what it is. Invalidation is not a personal weakness; it's a psychological wound inflicted when others fail to recognize your suffering.

Reflect and own your language

- Was my pain dismissed, minimized, or reframed to suit someone else's narrative?
- Did I leave a conversation feeling erased or ashamed for naming my Jewish identity or fears?
- Give a name to your experience; "That was invalidating and it hurt me"- this will restore power and begin to unmask the harm.

2. Protect and Prioritize Safe Relationships

Trauma recovery starts in connection. Seek people who don't ask

you to justify your pain. These may be friends, family members, community groups, or mental health professionals who validate your experience without conditions.

Questions to guide you:

- Who listens with empathy rather than deflection?
- Where can I show up fully as a Jew?

Broaden your circle:

Seek support from Jewish community, mental-health professionals and trusted non-Jewish allies.

3. Set Emotional Boundaries – Especially Online

Social media can be a minefield of gaslighting and erasure. If you find yourself repeatedly distressed by posts, comments, or news, it's not avoidance to step back – it's protection.

Try this:

- Time-box engagement: Use a timer to restrict online use
- Curate your feed: Follow accounts that uplift Jewish joy, resilience, and truth-telling.
- Use "mute," "unfollow," or "block" unhelpful content
- Self-check: How did I feel before I scrolled? How do I feel now? Is this space empowering or erasing me?

4. Anchor in Identity and Meaning

Trauma often makes us question who we are. Invalidation deepens that uncertainty. That's why it's essential to anchor yourself in the richness of Jewish identity and tradition.

Reflect on:

- Core Jewish values that guide you
- Rituals that bring comfort - such as Shabbat Dinner, lighting candles, celebrating holidays. Even private rituals can serve as spiritual and psychological anchors.
- Family or stories of resilience that inspire you.

Just Right Move Team

**Trusted
Experienced
Advisors &
Marketing Experts**



Michelle Quinn 508-948-5642

Susanna T Stiefel 617-510-1300

JustRightMoveTeam@gmail.com

The TEAM that will help you plan the move that's just right for you!

INSIGHT

INSIGHTREALTYGROUP.COM
THREE OFFICES IN THE BOSTON AREA

WAVES

**Happy and Healthy New Year from
your friends at Waves Car Wash!**

**Join our Unlimited Membership and
get your first month for \$20!**

1680 VFW Parkway
West Roxbury, MA 02132
(617)323-2055
www.waveswash.com

From Silence to Strength: Healing Jewish Pain in the Face of Traumatic Invalidation

5. Use Values-Based Coping

When trauma makes you feel stuck or reactive, return to your core values to guide your next move.

Ask:

- What kind of person do I want to be at this moment?
- How do I want to show up, for myself and others, despite pain?

Maybe your value is truth, so you choose to speak out. Maybe it's connection, so you call a friend. Maybe it's dignity, so you disengage from a harmful conversation. Values help you choose action over reaction.

6. Make Space for emotion

Invalidation tempts us to suppress emotions – yet unexpressed feelings intensify.

- Grief and Rage:

- Journal about moments you felt silenced.

- Channel your experience into art, poetry, or music.

- Work with a therapist skilled in antisemitism and trauma.

- Celebrate Joy and Pride:

- Actively seek out moments of happiness; family gatherings, holiday celebrations, community events, to balance the weight of pain.

Emotions are not enemies. They are messengers – asking to be witnessed, not managed away.

7. Transform Pain into Purpose

Post-traumatic growth doesn't mean erasing pain. It means growing with it. Over time, you can turn trauma into advocacy, education, or spiritual renewal. When you feel ready ask:

- How might my experience help others feel less alone?
- What would it look like to move from pain to purpose – not instead of grief, but alongside it?

Restoring control by acting purposefully, can shift the needle from resilience to growth.

8. Cope Ahead for Difficult Situations

Anticipatory planning can reduce anxiety in triggering situations.

- Identify your safe person: Who can you call if you feel threatened (physically or emotionally?)

- Know your resources: where can you report hate crimes and antisemitism incidents?

- Practice asserting boundaries via role-play or journaling.

You Are Not Alone

Antisemitism seeks to isolate and dehumanize. Invalidation deepens that wound. But healing is possible, through connection, skills and hope. There's a reason why we feel empowered when we sing *Hatikva* (The Hope). We stand **together**, we stand tall with our heads held high.

Though our wounds may run deep, they also remind us of the depths of our capacity to love, to fight – for justice, for truth, and for one another. Let your sorrow be a bridge to compassion, your outrage a spark for change, and your steadfast faith in our traditions a beacon in the darkest moments. Your pain is real. Your story matters. And your wholeness is not up for debate.

Reference:

Bar-Halpern, M., & Wolfman, J. (2025). Traumatic invalidation in the Jewish community after October 7. *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment*, 1–28.

Dr. Miri Bar-Halpern is the Director of Trauma Training & Services at Parents for Peace, a clinical psychologist and Harvard Medical School lecturer who is an internationally recognized expert on trauma, antisemitism, and radicalization.

Learn more at <https://www.drmiribarhalpern.com/>



Ahavath Torah Congregation
1179 Central Street
Stoughton, MA 02072
781-34-8733
Visit WWW.ATorah.Org

Discover Jewish Copenhagen

400 Years of Rich Jewish History
including the WWII rescue of 95% of Denmark's Jews



Stories · Synagogues · Museums · Historic Sites
Private tours · Custom tours for groups
Local Jewish Guides

jewish-copenhagen.dk | info@jewish-copenhagen.dk | WhatsApp +45 50 40 75 05

A Call To Conscience for Jewish Leaders Who Stayed Silent

By Robert Kaiser

There are moments in history when silence is betrayal. We are in such a moment now.

For a brief interlude it seemed as though the tides of hatred had receded. In the years after the Shoah, bigots were hushed by shame. The blood of six million cried so loudly that even the world that had ignored them during life could not silence them in death. For a time, antisemitism retreated into shadows. And in that fleeting pause, many of us believed that a new chapter had begun. That perhaps we as Jews would be a welcome neighbor, the synagogue a respected sanctuary, our safety secured not merely by law but by love.

But we mistook the eye of the storm for the end of the tempest. Over the past two decades, the mask has fallen. The ancient hatred has found new costumes – one wears the cross of Christian nationalism, another the slogans of the oppressed. On the far right, white supremacists and theocrats preach a gospel that would purge the land of all who are not like them. And they once again center their conspiracy theories on us.

But the betrayal that cuts more deeply is the betrayal from the other side – from those with whom we marched, with whom we wept and prayed for justice. Among the movements of social justice, a poison has spread: the Jew, once caricatured as the eternal outsider, is now painted as the insider par excellence: a symbol of wealth, whiteness, and privilege.

We are hated not for who we are, but for what we are made to represent. The language has changed; the hatred has not. “From the river to the sea” echoes not as a chant for peace, but as a death sentence made fashionable.

And what has been the response of too many Jewish leaders? Silence. Silence in Jewish institutions where the fear of offending allies outweighs the fear for Jewish lives. Many were paralyzed by good intentions and naiveté – they could not imagine that those we called allies would turn against us. Others feared that speaking would rupture their coalitions – that naming the hatred would cost them credibility - or applause.

But when Jewish blood is spilled in the streets of Jerusalem or Washington D.C., when people nominate political candidates with “globalize the intifada” rhetoric - and Jewish leaders do not cry out, then their silence becomes complicity.

To speak out against antisemitism is not a political act – it is a moral obligation. The prophets of Israel did not weigh the popularity of their message. They were not diplomatic in their denunciations. They were aflame with the urgency of God’s demand.

There are voices of righteousness – rabbis across Orthodox, Reform, and Conservative Judaism, strong leaders in Hillel and at our JCCs. But others – some in Hadar, the Reconstructionist movement, Jewish Renewal, and other groups – have chosen silence.

Oct. 7 should have ended the illusion. And if not that, then the murder of a young couple – one Jewish, one Christian, in May 2025,



Open House Events
SUN OCT 19 & THURS NOV 13



BRIMMER | 088

INSPIRED TO LEARN • ENCOURAGED TO EXPLORE • EMPOWERED TO LEAD

Independent | PK – 12 | Chestnut Hill, MA | brimmer.org



Shaloh House Chabad of the South Area
wishes everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year

ב"ה

- Infants and Preschool Program
- Hebrew Circle
- Daily Synagogue services
- Adult Education
- Senior Programs

Shaloh House Chabad of the South Area
50 Ethyl Way, Stoughton
781 344-6334

ShalohHouse@shalohhouse.com
www.shalohhouse.com



A Call To Conscience for Jewish Leaders Who Stayed Silent

in the very capital of this nation should have awoken every sleeping soul. And then the attack by a pro-Palestinian person who torched 12 elderly Jews alive in Boulder. Yet some supposed leaders cowered in silence, terrified that if they speak out then their fundraising would suffer. Worse, some of them have accepted funding from “non-Zionist” groups.

If we do not name what is happening - whether it wears the hood of white supremacy or the keffiyeh of fanaticism - then we have no right to ask our children to remain Jews. We must never accept that Jewish suffering is the acceptable price for someone else’s vision of justice.

Now is the time for a new moral reckoning. All Jews – secular and religious, left and right – must recognize that leadership without courage is betrayal. That spirituality without moral vision is idolatry.

The Talmud teaches us that one who can protest the sins of their community but does not, is held accountable for the sins of the community. We are not judged only by what we say, but by what we did not dare to say.

In a time when the world is once again proving that Jewish safety is fragile, we must not pretend that the walls of our sanctuaries are high enough to protect us from what we refuse to name.

The time for silence and trembling is past. Let all Jewish leaders speak now, with clarity and courage, for the sake of our people, for the sake of truth. Speak as if Jewish lives depend on it. Because they do.

Robert Kaiser is an advocate for science education, creator of the Facebook havurah Coffeehouse Torah Talk, and co-chair of the adult education committee at Congregation Shirat Hayam in Swampscott.




