

## JCOGS embraces our first full-time rabbi

### A new chapter in our community history

By AMANDA KUHNERT

Family services, potlucks, sing-alongs, adult education workshops, social mixers and concerts are just a few of the programming possibilities in store for JCOGS as the community welcomes its first full-time rabbi this summer. Rabbi David will present a long list of goals for the coming year to the board of trustees, in time for the special extended board meeting in July.

A full-time rabbi greatly extends programming opportunities at JCOGS on a weekly and year-round basis. Members can look forward to Shabbat services featuring community meals, speakers, and music, along with ongoing Jewish education offerings, such as a bi-monthly adult Torah study and Hebrew reading class, as well as cultural programs. Other programming possibilities include a monthly children's service and pizza dinner, as well as some rotating Shabbat services and potlucks in members' homes throughout the year.

"I am very excited about Rabbi David Fainsilber becoming our

first full-time rabbi," said long-time member Lynne Gedanken. "He and Alison, Adar and Yonah are wonderful additions to the JCOGS family. Rabbi David will bring his special gift for creating joyous religious services and harmonizing the diversity in our community, and he will help us to offer more in the way of educational, social, and social-action programming."

Past president Steve Lichtenstein also looks forward to Rabbi David's full-time presence in Stowe. "David is a fine outstanding young man and one of the best things that could have happened to JCOGS," he said. "In addition to his presence and spiritual leadership, he will provide cohesiveness to our community."

Along with enhanced internal programming, a full-time rabbi will have more time to devote toward outreach and community growth, looking beyond the walls of our beautiful building on Cape Cod Road to the role of JCOGS in the greater community. As a full-time resident of Stowe, Rabbi David will be able to take on a more active role in community organizations and efforts, such as the Greater Stowe Interfaith Coalition, and reach out to Jews in the area who aren't currently engaged in JCOGS.

For the first time in the history of Stowe, a local Jewish rabbi will be seen on a regular basis chatting with neighbors at the farmers' market, walking down Main Street, and visiting the local coffee shop. Raising their family in the intimate



*Rabbi David leads the congregation in hamotzi at the end of the installation service held at JCOGS on June 27. The service included remarks by Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld, dean of Hebrew College's rabbinical school. In an email after the event, Rabbi Anisfeld said, "It was inspiring to see what a warm and spirited community you have created and nurtured [at JCOGS]." The evening also included a musical piece by Deborah Black and David Goodman and group. Over 160 people attended the event, which was followed by a delicious dinner in the tent. Attendees stayed well into the evening, enjoying catching up with old friends and new.*

community of Stowe, Rabbi David and his wife Alison Link will have the opportunity to connect with other parents through their children's activities. The couple's two children, Adar and Yonah, will be attending Mountain Village School in Stowe.

"A full-time Rabbi is a dream

come true," said Gretchen Besser, a member of the board of trustees. "Having been privileged to work with David this past year, I've witnessed first-hand what a kind, humble, compassionate, and energetic person he is. We're blessed to have him join our community together with Alison, Adar, and Yonah."

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# With the new moon, a renewal for JCOGS

What makes something new? In our earliest transmission of oral Torah, Mishnah Rosh Hashanah talks about the moment when our ancestors embraced the new moon every month. This was no easy task. Each month, it is said that when two people would look up at the sky and see the new moon shining, they would make their way to the Jerusalem court, stand before the judges, and proclaim that they had witnessed the new moon.



When the judges declared the witnesses fit, accepting their testimony as true, an exceptional system of mountaintop fire would carry the “word” that the new month had arrived throughout the land. Beginning on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem, the people would carry up long cedar planks, reed poles, olive tree branches, scraps of flax – anything that would keep the flame going. Once the fire was lit, the next community would see the flame and light their own mountaintop afire, each person in each community bringing their own contribution. And so the mountaintop fires grew in number until the last

northern mountain. From that northeast kingdom, all of Israel was set ablaze in the distance, announcing the new moon’s arrival.

What makes something new is how each person acknowledges the newness and commits to keeping the light moving forward. It is the witnesses, and the judges; it is all those – in all corners of the land – who brought ample wood to keep the fire lit. And ultimately, it is all of the people Israel who witness the fires, in awe, standing again at the transition of old

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**THIS MONTH** I am reminded how delicate the balance is in life between joy and suffering. We lost a dear friend and unique leader in our Jewish community this month, Roselle Abramowitz, with no notice, no warning. And one of our Board members, Priscilla Minkin, lost her mom with no notice.