Zvi Jalfin Photography capturing life's precious moments. Providing photography services for your wedding, bar mitzvahs, or corporate event. Consultations are free, contact us today.

zvi@jalfinphoto.com • jalfinphoto.com • 781.449.7249

Wishing You a Sweet New Year

May 5786 bring peace, good health, and joyful moments to you and your loved ones.

Shanah Tovah U'Metukah

-From your friends at -



SCHLOSSBERG MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Four Generations, One Jewish Family

824 Washington Street, Canton, MA 02021
Tel. 781.828.6990

www.schlossbergchapel.com



SCHLOSSBERG FAMILY'S CHapel on the HILL



One Jewish Family
Four Generations

Serving the Jewish Community at its most sensitive times
For over a century.



SCHLOSSBERG MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Compassionate knowledgeable Jewish professional staff

Personalized Options

Intimate or Large Capacity Seating

Livestreaming Available

824 Washington Street, Canton, MA 02021 Tel. 781. 828. 6990
www.schlossbergchapel.com

STORM WARNING: BEING JEWISH IN GERMANY BEFORE THE SHOAH

Prof. John J. Michaleczyk

With the rise of anti-Semitism and white nationalism globally, it may be a challenge to be Jewish. In medieval Germany, the stakes were even higher. Jews were seen as outliers both religiously and culturally. Christians, both Protestants in the North and Catholics in the Bavarian South, viewed them as “Christ killers.” Myths circulated around them, sometimes falsely based on scriptural readings from the gospels of Matthew and John. They allegedly poisoned Christian wells and kidnapped Christian children for ritual murder. Christians accused them of desecrating the sacred host. Culturally they were outliers with different customs and dress. They were banned from guilds and obliged to create their own economic resources. In Nuremberg, the prejudice and dislike of the Jewish community led to serious results:

Fast forward to late 19th century Germany. Due to their intellectual prowess and diligent work, Jews stood at the top of their professions in medicine, law, education, and business. Right-wing nationalism and burgeoning anti-Semitism viewed them differently. Heinrich von Treitschke (1834–1896) first pronounced “Jews are our misfortune” at a Berlin Congress in 1878, while Wilhelm Marr (“The godfather of anti-Semitism”) held a similar viewpoint. Starting in the early 1920’s at the dawn of Nazism, fiercely antisemitic Julius Streicher included the slogan on the front page of each issue of his racist tabloid *Der Stürmer* with graphic caricatures to reinforce the message.

In post-World War I Germany, other myths about the Jews prevailed, prominent among them was that of “the stab in the back.” Germans believed that the Jews caused their downfall in the war and profited from it while avoiding combat. Yet the lack of resources and the entrance of the US in 1917 escaped their discussion, as well as the fact that 100,000 Jews fought in the war with 12,000 dying for the *Vaterland*.



RED LENTIL
VEGETARIAN & VEGAN RESTAURANT

Creative and globally inspired
Vegetarian and vegan food

ORGANIC VEGAN
WINE AND
GLUTEN FREE BEER

We guarantee our savory and well favored
dishes will satisfy even meat lovers.



We strive to meet the needs of special diets,
offering gluten-free, raw, and
macrobiotic selections.

RED LENTIL
600 Mount Auburn Street
Watertown, MA

CATERING
www.theredlentil.com

Please call to schedule your catered event
617-972-9188 or email info@theredlentil.com



The Jewish Preschool of Lexington
JPL

A home for every Jewish child
NOW ENROLLING!

To join our family as a student or teacher, call
781-863-7211 or email info@jplexington.com



Shana Tova

STATE SENATOR PAUL R. FEENEY
BRISTOL & NORFOLK DISTRICT
ATTLEBORO | CANTON | FOXBOROUGH | MANSFIELD
NORTH ATTLEBOROUGH | NORTON | SHARON

State House, Room 112 617-722-1222 Paul.Feeney@masenate.gov

[SenatorPaulFeeney](https://www.facebook.com/SenatorPaulFeeney) [paulfeeneyma](https://www.instagram.com/paulfeeneyma) [PaulFeeneyMA](https://twitter.com/PaulFeeneyMA)

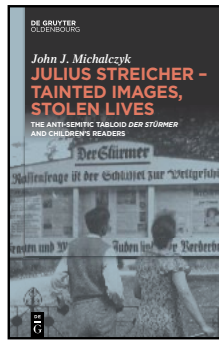
“Wishing you and yours a joyful and sweet
new year!”
-State Senator Paul Feeney

STORM WARNING: BEING JEWISH IN GERMANY BEFORE THE SHOAH

In the anti-Semitic atmosphere of 1920, the National Socialist Party 25-Point platform denied Jews of their civic rights, a bad omen of things to come: "4. Only those who are our fellow countrymen can become citizens. Only those who have German blood, regardless of creed, can be our countrymen. Hence no Jew can be a countryman." A few years later, Hitler's quasi-autobiographical manifesto, *Mein Kampf* (1925), echoed this wholeheartedly as page after page vilified the Jews. Some may see this as a blueprint for the Third Reich's anti-Jewish policies.

When Hitler became Chancellor in 1933 and then Führer in 1934, in a gradual step-by-step process, Jews were stripped of their rights. Propaganda, laws, and then violence became the hallmark of the government. With the 1933 Civil Service Act Jews were barred from key positions in law, medicine and education. The university students burned Jewish and Marxist books while the Storm Troopers (SA) boycotted their businesses. One tried to survive financially, but the government confiscated the property. The 1935 Nuremberg Laws, not too dissimilar to the Jim Crow's policy of "one drop of blood," labelled the Jews based on the grandparents' Jewish lineage.

The next step, the 1938 violence of *Kristallnacht* (The Night of Broken Glass), shocked many Germans as well as the international community, yet the machinery of the government continued to grind on. As stores and synagogues were being torched, close to 30,000 Jews were sent to concentration camps. It was not safe to be a Jew in Germany in this major step toward the Holocaust. However, the tour de force came four years later, in January 1942, when 15 Third



Reich officials met at a picturesque and quiet locality of Wannsee on the outskirts of Berlin. Here, the likes of Reinhard Heydrich, Adolf Eichmann, and maniacal judge Roland Freisler and others determined that 11 million European Jews must be eliminated, not from citizenship, but from life itself. The Final Solution, partly successful as a plan, ended the lives of 6 million of them.

If history ended there for the Jewish community, this would be tragic indeed. Despite the rise of the far right and anti-Semitic political groups in Germany such as the AfD (Alternative for Germany), there are 125,000

Jews who live there today. Germany, over the years since the end of WWII, has tried to make amends, especially with Israel where over 7 million Jews live, many Holocaust survivors or their descendants. Although relations can be strained at times between the two countries, a diplomatic rapport established since 1965 still exists with some major reparations in place. On a school day a German instructor may be found teaching his or her students a lesson from the Holocaust at Dachau.

In the 1920s and 1930s, Germany and other countries including America did not heed the storm warnings about Jewish

citizens in peril until the perfect storm struck. By then it was too late.

Prof. John J. Michalczyk is the director of the Film Studies Program at Boston College.

Images: 1 Book cover; 2 - Jews burned alive for the alleged host desecration in Deggendorf, Bavaria, in 1338, and in Sternberg, Mecklenburg, 1492; a woodcut from the Nuremberg Chronicle (1493).



Be Known

PreK - 8 | Dover, MA

Admissions deadline January 15

Connect and learn more at
charlesriversschool.org



THE JEWISH RESPONSIBILITY TO DEFEND DEMOCRACY

By Cindy Rowe

The Jewish people have always thrived where there is a stable, healthy democracy. Democracies respect their constituents, maintain checks and balances, uphold the rule of law, and guarantee that every vote counts. Democracies are at their best when they are based on respect and dignity for all of their people, assuring that all have basic human rights, fundamental necessities are met, civil rights and due process are ensured, and, once again, every vote counts.

These values are connected to our Jewish values – recognizing that every human being has worth. Democracy is, in effect, the governmental realization of *Kavod HaBriyot*.

So, if Jewish values are reflected in democratic values, then we, as Jewish Americans and as people of conscience, have a responsibility to defend democracy. And, right now, democracy is in trouble.

We are in a time when the extreme policy agenda known as Project 2025 has moved from being academic theory to becoming the blueprint for a broad swath of cruel new laws. This has resulted in the concentration of unchecked power in violation of the U.S. Constitution. Immigrants, women, the LGBTQ+ community, people with disabilities, senior citizens, poor people, and ethnic, racial, and religious minorities are being denigrated and disempowered.

These days, so much of what we have come to take for granted in our country is no longer the case. Due process rights can no longer be assumed. The separation of powers that is necessary to prevent too much power being concentrated in too few hands is disintegrating. Reproductive rights are under direct assault, jeopardizing people's health, safety, and fundamental bodily autonomy. Book bans around the country continue to restrict access to knowledge and diminish our ability to develop empathy with people who have different experiences from us.

We see further harm in the chaos and panic that is being created in

immigrant communities across our country. Instead of celebrating the accomplishments of immigrants and all that they bring to our society, we now live in a country that has essentially closed our borders. The administration is seeking to punish the very people who are our friends and neighbors, and are the workers on whom our economy depends. As a Jewish community that brings with us generations of immigrant stories, we must recognize this as a moral outrage. Indeed, the Torah instructs us to "welcome the stranger" at least thirty-six times.

A culture that derives power from dividing people, that encourages us to treat people as "the other," and then turns them into scapegoats, is in the end very bad for us all and for the Jewish people especially. It doesn't take long from the time a government gives "permission" for hatred of anyone to become hatred directed at us all.

But there is something we can do about it. It is our duty as Jewish Americans and as people of conscience to speak up, call out these harms, and do all we can to defend democracy.

Whether as individuals, as members of your community or congregations, or through involvement with organizations like the Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action (JALSA), there are opportunities for you to take action and help advance the work of defending democracy.