And here we are, in the same breath, celebrating the installation of our new rabbi, David Fainsilber, full time, living in our community, with his family, eager and committed to share his talent and experience in helping us build community. Unfortunately, sometimes it is when we experience sorrow and loss that we truly appreciate the availability of our own clergy. We so appreciate having Rabbi David here to comfort those of us in need.



It is difficult to speculate the effect of having our rabbi meeting people in Mac’s Market or Picasso or the Swimming Hole. But for sure, something good is going to come of his presence. David is warm and passionate and well-trained for this pioneering experience. We want to welcome him, Alison, and their two sons, Adar and Yonah. Thank you, David, for your commitment. And thank you, JCOGS members, for stepping up to this ambitious opportunity in our journey. Let us all do our part to make this next chapter successful.

As we follow David’s religious leadership, let us join him in G-d’s work. I invite each of you to become active and help in areas of your interest, where you can make a difference. Whether it is helping with the religious programming, or joining vibrant committees like our Caring Community or Social Action or educational programming for

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The new board of trustees stands together at the end of JCOGS’ annual meeting on June 22. Pictured from left to right: Ron Feinstein, Gary Feibus, Steve Lichtenstein, Steve Berson, Rita Schneps, Israel Ellner (in back), Robin Trowbridge, Barbara Bauman (in back), Gretchen Rous Besser, Nancy Krakower, Lynne Gedanken, Richard Jacobs and Rabbi David Fainsilber.

Missing from photo: Miriam Rosenbloom, Priscilla Minkin, Larry Dunn, Kalli Glanz, and Sean Jacobson.

## New board members elected at annual meeting

The annual meeting of JCOGS was held on June 22.

After an invocation conducted by Rabbi David, the meeting began with an introduction of the board of trustees and committee chairs. Steve Lichtenstein, on behalf of the board, thanked this year’s departing board members for their service and contributions: Barbara Bauman, Ted Kole, Bruce Rosenberg, and Stephen Schneps.

Ron Feinstein, chair of the finance committee, presented the finance report and a budget presentation for 2014-2015. After some questions and discussion, the attendees voted unanimously to approve the new budget, as presented.

Steve Lichtenstein then presented the governance report, which included a proposed amendment to the by-laws providing for a director of children’s education. Barbara Bau-

man was appointed as the inaugural director. Israel Ellner and Rita Schneps were elected as incoming members of the board. Steve also announced Kalli Glanz, our new youth board member, and Sean Jacobson, our youth intern. The following slate of officers was proposed: Ron Feinstein, president; Lynne Gedanken, vice president; Priscilla Minkin, vice-president; Gretchen Rous Besser, secretary; and Robin Trowbridge, treasurer.

Miriam Rosenbloom presented the summer programming schedule, which includes a number of family-friendly shows and events. Steve Berson also spoke about the new Friday Night Supper Club that will follow Shabbat, and Gary Feibus spoke about the Nearly New Sale on Aug. 10.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the new board convened and elected unanimously the proposed slate of officers.

# Remembering Roselle

## Community leader, artist, survivor, friend

BY AMANDA KUHNERT

This spring our community lost a devoted friend, talented artist, tireless volunteer and leader. Roselle Abramowitz, who died unexpectedly on June 4, has left a tremendous void at JCOGS, a community she helped grow over the past two decades. But as we mourn her loss, her friends are inspired by the way she lived, with uncommon passion, strength, and resilience.

As can be surmised from the stories and recollections told by a handful of Roselle's close friends in Stowe, the tapestry of her life was as colorful, vibrant, and complex as the exquisite artwork she created. Through her company, Roselle Artwear, the self-taught artist designed and sold beautiful, one-of-a-kind wearable art — kimonos, scarves, wraps, and capes. She called her artwork "an eclectic mix of past and present, influenced by travel, life, art and the beauty and joy of living in Stowe, Vermont."

Roselle loved the beautiful life she had created in Stowe. But she had also known great tragedy. Born in Belgium in 1937, Roselle lost both of her parents during the Holocaust — her father in Auschwitz and her mother to a fatal illness. According to her close friend of 50 years, Rona Klein, Roselle and her two older sisters were miraculously saved and hidden in a convent for the duration of the war. The nuns were cruel to the girls, Roselle had said. But they taught her how to sew, a skill that would play a vital role in her future life as an artist.