If you would like to join in this work with JALSA, you are encouraged to visit www.JALSA.org to reach out to us. Your voice is needed right now. Nobody can stand on the sidelines anymore.

It is critically important that the Jewish community is visibly protecting democracy and standing on the right side of history. The *Pirkei Avot* guides us that, while we are not obligated to complete the work, we are also not free to abandon the work. So let's get to work together in support of a democracy that respects us all.

Cindy Rowe is the President & CEO of the Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action.



SHANA TOVAH!

Jewish Vocational Service wishes you a joyous Rosh Hashanah.

At JVS Boston, we meet job seekers where they are in life and partner with them to develop skills for in-demand jobs & promising career pathways.

LEARN MORE



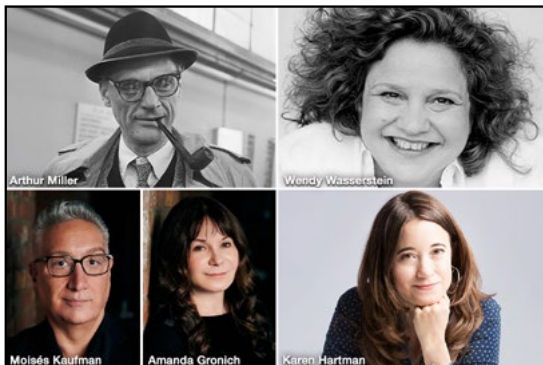
SHANA TOVA
U'METUKA
שנה טובה ומתוקה

Wishing you and yours
a happy, healthy, sweet new year.

SENATOR BECCA
RAUSCH

ARTS & CULTURE

Shakespeare & Company Announces Celebration of Jewish Plays



By Jaclyn C. Stevenson

This October, Shakespeare & Company presents *Celebrating Jewish Plays*, an immersive weekend of staged readings being held Friday, Oct. 10 through Sunday, Oct. 12 in the Berkshires.

The weekend will feature four enhanced, staged readings of acclaimed plays, plus a special literary event. Barry R. Shapiro, co-chair of the weekend's core planning committee, said the events have been planned to honor the tradition and impact of storytelling.

"This festival celebrates the depth, humor, and resilience of Jewish storytelling – past and present – through the vibrant voices of playwrights who explore identity, history, and the human spirit," he said. "In a time when connection matters more than ever, the Jewish plays remind us that humor heals, memory matters, and every story is a kind of survival."

Shakespeare & Company's Artistic Director Allyn Burrows added that the heart of *Celebrating Jewish Plays* is a belief in the power of art to foster understanding, unity, and belonging.

"We selected these extraordinary plays because each, in its own way, reflects our mission to explore what we share in our humanity – even in the face of difference," he said. "This is a celebration of resilience, creativity, and community."

Taking place during the October holiday weekend, readings include *The Price* by Arthur Miller; *Roz & Ray* by Karen Hartman, featuring Tony-nominated actor John Douglas Thompson (*The Gilded Age*, HBO); *Here There Are Blueberries* by Moisés Kaufman and Amanda Gronich, and *The Sisters Rosensweig* by Wendy Wasserstein.

In addition to these staged readings, the weekend will culminate in an event with Rachel Kadish, author of the National Jewish Book Award-winning novel *The Weight of Ink*, on Sunday, Oct. 12 at 4:30 p.m. Select scenes will be presented from a new theatrical adaptation of the book currently in development by Kate Kohler Amory and Tamara Hickey, followed by a talk and Q&A session with Kadish and a reception. The adaptation, talk, and reception are open to \$100 ticket holders, those who've purchased tickets to all four plays, and those making a donation of \$100 or more to the weekend; Sunday's events are presented in partnership with the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires.

Tickets are \$34 - \$105 including fees, and available now at shakespeare.org or by calling the Box Office at 413.637.3353. To make a donation, visit shakespeare.org/donate and write "Weight of Ink" in the notes section, or email development@shakespeare.org.

Join us on one of our programs
in Israel and around the world!

NEW! Summer Lab: Israel
Powered by Keshet Educational Journeys
A RootOne Affiliate Experience
Dates: July 26 to August 19, 2026
for rising 10th and 11th graders



Journey Through Sepharad:
A Jewish Roots Trip to Spain
April 26-May 5, 2026

Jewish Heritage Journey to Poland
May 4-11, 2026
(w/optional Prague extension May 11-14)



www.keshetisrael.co.il | info@keshetisrael.co.il



CELEBRATING JEWISH PLAYS

AN IMMERSIVE WEEKEND
STAGED READINGS

FEATURING

THE PRICE

by Arthur Miller

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10
AT 7 PM**

Elayne P. Bernstein Theatre

ROZ & RAY

by Karen Hartman

Directed by Daniela Varon

Featuring John Douglas Thompson

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11
AT 2 PM**

Elayne P. Bernstein Theatre

HERE THERE ARE BLUEBERRIES

by Moisés Kaufman &
Amanda Gronich

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11
AT 7 PM**

Tina Packer Playhouse

THE SISTERS ROSENSWEIG

by Wendy Wasserstein

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12
AT 2 PM**

Elayne P. Bernstein Theatre

The Sisters Rosensweig is generously supported
by Beverly Hyman and Larry Birnbach.

OCTOBER 10 - 12

Tina Packer Playhouse & Elayne P. Bernstein Theatre

Get Tickets 413.637.3353
SHAKESPEARE.ORG

SHAKESPEARE & COMPANY

Jewish Family & Older Adult Assistance Citizenship & Immigrant Services Academic & Social Equity Initiatives Tikkun Olam & Fighting Antisemitism



Clockwise: Lucy and Joe Press Food Pantry; welcoming a family at the airport; a volunteer delivers a Passover meal; Build-a-Backpack participants at Temple Shir Tikva, Wayland; a Patient Navigator volunteer escorts a client to a medical appointment.

Learn about the many ways JFS supports our neighbors in need at JFSMW.org.



Learn about these programs and more at JFSMW.org



Happy Rosh Hashanah

Wishing You a Sweet and Healthy New Year!

*From the Board and Staff of
Jewish Family Service of Metrowest*



475 Franklin Street, Suite 101, Framingham, MA, 01702
508-875-3100 ♦ JFSMW.org

Accelerating Social, Academic and Health Equity

A SEASON OF RENEWAL, A CALL TO ACTION: ROSH HASHANAH AND OUR COMMUNITY'S HOUSING CRISIS

By Lino Covarrubias

As we prepare to welcome Rosh Hashanah, we enter a season of reflection, renewal, and recommitment. It is a time to take stock of our lives, our relationships, and our responsibilities to one another. The shofar's call is not only a spiritual awakening – it is a summons to act, to repair, and to build a more just and compassionate world. At Jewish Family Service of Metrowest (JFSMW), this sacred time of year deepens our resolve to meet one of the most urgent challenges facing our community: the housing crisis.

Our region is at a breaking point. Seniors on fixed incomes, working families, new immigrants, and long-time residents alike are struggling to find affordable, safe, and stable homes. Many are one unexpected expense away from losing the roof over their heads. As we highlighted in our recent community appeal, this is not an abstract policy problem – it is a human crisis unfolding in our neighborhoods, synagogues, and schools. It affects our elders who built this community, the families raising the next generation, and the newcomers seeking safety and opportunity here.

Rosh Hashanah invites us to imagine what the year ahead could look like if we answered this call with urgency and compassion. At JFSMW, that vision includes creative solutions such as Home-Share programs that connect older adults with housemates for companionship and financial stability; actionable navigation and facilitation to expand Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) so families can live together and or receive caregiving affordably; and emergency support to prevent evictions before they happen.

In the *Unetaneh Tokef* prayer, recited on Rosh Hashanah, we are reminded that our actions – our choices – can temper the harshness of life's decrees. We cannot stop every hardship, but we can intervene before a neighbor becomes homeless, before an elder is forced into unsafe housing, before a child's schooling is disrupted by an eviction. Each act of support – whether it's opening a home, contributing resources, or advocating for systemic change – has the power to alter the course of someone's year, and perhaps their life.

This High Holiday season, as we gather around tables with family and friends, let us remember that a secure, welcoming home is the foundation for all the blessings we cherish. The sound of the shofar should echo beyond the sanctuary walls, calling us to build a community where no one is left out in the cold. Together, we can ensure that the coming year is one of safety, stability, and hope for every member of our community.

May the year ahead be one of renewal, compassion, and action. *Shanah Tovah U'Metukah* – a good and sweet year to all.

Lino Covarrubias is the CEO of Jewish Family Service of Metrowest.



C. 617.413.1567
Julie.Lombard@raveis.com
JulieLombardHomes.com
572 Washington Street | Canton | MA 02021

I have the key to your happiness, let's unlock your dreams and find you a new home or sell your existing one! There's no place like home, so let's find yours!



Scan QR code for a free home value estimate... let's talk!

Top Brokerage 2023
The #1 Real Estate Company in the US

Shana Tovah

CHAMPIONING JUSTICE ROOTED IN COMPASSION AND REFORM



By Tamisha Civil

The Jewish teaching “*Tzedek, tzedek tirdof*” – “Justice, justice shall you pursue” has profoundly shaped my understanding of justice. This sacred call from the Torah demands not only just outcomes, but just processes. It reminds us that the pursuit of justice must be rigorous, ethical, and rooted in compassion. The Jewish tradition’s emphasis on the presumption of innocence and its caution against false accusations highlights the deep moral harm

of wrongfully punishing the innocent.

As a member of the Massachusetts Governor’s Council, I hold a solemn responsibility in shaping our state’s judicial system through the evaluation and approval of judicial appointments. My commitment to criminal justice reform is informed by both my professional experience and a personal journey that fuels my passion for change.

That journey began with heartbreak.

In 2021, my cousin was exonerated after spending 27 years in prison for a crime he did not commit. Witnessing his wrongful imprisonment and the suffering it caused our family was a life-altering experience. It’s a stark reminder of what’s at stake when our justice system fails. That injustice drives me every day to fight for fairness, compassion, and accountability in our courts so that no other family endures such a tragedy.