After the war, the three sisters were sent to a camp for displaced Jews. Ruthie, the eldest, had to decide where they would go next. No one would take all three children, so they were adopted by separate households in Canada. Roselle's adoptive family soon moved to Arizona, due to her adoptive mother's problems with asthma. She eventually died, the family moved back to Montreal, and her adoptive father later remarried.

Roselle's adoptive parents were wealthy members of Jewish society; her adoptive mother was the sister of Samuel Bronfman, the founder of the Distillers Corporation in Montreal, according to her friend and fellow JCOGS member, Hillel Becker. "She was quiet, modest, and unassuming ... low-key about that part of her life, which I think says something about the kind of person Roselle was," he said. "What she made of her life she made on her own and not on her family relationships."

Roselle and her husband, Lorne, began com-



ing to Stowe to ski in the 1960s. She encountered tragedy again when Lorne suffered a heart attack after a day on the mountain. Up until that time, she never talked about her experience during the Holocaust, Rona said. But after Lorne's death, a friend suggested that she attend a conference for child survivors. At the conference, she met a man who survived a concentration camp in Germany. Together they traveled back to Germany to try and find out more about Roselle's birth parents.

"Until then she felt like she was a nonperson," Rona said. "She didn't have any papers or a picture of her mother." Roselle and her friend were able to find her birth certificate and other records about her family, verifying "that she existed," Rona said. "That was a big help."

But tragedy struck again in 2002, when this close friend died after rupturing his spleen in a ski accident on Mt. Mansfield. And once again, as her friends will tell you, she somehow found the strength to rise above the pain and keep moving on.

"She had survived so much," Rona said, "So whenever you asked her how she was, she was always fine. She was a fighter."

"That she turned out to be the kind of person she was says a great deal about her," Hillel said. "She was a very strong person and yet had the capacity to be very warm, which is a very interesting combination."

After her partner's death Roselle decided to

make a permanent move to Stowe. "She had a life in Montreal, and ... I think it took a lot of internal strength on her part to pick up and start a life anew," Hillel said. "And look how well she did. She made her place not only in the Jewish community but also in the greater Stowe community."

### An inspiration

"She lived to the fullest and tried to get as much out of life as she could," said Eric Lande of Morrisville, who considered Roselle a very close friend. "It was extremely important to her to have existed, and to have made an impact while on this earth. I admire her for the energy that she put into everything she did. She lived life all the way to the end."

Roselle brought color into the world around her, from her beautiful gardens to the paintings and brilliant décor of her home. "For someone who started with absolutely nothing, she created beauty all around her," Rona said. "Maybe in opposition to all the ugliness."

Therapy helped her deal with the emotional pain of her early life, Rona said: "She had gotten across all of those bridges and had never been happier than she had been lately."

Roselle had a tremendous amount of energy, friends agree. "She moved faster than anybody I knew," Rona said. "We woke up at the same time, but she had already accomplished so much before I even got out of bed."

Roselle was a cog in the inner workings of JCOGS. "She had a strong sense of community and gave greatly of her time and skills to JCOGS, both as an artist and a leader, which was always low-key," Hillel said. "She wasn't interested in being ... particularly visible." Hillel worked closely with Roselle on the Rabbinic search committee that ultimately hired Rabbi David in 2013. "She was a pillar of strength to that committee," he said.

She was also intimately involved in the interior design of the JCOGS building. "Her shimmering tapestries hang as the curtains before the Aron in the synagogue," Rabbi David said at her funeral service in Montreal last month. "The gardens outside of the building are her design. The choices of wood chairs and red couch... practically everything in the building has been touched by her."

Steve Berson, who worked with Roselle on a

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# Chesed Committee Report

Reeling from the news of Roselle Abramowitz's sudden illness the previous week, the Chesed Committee at its June 1 meeting discussed ways of reaching out to her and her family. Sadly, a few days later, Roselle was taken from our midst. We are still in shock and grieving at our common loss. Among her innumerable activities, Roselle was a dynamic force on our Chesed Committee. As we mourn her passing, the best way we can honor her memory is to commit ourselves to continuing the outreach to others that was one of her hallmarks.

Among the types of assistance we provide, co-chair Priscilla Minkin coordinates meal-making and delivery for anyone who is homebound or in need of such service. Priscilla has an active group of meal-makers ready to pitch in but is always looking for additional volunteers. Unfortunately, Priscilla lost her mother Mary Knox on June 14 and is in mourning herself.