Professionally, I’ve served as an Associate Probation Officer, working closely with individuals reentering society. Many of those I’ve supported face enormous challenges: substance use disorders, mental health struggles, and the lasting impact of trauma. I’ve seen

firsthand how a justice system rooted in healing not punishment can transform lives and reduce recidivism.

That’s why I’m a strong advocate for restorative justice, support for victims, and the appointment of judges who prioritize rehabilitation over retribution. I believe we must address systemic inequities, invest in community-based alternatives, and offer interventions that focus on healing and prevention. Justice should not be about vengeance, it should be about dignity, accountability, and real second chances.

My advocacy is also inspired by the values I find in Jewish texts and reform traditions, which emphasize mercy, restoration, and the reintegration of individuals into community life. These teachings offer a vision of justice that is not static but evolving one rooted in human dignity and a shared moral commitment to hope and repair.

One of the most meaningful experiences I’ve had this year was visiting MCI Framingham. There, I listened to the stories of incarcerated women, many of whom were themselves victims of violence or systemic neglect. What resonated most was their call for access to resources while serving time. Programs like education, cosmetology, and trade skills offer more than reflection; they provide real tools for rehabilitation and successful reintegration upon release.

There’s still much work to be done. But I believe we’re on the right track. I remain deeply committed to building a judicial system that treats every person with fairness, compassion, and the opportunity to rebuild their lives. Justice, to me, is not a destination it is a living, breathing promise we must strive to fulfill every day.

Honorable Tamisha Civil is a Stoughton resident and serves on the Massachusetts Governor’s Council since January 2025. To learn more, please visit www.tamishacivil.com.



South Shore Therapies

We Specialize In:



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

- Sensory Integration
- Self-Regulation
- Gross Motor Milestones
- Early Fine Motor & Play Skills
- Ocular Motor & Functional Vision

SPEECH THERAPY

- Receptive & Expressive Language
 - Natural Language Acquisition
- Foundations for First Words
- Play and Early Language
- Social-Emotional Learning

FEEDING THERAPY

- Oral Motor Control
- Oral Sensory Processing
- Transition to Solids
- Lactation & Bottle Feeding
- Tethered Oral Tissues
 - Tongue/Lip Ties



Contact Us Today!

TEL 781-335-6663

EMAIL info@southshoretherapies.com

PEMBROKE • HINGHAM • NORWOOD



SCAN HERE
for more
Information!



On May 28, Governor Maura Healey celebrated Jewish American Heritage Month to reaffirm her commitment to the Jewish community and acknowledge the profound impact of Jewish contributions to all aspects of life in Massachusetts.



The immersive exhibit, *Path: LABYRINTH* by Shirah Rubin, is installed outdoors at Hebrew College through Nov. 7. The exhibit invites listening and reflection through personal and communal journeys along a walkable labyrinth. Address: 1860 Washington St, Newton. Details: shirahrubin.com.

Perfect Rosh Hashanah Honey Cake

By Ronit Treatman

Have you ever baked a honey cake that was too dry, gooey, or left a bitter aftertaste? I have produced these and many other flops. As a result, I embarked on a quest to discover a foolproof recipe. I encountered it in Marcy Goldman's *A Treasury of Jewish Holiday Baking*. Her rich fragrant cake is the perfect treat to serve your guests or bake for your hosts when celebrating Rosh Hashanah.

When this golden cake emerges from the oven, your home will be filled with the exotic aroma of honey and spices. The first bite will reveal a perfect, moist texture. The flavor is a sublime balance of honey and spices. This delicious, rich cake will be the crowning touch of any Rosh Hashanah meal or gathering.

Majestic and Moist New Year's Honey Cake

Adapted from *A Treasury of Jewish Holiday Baking*
by Marcy Goldman

Ingredients:

- 1 cup of mild honey such as clover, acacia, or alfalfa
- 1 ½ cups white granulated sugar
- ½ cup light brown sugar
- 3 ½ cups flour
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon ground allspice
- ½ teaspoon ground cloves
- 4 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- ¼ cup whisky
- ½ cup freshly squeezed orange juice
- 1 cup freshly brewed quality coffee
- 3 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 tablespoon baking powder

Instructions:

1. Preheat the oven to 350° F.
2. Mix all the ingredients in a large bowl.
3. Coat the interior of a 10 inch Bundt cake pan with vegetable oil.
4. Pour the batter into the pan.
5. Bake for 60 to 70 minutes. Place some aluminum foil over the top of the cake after 30 minutes to prevent it from burning. This cake is ready when the center springs back easily when touched.
6. Remove the cake from the oven and allow it to rest in the Bundt pan for 15 minutes.
7. Invert the cake onto a serving platter.

Ronit Treatman is the author of *Hands-On Jewish Holidays*,
<https://www.handsonejewishholidays.com>

Photo: Gran for Wikipedia.



**computer
doctor**
978-312-1261

support | training | repair

WE MAKE HOUSE CALLS!

ComputerDoctorUSA.net

PC, Mac and Android

networks • internet • viruses
upgrades • wireless
performance optimization
focused user training

Working from home? We can
optimize your experience!

FREE PICK-UP & DELIVERY

for more events, visit
www.ShalomMA.com

GAZA HORROR AND, MEANWHILE, REVERSE ROBIN HOOD IN AMERICA

By Lew Finfer

I was originally going to talk about President Trump's budget cuts and tax cut bill, and not about Gaza. But I must address both. President Trump called it the "Big Beautiful Bill." I call it the "Big Ugly Bill." To enable over \$2 billion in tax cuts – benefiting, in my view, the very rich and large corporations – Congress passed billions in cuts to Medicaid, SNAP/Food Stamps, and other social programs.

This shameful work by the Republican-led Congress and President Trump is "Reverse Robin Hood": robbing from the poor to give to the rich. Unfortunately, this is what we've come to.

Hamas is a terrorist and brutal organization that launched the Oct. 7, 2023, attack, allegedly killing 1,200 innocent people and taking 250 hostages. Of course, Israel has a right to defend itself. I can understand, sympathize, and empathize with the relatives and friends of those killed, as well as of the hostages – both those who have been killed and those still alive. These relatives and friends should not be expected to show sympathy for the Palestinians.

However, I must also say something that I know some will strongly disagree with: in my opinion, the carrying out of what appears to be collective punishment – killing so many tens of thousands – is unforgivable and shameful. According to the Hamas Ministry of Health, more than 60,000 people have been killed, 146,000 wounded, and 18,000 of them are children. They also report that 3,000 have lost limbs and that 92 percent of housing units have been destroyed or damaged. While thousands of Hamas fighters have been killed, the large majority of the dead were not fighters.

The Israeli government often dismisses such figures as propaganda from Hamas. Still, there is no denying that tens of thousands have been killed, including many children.

Reports indicate that most hospitals have been destroyed, allegedly 1,500 health care workers have been killed, over 1,000 journalists have died, and 90 percent of water and sanitation facilities have

been destroyed. Every one of Gaza's 12 universities has allegedly been bombed. There has been no electricity for 21 months. No food was allowed in for two months, reportedly as an attempt to pressure Hamas to surrender.

Now, according to multiple reports, we face the nightmare of mass starvation. People are reportedly forced to rely on only four food distribution sites, and allegedly about 1,000 have been killed by the IDF for trying to get food for their families. This is deeply shameful.

The bottom line is not whether what Israel is doing constitutes genocide; it is that tens of thousands have been killed, hundreds of thousands are starving, and the homes and institutions of two million Palestinians have been destroyed – forcing them into tent encampments they must repeatedly move from. This must stop.

For perspective: in 1975, about 46 million people lived in Vietnam at the end of the Vietnam War, with over one million deaths in that conflict. When 60,000 and counting out of two million Palestinians have died in the Gaza war – again, according to the Hamas Ministry of Health – that ratio is as bad or worse. America is not directly killing Palestinians, but we are providing the funding for Israel's weapons and offering political support, as President Trump did for the Netanyahu government, to continue this war.

Many Israeli Jews see little of this in their domestic media. I understand why their hearts are hardened after Hamas's massacre of 1,200 people and the taking of hundreds of hostages. But Israeli Jews, in my opinion, need to see what is being done in their name in Gaza and decide whether this is truly what they want.

Israel, I believe, will bear the shame of these actions for generations to come. How could a country that fought so heroically to win its independence – and then for 75 years to maintain it, act in such a way?

Lewis Finfer is a community organizer and currently the Director of the Dorchester-based Massachusetts Action for Justice.



THROW AN EPIC BAR/BAT MITZVAH

AFFORDABLE PACKAGES
PRIVATE AND SEMI-PRIVATE EVENT SPACE
CUSTOMIZED & KOSHER MENUS

BOOK TODAY!
DAVE & BUSTER'S BRAINTREE
CALL 781-519-7900

The Great Jack O'Lantern Journey
EXCLUSIVELY AT
SOUTHWICK'S ZOO
SEPTEMBER 26 - OCTOBER 31
TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW!

WWW.SOUTHWICKSZOO.COM
MENDON, MA

LEARN MORE



שנה טובה
Roei Biberstain
 Realtor
 Sherwood & Company
 617.970.3698
 roei@compass.com

COMPASS



Rabbi Ethan Adler
 RABBI AT YOUR 'SERVICE'

Weddings Interfaith Ceremonies
 Baby Namings Funerals/Unveilings
 Bnei Mitzvah Shivah Services

for all your lifecycle services
 call 401-486-0110
 or email eadler3@cox.net

Katherine Clark
 FOR US CONGRESS



**Wishing you and
 your loved ones
 a healthy, happy, and
 sweet New Year.
 Shana Tova!**

- Congresswoman
 Katherine Clark

Paid for by Katherine Clark for Congress

CONGREGATION MISHKAN TEFILA
 wishes you a healthy, happy, and sweet 5786.

CHAG SAMEACH!