### Other news and announcements:

♦ Together with Roselle, Barbara Stern had undertaken the mission of establishing a Col-

lege Connection with former Hebrew School graduates, as well as members' children, who are currently studying away from home. To perpetuate work in which Roselle was involved, we are seeking names and college addresses so that we may collate the list in time for action before Rosh Hashonah.

♦ The Chesed Committee is committed to teaming up with the Cemetery Committee to update the bereavement brochure and discuss respective roles in assisting and comforting mourners in times of loss.

Chesed Committee members phone, write, e-mail, visit, chauffeur, and perform other acts of kindness.

If you would like to help in our good work — and if you have information for us with respect to college student names and addresses, please contact Priscilla at [p.minkin@myfairpoint.net](mailto:p.minkin@myfairpoint.net) or Gretchen at [grbesser@gmail.com](mailto:grbesser@gmail.com).

We wish you a bright and beautiful summer.

*Dr. Gretchen Rous Besser and Priscilla Minkin, co-chairs*

# Darchoi Shalom Cemetery Update

Our JCOGS Cemetery, Darchoi Shalom (Paths of Peace), continues to develop and mature. What started as Marvin Gameroff's vision back in 1999 became a reality in 2007 when the present site for the cemetery was identified and the Cemetery Fundraising Campaign was initiated. The campaign goal was set at \$180,000, and I am pleased to report that we have reached over 90 percent of our goal.

Darchoi Shalom became fully operational in 2010 and to date we have sold 20 Burial Rights Lots. Our cemetery reflects who we are as a pluralistic Jewish Community and is available to all members of JCOGS. The Chesed Section is for the burial of Jews only, while the Emet Section is for the burial of Jews and non-Jewish spouses. Our cemetery is also available to non-JCOGS members, at a different pricing schedule.

To date the cemetery is on good financial footing with a growing Perpetual Care Fund and money available to continue the landscaping efforts, including adding more trees, developing footpaths and gardens, and installing benches. If you would like to memorialize a loved one by funding a bench or garden area,

please contact us.

It is important to mention that although the cemetery is owned and operated by JCOGS, it is self-sustaining with its own accounting and does not rely on the JCOGS budget for its funding.

Looking to the year ahead, the Cemetery Committee has many goals. We plan to complete the fundraising campaign, continue developing landscaping and beautification projects, work with the Chesed Committee to assist families experiencing a loss and step up our marketing program to reach out to members and non-members of JCOGS, and publicize our payment program whereby Burial Rights Lots may be purchased over a five-year period.

For more information about Darchoi Shalom or if you would like to join the committee, please visit our website at [www.jcogs.org](http://www.jcogs.org) or contact one of the Cemetery Committee members: Steve Lichtenstein, Bill Cohen, Carol Good, Shelly Klein, Eric Lande, and Stephen Rosenbloom.

Respectfully submitted,  
Steve Berson, committee chair  
[Sbberson@gmail.com](mailto:Sbberson@gmail.com)

number of committees at JCOGS, described Roselle as "a do-er." Perhaps because of what she had been through in life, she had little tolerance for "self-imposed restrictions," he said. "She was ready to move forward constantly, face the challenge, and gain results. Nothing held her back."

She understood first-hand the importance of having a safe place and a meaningful place, Rona said of Roselle's strong involvement in JCOGS: "She knew the worst of being Jewish, but I guess she also knew the best of it — the sense of community."

As Rabbi David explained at her funeral service:

"Her enduring work with the Jewish Community of Greater Stowe is one of the capstones of her life. As a Chesed Committee member, board member, and sitting on the Executive Committee, she was there from the beginning, advocating for a Jewish centre in Stowe where she might find her own roots; and so, the names of her parents appear on our *yahrzeit* wall. But perhaps more importantly, she wanted to help create a centre where others might find connection to their own roots. She somehow, against all odds, found a way of turning her own trauma into a help for others."

Roselle was also a devoted friend and put great energy into maintaining connections with her friends, both near and far. "She was always the first one with chicken soup if anybody was ill," Rona said. "I think, because she was such a force in life, she left such a huge hole in [the Stowe] and Montreal communities."

The weekend before her death Roselle celebrated her granddaughter's wedding at her home in Stowe. Friends who were at the wedding said they had never seen her so joyful. "She had made it over the grief and at this point she was home," Rona said.