For a full listing of High Holiday programs,
 and service times, scan the QR Code
 or visit our website at:
WWW.MISHKANTEFILA.ORG

384 HARVARD STREET • BROOKLINE, MA 02446 • (617) 332-7770

High Holidays 5785-5786
 TESHUVA - REPENTANCE
 TEFILA - PRAYER
 TZEDAKAH - RIGHTEOUSNESS

Mass. Special Commission on Combating Antisemitism

In the fall of 2024, we were appointed by the Senate President and House Speaker as the co-chairs of Massachusetts' first statutory commission on combating antisemitism, the Special Commission on Combating Antisemitism. The Commission was statutorily created through legislation signed into law in 2024 in response to the troubling surge of antisemitic incidents occurring across the Commonwealth in recent years. It includes 19 members appointed by the Legislature, Governor, state agencies, and organizations. Together we have worked diligently over the past 11 months to meet our statutory charge to provide evidence-based guidance and best practices for combating our world's oldest form of hate.

The Commission's work is grounded in alarming data: the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) recorded a record-breaking 438 antisemitic incidents in Massachusetts in 2024, following up on 2023's record-breaking 439 reported incidents. In 2024 alone, antisemitic hate crimes rose by over 20% in Massachusetts, according to state public safety officials. These statistics reflect a broader national and global trend. Our job is to respond decisively and make it known that antisemitism will not go unchecked in Massachusetts.

As of August, the Commission has held ten public hearings spanning over 30 hours, with sessions conducted both in person and virtually across the state, including in Boston, Newton, and Longmeadow. These public hearings have provided a platform for a broad range of stakeholders – rabbis, educators, law enforcement officials, civil rights advocates, and residents – to share their experiences, concerns, and recommendations.

The Commission's principal focus thus far has been on addressing antisemitism in K-12 education. Students, teachers, administrators, and other stakeholders have offered both sobering accounts of antisemitism in schools and promising best practices that can be replicated across the state. Over the last several months, the Commission has worked closely with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) as it outlined steps it is taking under Section 98A of the state's General Laws, which requires the development of model curricula and bias training, including content on antisemitism.

At a hearing in February, tensions emerged over the Massachusetts Teachers Association's (MTA) decision to distribute antisemitic, anti-Israel, and decidedly biased teaching material to its over 117,000 members. Despite MTA leadership's defense of the materials and training webinars to the Commission, this hearing was instrumental in shining a light on the problematic materials, which were ultimately revised or taken down by the MTA amidst enormous public pressure in the weeks following our hearing from state leaders, including Governor Healey.

Following months of diligent work, on Aug. 7, 18 out of 18 Commissioners present voted to endorse the Commission's K-12 Findings and Preliminary recommendations. There was consensus, but not at the cost of being bold, specific, and actionable. The recommendations include a stark call to relevant state agencies, school districts, and those responsible for educating educators. Items include the creation of a statewide model curriculum on Jewish history and antisemitism, the integration of antisemitism into anti-bias

Mass. Special Commission on Combating Antisemitism



and genocide education, and mandatory professional development for teachers, school administrators, and school committees. Also included are formalized protocols for schools to respond to antisemitic incidents, best practices for districts that encounter an act of antisemitic hate, and guidance from the Attorney General's Office on enforcing antidiscrimination laws when antisemitism is involved. The full preliminary report can be found on the Special Commission on Combating Antisemitism webpage at malegislature.gov. Governor Healey, the Attorney General, the State Treasurer, legislative leaders, and several Members of Congress have lauded the recommendations and urged their swift implementation.


Over the past 11 months, the Commission has also examined how antisemitism intersects with public safety, higher education, and other areas of focus. During hearings focused on law enforcement and extremism, testimony from the ADL and prosecutors highlighted growing activity by white supremacist and neo-Nazi groups such as NSC-131 and the Goyim Defense League, as well as the prevalence of extreme right- and left-wing ideologies through social media and other online platforms. Eric Olshan, lead prosecutor of the Tree of Life Synagogue massacre, testified about the details of that case and the need for state nonprofit security grants, Holocaust education, and more. Presenters called attention to deficiencies in hate crime reporting systems, particularly the lack of standardized tracking of non-criminal antisemitic incidents.

Between now and November, the Commission will tackle several other topics, and we continue to solicit ideas and offers to testify from the public. If you would like to share any feedback, personal experiences, or questions, we encourage you to reach out to the commission via email: SCCA@malegislature.gov.



The final report, expected in late November 2025, will represent the culmination of over a year of hearings, research, and public engagement. It will likely shape the legislative and administrative response to antisemitism in Massachusetts, and perhaps other states, for years to come. Whether the Commission's proposals succeed in translating into effective practice will depend on continued collaboration with educators, law enforcement, and the many stakeholders within the Jewish community across the Commonwealth.

Co-authored by Senator John C. Velis and Representative Simon Cataldo.

To learn more, please visit <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2024/Chapter140>




HAPPY ROSH HASHANAH!



from
Representative Simon Cataldo & Senator John Velis

**Chairs of the Commonwealth and Nation's First
Special Commission on
Combating Antisemitism**

SCCA@malegislature.gov





Shana Tova!

שנה טובה

**Happy Holidays
from Rep. Greg Schwartz**

Greg Schwartz
State Representative

TERRY'S Olde Fashion Ice Cream Shoppe



• Open all year round
• Ice cream cakes for birthday parties and all occasions
• Frozen Yogurt
11 am - 11 pm - 7 days

781-639-2373 - 22 Atlantic Ave, Marblehead

FROM ROSH HASHANAH TO WATCHNIGHT WHAT WE HAVE IN COMMON



By Ed Gaskin

In a year marked by rising antisemitism and persistent racial injustice, the shared spiritual instincts of Black Christians and Jews feel more vital than ever. These communities have long known that the calendar may change, but the struggle for dignity and peace continues – and that only a God-shaped hope can sustain it.

Despite their different origins, Watchnight in the Black Church and Rosh Hashanah in Judaism mirror each other in profound ways. Both serve as annual sacred thresholds, marking the end of one cycle and the start of another. Both call the faithful not just to remember the past but to act with courage, humility, and hope. Together, they offer the world a liturgy of resistance, remembrance, and radical renewal.

A Time to Remember:

At the heart of both observances is remembrance. For Black Christians, Watchnight is rooted in Freedom's Eve – Dec. 31, 1862 – when enslaved people waited in hope for the Emancipation Proclamation to take effect at midnight. Watchnight is more than a New Year's service; it is a night of spiritual vigilance, of remembering where we've been and how God has brought us through.

For Jews, Rosh Hashanah marks the start of the Hebrew calendar year and the beginning of the Ten Days of Awe. It commemorates creation, covenant, and the enduring sovereignty of God.

Shared Themes of Sacred Transition

Both mark the new year – Watchnight on Jan. 1 and Rosh Hashanah in the Jewish month of Tishrei – and invite worshippers to pause, reflect, and renew. Each observance centers on spiritual reflection. Watchnight offers space to remember past hardships and God's faithfulness, while Rosh Hashanah focuses on repentance and divine judgment. Themes of liberation and deliverance also unite them. Watchnight celebrates the end of slavery and the continuing hope for justice, while Rosh Hashanah recalls God's power to redeem and renew. Both affirm that freedom – whether spiritual or physical – comes from God, and that each new year is a chance to begin again under divine mercy.

Judgment and grace form another parallel. Watchnight reflects on being spared to see another year, not by merit but by grace. Rosh Hashanah opens the Book of Life, where prayers are lifted for another chance at renewal.

Finally, both are marked by vibrant communal worship – songs, prayers, and testimonies in the Black Church; liturgy, shofar blasts, and ancient prayers in the synagogue. Each tradition rings in the new year not just with ritual, but with defiant hope that God's justice and mercy will prevail.

Transition and Thresholds

Both services are held at liminal moments – the threshold between the old and the new. Both invite deep self-examination and ask: What kind of people will we be in the year ahead?

Community Identity and Accountability

Both observances reinforce communal bonds – Watchnight as a



L'Shanah Tovah!
from
Congregation Agudas Achim Anshei Sfard
The Adams Street Shul - Rabbi Mordechai Rackover
168 Adams Street, Newton, MA 02460
For ticket-free High Holiday services email:
office@adamsstreet.org
https://www.adamsstreet.org
https://m.facebook.com/AdamsStreetShul



TEMPLE BETH DAVID
WESTWOOD MA

Shanah Tovah

Wishing you and your family
a happy and healthy 5786!

Visit our website to learn more about services and programs!
templebethdavid.net

ENROLL NOW

Spaces available in our
Early Learning Center and
Religious School!

shalom corner
TEMPLE BETH DAVID
EARLY LEARNING CENTER

SHORASHIM
TEMPLE BETH DAVID
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

SAVE UP TO 50%!
SHARON MEMORIAL PARK
SPACES FROM \$3150 EACH

Over 375 spaces in 48+ Sections

Immediate Need • Interfaith
617-640-3143 • glevine@thelotbroker.com
Gary Levine • thelotbroker.com

Contact us today for all of your buying and selling needs.

FROM ROSH HASHANAH TO WATCHNIGHT:

WHAT WE HAVE IN COMMON

space for solidarity in struggle and faith; Rosh Hashanah as part of Israel's covenantal accountability. These are not merely personal rituals but communal reckonings.

The Book of Life

Rosh Hashanah invokes the image of being “written in the Book of Life.” In many Watchnight sermons, there is a similar reflection on divine mercy – being spared to see another year not because we earned it, but because of God's grace.

Repentance as Protest

In both traditions, repentance is more than personal guilt – it is protest. It is the sacred act of naming what is broken in the world as sin: racism, antisemitism, poverty, indifference, and cruelty. To repent is to resist resignation. To cry out for transformation is to declare that God's justice – not the world's injustice – will have the final word.

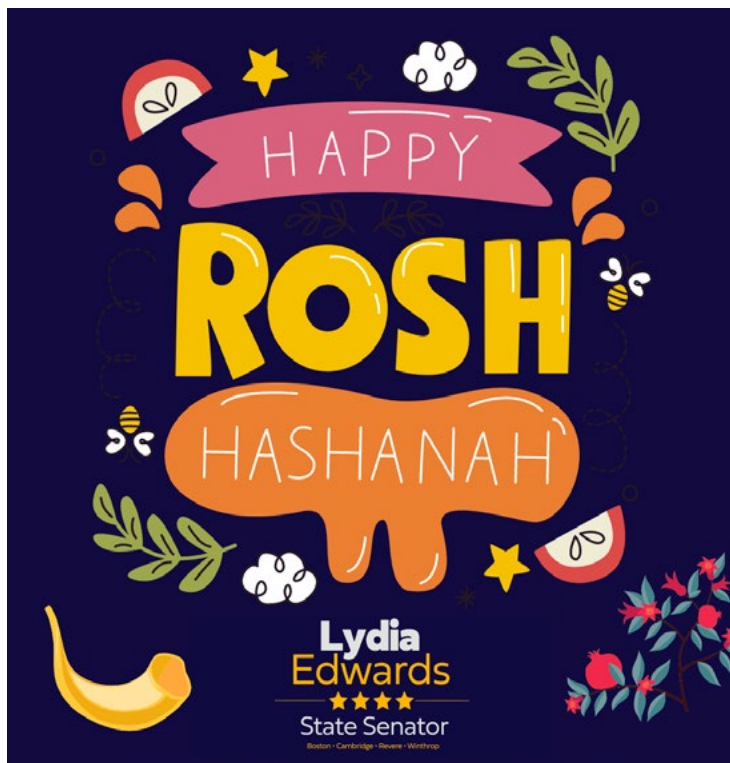
Liturgy as Resistance

Whether through the call of the shofar or the shout of the Black preacher, both observances remind us that worship can be a form of resistance. These communities do not merely observe the passage of time; they mark it with defiant hope – believing in spite of suffering, praising in spite of pain.

Conclusion: Sacred Work at the New Year

While Watchnight and Rosh Hashanah arise from different religious traditions, they function similarly as sacred spaces for transition. They call people to remember the past, repent and renew their commitments, trust in God's justice and mercy, and enter the new year with hope.

Ed Gaskin is a minister, the Executive Director of Greater Grove Hall Main Streets, the founder of Sunday Celebrations and a member of Temple Beth Elohim in Wellesley.



Shanah Tovah

As we celebrate the High Holidays, we recognize not just the sweetness of a new beginning but the enduring strength of the Jewish People, who have faced every challenge with courage and an unwavering commitment to hope.

Find High Holiday events, recipes, resources, and more at JewishBoston.com/RH2025



The Moroccan Jews of Cabo Verde

The Moroccan Jews of Cabo Verde - 19th Century.

By José Alberto R. Silva Tavim e

Ângela Benoliel Coutinho and coordinated by Carol Castiel.

Lisboa: Edições Colibri, 2024 (2nd edition)



Carol S. Castiel and Shirley Nigri Farber

Bate Papo TV Interviews Carol S. Castiel

On May 5, journalist Shirley Nigri Farber, host of the bilingual TV program Bate Papo com Shirley, interviewed Carol S. Castiel, president of the Cape Verde Jewish Heritage Project.

During the interview, conducted in Portuguese, Castiel spoke about how she founded the Cape Verde Jewish Heritage Project and discussed the publication of her book *Os Judeus Marroquinos de Cabo Verde: Século XIX*.

Bate Papo TV is geared to the Portuguese speaking communities. It has aired since 2005 on local stations in Massachusetts and is also available on Comcast On Demand in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire, as well as online at www.facebook.com/batepapomagazine.

Review by Carol Castiel

Why would Jews in Morocco, a country in which they have lived for over two thousand years and where Sephardim found refuge from the Spanish and Portuguese Inquisition, set sail for Portuguese territory in the 19th century, specifically Cabo Verde? Moroccan Jews arrived in Cabo Verde and other Portuguese-speaking territories like the Azores and the Amazon region of Brazil, after 1821, the year in which the Inquisition had been abolished, removing fears of religious persecution. The Portuguese language book, *Os Judeus Marroquinos de Cabo Verde: Século XIX*, explores the many other economic and political factors which prompted Jews, mostly from Northern Morocco and Gibraltar, to set sail for the then-Portuguese colony of Cabo Verde, which was an important transatlantic commercial hub. The book is currently being translated into English.

Archival and oral research in Gibraltar, Lisbon, London and Cabo Verde confirm that mostly male Moroccan Jews from Tangier, Tetuán, Mogador (now Essaouira) and Rabat settled in the islands of São Vicente, Santo Antão, Boa Vista and Santiago in the mid to late 1800's in search of economic opportunities. A trade and friendship treaty between Portugal and Britain also helps explain the migratory pattern. Moroccan Jews living in tiny British-controlled Gibraltar (a mere fifty-five miles from Tangier) migrated to Cabo Verde, some holding British passports, in the mid-19th century along with British

27 Years of Experience
BBB A+ Rating
Real Estate Broker
MBA
Certified ARM



Benjamin Realty

617-734-5050

Sales,

Rentals &

Property Management

www.benjaminrealty.com

Happy Rosh Hashanah 5786

**25
QUEEN
MATTRESSES**

MATTRESS FACTORY

**50
SETS
ON DISPLAY**

QUEEN MATTRESS
STARTING AT
\$249 TO \$699

BE SMART TRY US
QUALITY MATTRESS AT FACTORY PRICES

**MEMORY
FOAM**

**100% NATURAL
LATEX**

TWIN MATTRESS
STARTING AT
\$139

BEDDING • LIVING ROOMS • DINING ROOMS

Furniture Decor Showroom • (781) 344-9988 • 57 Central Street • Stoughton, MA • www.FurnitureDecorShowroom.com

The Moroccan Jews of Cabo Verde

merchants and entrepreneurs who established critical industries and business. Auday, Anahory, Azancot, Benoliel, Benrós, Benaïm, Brigham (Ohayon), Benchimol, Cagi, Cohen, ElBaz, Levy, Levy-Bentub, Maman, Pinto, Seruya, Taregano, Wahnnon and Zagury are a sample of the Sephardic families whose legacy in Cabo Verde this pioneering book documents.

It is no wonder that several descendants of these Jewish families wound up in New England over time. As some Shalom readers may know, Cape Verdeans have been migrating to Massachusetts and Rhode Island in search of better economic conditions over the past three centuries. The archipelago, situated about 300 miles off the coast of Senegal, has experienced regular bouts of drought and famine that have sent many in search of better lives.

I met one of those descendants in Central Falls, Rhode Island back in 2008. Jacinto Benrós, the great-grandson of Isaac Benros whose father, Moises, was a native of Tangier, regaled me with stories of his ancestors and many other Jewish families with whom they associated like the Cohen's, Benoliel's, and Pinto's. Jacinto, who passed away in 2020, introduced me to another New Englander, Salomão Benchimol, a descendant of a Jew from Tetuan, Hillel Benchimol, who became a prominent merchant and landowner in the island of Santiago. On a recent trip to Rhode Island and Massachusetts, I met yet another descendant, Rosaria Arteaga, whose ancestors' surname is Azoulay. She lives in New Bedford and has "returned" to Judaism. Rosaria respects Jewish dietary laws and is affiliated with the Jewish Federation of New Bedford.

The above-mentioned descendants in Massachusetts and Rhode Island read Portuguese and have enjoyed our book. Unfortunately, Jacinto Benrós died before its publication, but a quotation from him graces the book's back cover. To reach many more Cape Verdeans



and Americans who do not read Portuguese, especially American Jews in New England who are familiar with their Cape Verdean neighbors, we are in the process of translating the book into English and identifying a U.S. publisher.

While many books and articles have traced the footsteps of the Moroccan Jewish Diaspora in North and South America, much less has been written about the Moroccan Jews who immigrated to the former Portuguese colony of Cabo Verde in the 19th century. *Os Judeus Marroquinos de Cabo Verde: Século XIX* and its forthcoming English translation, are important first steps in filling this critical gap.

On a personal note, I describe in the book's preface, the career choices and passions which led me to discover Cabo Verde's Jewish heritage. The Jewish burial grounds in the islands of Santo Antão, Santiago and Boa Vista are among the only tangible vestiges of the Moroccan Jewish presence. The Moroccan Jews who settled in Cabo Verde were few and mostly male, so over time, many married Catholic women, which diluted affiliation with Jewish customs and rituals. Consequently, there is no active Jewish community in Cabo Verde today. However, the descendants, wherever they reside, speak with pride of their Jewish ancestry.

Note: Carol Castiel founded the non-profit, Cape Verde Jewish Heritage Project Inc., (CVJHP) in 2008: www.capeverdejewishheritage.org to honor the memory and document the legacy of the many Sephardic Jews who immigrated to Cabo Verde in the 19th century. In addition to publishing articles and a book, CVJHP raised funds to restore and preserve the several small Jewish cemeteries that dot the archipelago. The government of Cabo Verde in 2017 classified the Jewish cemeteries and other places of Jewish memory as national, cultural, and historical patrimony.

Wishing you
and yours a
happy and
prosperous
Rosh
Hashanah!

**RICHARD
NEAL**
www.nealforcongress.com

PAID FOR BY THE RICHARD NEAL FOR CONGRESS COMMITTEE

Wishing you a
**Safe, Happy,
and Healthy
New Year —
Shanah Tovah!**

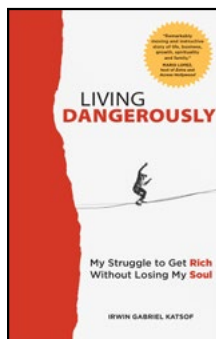
ADL®
NEW ENGLAND

Samantha Joseph
ADL NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Bonnie Michelman
ADL NEW ENGLAND BOARD CHAIR

f : @adl.newengland
X : @adl_newengland

Living Dangerously: My Struggle to Get Rich Without Losing My Soul by Irwin Gabriel Katsof



Living Dangerously by Irwin Gabriel Katsof is part memoir, part life manual, and fully an invitation to step into a life of purpose, risk, and faith. Katsof, a former fundraiser for Aish HaTorah, recounts the dramatic decision to leave a secure position in Jewish education to enter the world of business – without a safety net.

From there, his story spans continents and industries. We follow him as he organizes high-level trade missions to Israel, connecting U.S. senators, Israeli leaders, and global business executives in ways that have strengthened Israel's economy. He takes us inside tense negotiations, like persuading foreign investors to back Israeli innovation, and bold fundraising moments – such as calling Warren Buffett directly for a philanthropic cause.

Katsof also writes candidly about his personal life, including exploring psychedelic-assisted therapy with his wife to deepen their marriage, and wrestling with the balance between ambition and family. Through every chapter, Jewish values and spiritual practice serve as his compass.

What makes *Living Dangerously* compelling is its blend of real-world adventure, emotional honesty, and practical wisdom. Katsof shows that living “dangerously” isn’t about recklessness – it’s about calculated boldness, seizing opportunity, and refusing to settle for the safe but stagnant path.

In the end, this is more than an autobiography. It’s an inspiring invitation to live with purpose, take meaningful risks, and make an enduring impact.



Joel Weingarten

Mortgage Loan Officer

NMLS ID#395556

Shana Tovah



Home Lending Mortgage Solutions

414 Washington St, Brighton, MA 02135
315 Harvard Street, Brookline, MA 02446

(978) 479-4689 (Mobile)

(844) 259-6608 (eFax)

Joel.Weingarten@citizensbank.com

Engage your mind and nourish your spirit!



*Celebrate the High Holydays with our welcoming and
inclusive Reconstructionist congregation in Newton, MA*

www.dorsheitzedek.org

Lukes Liquors

ROCKLAND PLYMOUTH HANSON CANTON

Selection of Kosher Wine

Shana Tovah

3 Washington Street
Canton, MA 02021
781.828.5853

George Deschenes - Store Manager
www.LukesLiquors.com
George@LukesLiquors.com

ISRAEL BOOK SHOP

Please visit us for all your High Holiday and Sukkot needs

Full line of Judaica Books and Gifts
A Wedding/Bar-Bat Mitzvah Center

www.israelbookshop.com
info@israelbookshop.com



ISRAEL BOOKSHOP

410 Harvard Street
Brookline, MA 02446
T: 617-566-7113/7114

800-323-7723

Sun.-Wed. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thurs. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Fri. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.



Are You Jewish And Want To Learn More About Your Jewish Roots?



FreeJewishBooks.com

Absence as Presence: Our Journey to Poland for “Our Class”



By Igor Golyak

I buttoned up emotionally for our research trip to Poland. We went to meet playwright Tadeusz Słobodzianek and to explore the real locations where the events of “Our Class” took place – Jedwabne, Auschwitz, and other sites where history’s darkness lives. I was preparing our production and knew I needed to see these places, to feel them. I braced myself for the wave of grief, for something overwhelming to hit me.

The hit came, but not how I expected.

A Jew, a Pole, and a German walking into Poland – sounds like a bad joke, right? But there we were: me, playwright Tadeusz, and Jan Pappelbaum from Berlin’s Schaubühne, searching for the ghosts of history.

In Lublin, Tadeusz stopped us on a hill. “This was the capital of Jewish life before the war,” he said. “90% Jewish. A Jewish university here.” He pointed down: “There it is.”

I looked. A parking lot. Nothing else.

Not a plaque, not a memorial – just absence. And this absence crushed me more than any monument could have.

Anti-semitism is a light sleeper. It dozes beneath the surface until difficult events happen, then it wakes, stretches, and rises. One day people play soccer together; the next day, one half burns the other half. These aren’t mystical Nazis from far away – they’re neighbors, classmates, friends.

Reading journals from pogrom survivors, I found something mind-boggling: many wouldn’t leave their towns even after attacks. When asked why, one woman simply said: “We thought it couldn’t get worse.”

I don’t believe in teaching lessons of the past. If they worked, we wouldn’t be in today’s world. Our play isn’t about what happened – it’s about what will happen with people like us.

That’s why in “Our Class,” we constantly erase and rewrite our chalk wall, just like history itself. Tragedy lives in the mundane. It can happen at Starbucks. It’s not separated from us by an ocean – it’s us, it’s people, it’s me.

I never thought I’d become a “Jewish director.” In theater school, there was always this sentiment about not becoming a “type” of director, and I actually agreed with it. You don’t want to box yourself in. Exploring different worlds informs your craft in the most unexpected ways.

So, when someone first asked if I was a Jewish director, my Pavlov’s-dog response was negative. Like, no, I’m just a director who happens to be Jewish. But given where we are now, given what’s happening in the world, given the stories I feel compelled to tell – yes, I am a Jewish director. And I’m okay with it. For now, this is where I need to be.

Igor Golyak is the Founder & Artistic Director at Arlekin Players Theatre. His award-winning Our Class was presented in Boston in June at the Calderwood Pavilion.

BETH TIKVAH NEW HOME

Founded 30 years ago by a group of families looking for a different kind of Jewish home, Beth Tikvah was coined as a “House of Hope.” Beth Tikvah has had many homes in Central, Massachusetts over the years. They are excited to welcome new families and members to their new home at 3 Grafton Common in Grafton, Massachusetts. “The Unitarian Universalist Society of Grafton and Upton has been so welcoming to us since we began holding services here. Now with our Hebrew School also here, it’s really feeling like home,” said Beth Tikvah Board President Cara Berg Powers. Her daughter, Ella, has grown up in the synagogue and will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah at the end of this Hebrew School year.

Berg Powers recounts finding Beth Tikvah herself, about 15 years ago, when she and her husband were looking for a Jewish home in Central Massachusetts, “As a multi-racial Jewish family, it was really unique how welcomed we felt from the first time we came to Beth Tikvah.” At their new home, and with a new Hebrew School Director, who also grew up at Beth Tikvah, they hope to make many other families, of all backgrounds, feel just as welcome today.

JCAM – PRESERVING TRADITION

Established in 1984, the Jewish Cemetery Association of Massachusetts (JCAM) was created to ensure the continuity of Jewish cemeteries after original burial societies could no longer provide care. What began with 17 cemeteries – including 5 abandoned – has grown into stewardship of more than 120 of the 222 known Jewish cemeteries in Massachusetts, from the oldest (Temple Ohabei Shalom in East Boston) to the newest (Beit Olam East in Wayland).

Restoration is at the heart of JCAM’s mission. JCAM also provides graves for those in need, ensuring Jewish tradition, dignity, and continuity are upheld. Over 40 years of service have made JCAM a vital cultural and historical resource, safeguarding the legacy of our community for generations to come. To learn more, volunteer, or support our mission, visit www.jcam.org or call (617) 244-6509.



Lodging, Dining,
Crafts, Games,
Activities,
Indoor Pool,
& more!

Call us today!

October 19-24, 2025 & April 26 - May 1, 2026

THE INN  at EAST HILL FARM
east-hill-farm.com
1-800-242-6495

Supporting our local communities since 1831.

Dedham Savings
Here for the journey.

Member FDIC. Member DIF. NMLS # 473990

800.462.1190

www.dedhamsavings.com



Scan & schedule - Fast, easy,
sparkling results."

617-631-9913

newton@twomaidscleaning.com

**two:
maids**
Residential and Commercial Cleaning



ASE CERTIFIED

TOWING

SAM'S GETTY, INC.

SPECIALIZING IN PROFESSIONAL REPAIR OF
DOMESTIC & FOREIGN AUTOMOBILES
STATE INSPECTION STATION

452 CANTON ST. (RTE. 27)
STOUGHTON, MA 02072

SAM
(781) 344-8483

***** AARON *****
SAUNDERS

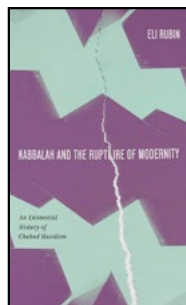
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Shana Tovah!
*Wishing for a blessed
new year from my
family to yours*



Paid for by the Saunders Committee
[Facebook.com/ElectSaunders](https://www.facebook.com/ElectSaunders)

MODERN ART AND THE KABBALAH OF BEING



By Eli Rubin

For as long as I can remember, two questions have hovered behind my thoughts. I suspect they hover in the minds of many other people too. Yet, they seem so elemental that it almost seems crazy to actually articulate them, much less answer them. Question one: What is existence? Question two: What is modernity?

Eventually, my exploration of these questions took the form of a book, recently published by Stanford University Press with the title

Kabbalah and the Rupture of Modernity.

Amazingly, it was precisely at the outset of the modern period – in the late sixteenth century – that a new form of Kabbalah arose, with a new concept of existence at its heart. This was the Kabbalah of the Ari, which scholars call Lurianic Kabbalah, which teaches that cosmic existence is built within a divine void. This void is the result of *tzimtzum*, a self-inflicted “rupture” in the infinite assertion of divinity.

The “new” Lurianic Kabbalah spread across Europe in Latin translations, as well as in Hebrew texts, at precisely the same time that the “new” Cartesian philosophy was beginning to take hold. Both threatened to relegate the sacred (and perhaps the profane too) to some celestial sphere, allowing processes of secularization to gain a foothold down here, in the world of our own habitation.

Modernity begins with the rupture of the philosophical tradition, the rupture between spirit and matter, the rupture of history, the rupture of knowledge, the rupture of the cosmos, and – of course – the rupture of theology. But it was not the French philosopher René Descartes who introduced this rupture. It was introduced more than two decades before his birth, by Rabbi Yitzchak Luria, the Ari of Safed.

This casts modernity itself in a new and multifarious light. Diffuse paths of modern intellectual history run in parallel, and sometimes converge, clash, or split away from one another. My argument is that, if there is one thing that unites modernity, in all its variations, it is a confrontation with rupture. Some embrace rupture, others seek to overcome it, or repair it. Ignoring it is futile.

This is a book that reaches from the outset of modernity, across the span of some four centuries, up to the cusp of the present. *Tzimtzum* is a cosmic and philosophical prism



MODERN ART AND THE KABBALAH OF BEING

through which human beings made and remade their sense of being, time and time again, entering into vibrant debates whose ripples propelled the Hasidic movement into existence.

Chabad is one of Hasidism's more visible and controversial streams. But its distinctive character and self-image emerged from its spirited interpretation of *tzimtzum* as an act of love leading to a rapturous reunion. This interpretation ignited a literal conflagration, complete with book burnings, denunciations, investigations, and arrests. Judaism today, in all its manifestations, is shot through with the sparks of these ruptures.

For a case in point, look no further than the cover of this book. Its design comes from a monumental sculpture, titled *Zim Zum*, by the abstract expressionist artist Barnett Newman, a Jewish New Yorker whose parents immigrated from Poland. Unpublished notes in his archive show that Newman gave a great deal of thought to the meaning of *tzimtzum*. Indeed, he cast *tzimtzum* as the basis for a new kabbalistic aesthetic, which would make the ultimate existential "declaration."

Tzimtzum allows for the preservation of our individuality and subjectivity, even as we discern the holy totality that unites all of reality. To discern this is to transform the place of rupture into the place of onement. For Newman, to seek such discernment is to search for the sublime. For the Kabbalistic masters, to embark on the same quest is to strive toward the messianic. Newman said that the "artistic problem" is the problem of distinguishing "between what is holy and what is holy (*bein kodesh lekodesh*)."

The rupture of exile – what Newman called the "sense of tragedy" – arises from the as-yet-unresolved rupture "between the holy and the mundane." Humanity's cosmic vocation, however, is to artfully attain the fullness of being, so that all our work will be "within the realm of holiness itself." From this messianic perspective, the component parts of existence are not divisive. Instead, they construct an ever-more-complete singularity. From this perspective, the quest for the meaning of existence is synonymous with the quest for the meaning of modernity.

Eli Rubin, a contributing editor at Chabad.org, is the author of Kabbalah and the Rupture of Modernity: An Existential History of Chabad Hasidism (Stanford University Press, 2025). He was a co-author of Social Vision: The Lubavitcher Rebbe's Transformative Paradigm for the World (Herder and Herder, 2019). He received his PhD from the Department of Hebrew and Jewish Studies, University College London.


*More news and
local events at
www.ShalomMA.com*



Great Sephardic Selichot
Led by renowned Chazan from Israel, Oren Bozaglo.
Join us for Selichot services on Saturday nights:
Aug 30, Sept 6, 13, 20 and 27 (after midnight).
No cost to attend, open to men and women.
Refreshments will be served.
Come hear the Shofar.

Chabad of Sharon, 162 North Main St, Sharon.
For more information, call Ami 617-201-7122.

EDUCATION CONSULTING, ADVOCACY & LEGAL SERVICES, LLC
A Private Law Practice



Pamela S. Milman, Esq.
Daniel Mikolajewski, Esq.
Ashley R. Waxman, Esq.
Nicole Metsisto Mazer, Esq.
999 Broadway, Suite 301
Saugus, MA 01906
Phone: 781.231.IDEA (4332)
Fax: 781.231.FAPE (3273)
Email: ecals@comcast.net

Shanah Tovah
www.educationandjuvenilelaw.com

**WISHING YOU A
SWEET, HEALTHY,
& SAFE
NEW YEAR!**



**STATE REPRESENTATIVE
TED PHILIPS**



**Earn a \$100 Visa gift Card &
30k Hilton Honors Points**
when you book your event with us

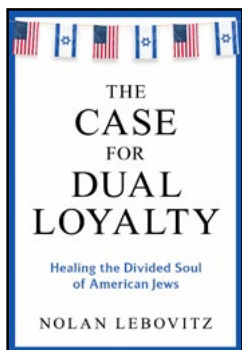


Valid on Bar/Bat Mitzvah's that contract a food & beverage minimum of \$10,000, not including Applicable Service charge and tax. Not valid with other promotional offers. Contract must be signed and returned by 12/15/2025 for events taking place March 1, 2025 - December 31, 2026. New business only. Promotion must be mentioned at time of booking. Based on availability.

Contact us today for more information!



(508) 213-3078 | 5400 Computer Dr. Westborough, MA 01581



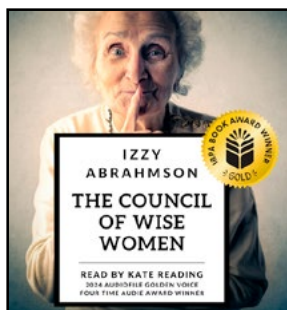
The Case for Dual Loyalty

In “The Case for Dual Loyalty: Healing the Divided Soul of American Jews,” author Rabbi Nolan Lebovitz challenges “dual loyalty,” one of the oldest taboos in American Jewish life. In the wake of Oct. 7 and its aftermath, he argues that loyalty to Jewish peoplehood is as vital as loyalty to America. Drawing from sacred texts, history, and shared values, Lebovitz offers a bold, unifying vision for the future of American Jews, calling for the proud embracement of Jewish identity and collective destiny.

Jewish stories in Audiobook

Light Publications is thrilled to announce that the audiobook for *The Council of Wise Women* by Izzy Abrahamson, narrated by Kate Reading, has won the Gold Medal IBPA Award for Best Fiction Audiobook.

This is the first time the IBPA (Independent Book Publishing Association) Best Fiction Audiobook has been won by a work of Jewish fiction. Izzy Abrahamson has been writing *The Village Life* series for nearly three decades. This includes the book, *Winter Blessings*, which was nominated for a National Jewish Book Award. Izzy is also the pen name for Mark Binder, a Rhode Island resident and performing storyteller.



Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center
97 Newbury Street, Boston. Free and open to the public.
Thursday, November 13, 6-7 p.m.: Author Talk: Will Eisner: A Comics Biography
Thursday, November 20, 6-7:30 p.m.: Genevieve Geller Wyner Annual Lecture with Benjy Maor.

Mishkan Tefila, Brookline, free and open to the public
Oct. 21, 1 p.m. : Beginner Mah Jongg Class starts
Select Saturdays, 9 a.m.: Taste of Torah, Torah Study with Rabbi David Starr, Ph.D.

Sunday, October 26, 7 p.m. at
Congregation B’nai Shalom, Westborough
 The Jewish Federation of Central Massachusetts and the Central Massachusetts Jewish Theater Company present: Nephesh Theatre’s English production “Without an Evil Eye”. Written by Sarel Piterman and Assaf Ben Shimon. Directed by Sarel Piterman and performed by Assaf Ben Shimon. Tickets: \$36. Info: hal@cmjtc.org.

Thursday, October 9, 8 p.m. at
Emerson Cutler Majestic Theatre, Boston
 Cherry Orchard Festival presents the new Gesher Theater production of *Beyond the Light* - a new play starring renowned actors Kseniia Rappoport and Henry David. The play is performed in Russian with subtitles in English. Tickets start at \$85 and are available on <https://emersontheatres.org>.

For more events and news,
please follow us on www.Facebook.com/shalommagazine or www.ShalomMA.com.

SHANA TOVA!

Offering our warmest wishes to you and your loved ones as you celebrate the New Year.



M. Healey
 Maura Healey
 Governor



Kim Driscoll
 Kim Driscoll
 Lieutenant Governor

PAID FOR BY THE MAURA HEALEY COMMITTEE



ZAYDE'S MARKET

WHERE QUALITY & KOSHER MEET!

15 WASHINGTON ST. CANTON, MA

781-828-3530

KOSHER DELI & MARKET, PREPARED FOODS, PIZZAS, FRESH MEATS & POULTRY, KOSHER CATERING, BAKED GOODS, ISRAELI PRODUCTS, WINES & SPIRITS, AND MORE!



**SMALL BATCH ICE CREAM
UNIQUE FLAVORS
CRAFTED WITH A2 MILK!**



SCAN TO
LEARN MORE
ABOUT NEW CITY!



www.slotnickmonuments.com

617-387-3980 • 508-872-1400

Drive Carefully...

SLOTNICK MONUMENTS

Since 1910

...We Can Wait

Everett - Framingham - Worcester

100 Years and Five Generations of Memorials



Counseling & Social Skills for Children & Teens

FALL 2025
NEEDHAM & SUDBURY



SOCIAL SKILLS
GROUPS

INDIVIDUAL
COUNSELING

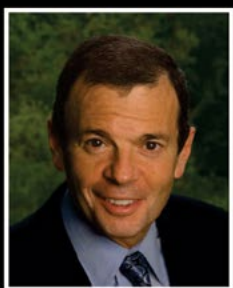
COPING
SKILLS
GROUPS

PARENT
SERVICES

PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

781.400.2641 • CHILDOTHERAPYINBOSTON.COM

Marblehead's Premier Prosthodontist



Your SPECIALIST in Implant,
Aesthetic & Restorative Dentistry
Services: Implant Restorations, Crowns, Bridges,
Veneers, Dentures, Smile Makeovers

Jeffrey R Dornbush, DDS

Innovative Restorative & Aesthetic Dentistry
Sensitive Care & Superb Esthetic Results

Schedule your consultation
Today 781-639-0700

210 Humphrey St.,
Marblehead
drdornbush.com
office@drdornbush.com

Senior Living Residences

Aging Research

Home Care

Wolk Center for Memory Health

Long-Term Care

All we are for all you can be.

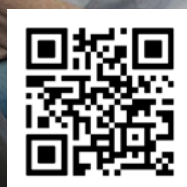
Short-Term Rehabilitation

Dementia Care

Outpatient Rehabilitation

Palliative Care

And More >



Scan to explore or
visit allweareforyou.org



Hebrew SeniorLife



HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL
AFFILIATE

(781) 897-7579