Last year Roselle returned to Belgium with her daughter, her sister, and her niece to find her mother's grave, which they did. "There was a sadness but also a sense of completion, in knowing that her mother really did exist," Rona said.

"Anything she wanted to resolve, she worked on it until she resolved it," Eric said. He added that he felt happy knowing Roselle left life on a high.

In an article published in the Stowe Reporter last summer, Roselle said, "I feel a part of the Stowe community. I'm really happy with my life. I'm having fun."

To read Roselle's obituary: <http://bit.ly/Tj5zLK>. An article about Roselle also was published in the June 12 issue of the Stowe Reporter: <http://bit.ly/1ytEJzV>.

# Rabbi David celebrates his ordination

By LYNNE GEDANKEN

Sunday, June 1, was a very special day. It was the day on which David Fainsilber, our rabbi, received semikha from the Rabbinical School of Hebrew College. The ordination ceremony took place at Congregation Mishkan Tefila in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts.

It is hard to convey the beauty and joy of the ceremony (the video on Hebrew College's website will give you a much better sense than this article). The ceremony began with each of the ordainees walking down the center aisle of the synagogue between two rows of their classmates while all of those assembled sang and clapped.

The proceedings continued with heartfelt speeches from faculty and Rabbi Zalman Schechter Shalom. Then each of the new rabbis were called individually and given semikha by one of their teachers, after which Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld spoke to each of them about their unique path. When she warmly spoke to Rabbi David, she noted, as we have come to know, that he is someone who not only sings his own song but who, with careful attention to those he meets, invites others to do the same.

After the reading of the ordination document by the faculty, the ceremony concluded and everyone proceeded to the social hall of the synagogue for congratulations, singing, and dancing.



Above, Rabbi David and Alison with their children Adar and Yonah after the morning commencement ceremony. Left, Rabbi Dan Judson, director of professional development and placement at Hebrew College's Rabbinical School, wraps Rabbi David in tallit in preparation for his semicha.

## High Holy Days Schedule of Services 2014/5775

We hope that you'll be able to join us for our High Holy Days services this fall. It's never too early to mark your calendars.

**Wednesday, Sept. 24**  
Erev Rosh Hashanah  
7:30 p.m.

**Thursday, Sept. 25**  
Rosh Hashanah: Day 1  
10 a.m.  
Tashlich  
1:15 p.m.

**Friday, Sept. 26**  
Rosh Hashanah: Day 2  
10 a.m.

**Friday, Oct. 3**  
Kol Nidre  
7:30 p.m.

**Saturday, Oct. 4**  
Morning (incl. Yizkor)  
10 a.m.

Afternoon Service  
5:45 p.m.

Closing Service (Ne'ilah)  
6:45 p.m.

Havdalah  
7:07 p.m.

Break-the-Fast  
after Havdalah

# Tikkun Olam projects tackle local hunger issues

By LYNNE GEDANKEN

This summer, JCOGS' Tikkun Olam projects will focus on helping to reduce hunger in our community with three main projects — the Neighborhood Food Project of the Lamoille Community Food Share, the Morrisville summer lunches for children program, and gleaning for the Lamoille Community Food Share and the Vermont Foodbank.

Participation in the Neighborhood Food Project is easy. Just pick up one of the green bags in the lobby when you visit JCOGS and

put an item or two (or more) of nonperishable food in the bag each week. When it's full, bring it back to JCOGS and take another bag. We will take the bags to the Food Share.

We are still looking for volunteers to help distribute summer lunches to children in need in Morrisville (20 percent of the children in Lamoille County are food insecure, and 43 percent qualify for free or subsidized school lunches) in July and early August. All it takes is two hours (from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.) for a volunteer to accompany one of the program workers to the Morrisville Congregational Church and

the Pine Crest Mobile Home Court to distribute the meals.

We had great success with our gleaning project last summer, and we look forward to a great turnout this summer. We will be working with local organizations to pick fresh food at local farms for the Vermont Foodbank and the Lamoille Community Food Share. Specific dates will be posted in the weekly newsletter.

For more information about any our Tikkun Olam projects or if you'd like to join the committee (we'd love new members), please email Lynne Gedanken at [Lgedanken@gmail.com](mailto:Lgedanken@gmail.com).



*This spring our Religious School participants led a special Kabbalat Shabbat in celebration of the end of the religious school year.*

*Above, The children perform a ritual hand-washing before reciting the Motzi. Pictured from left to right: Rabbi David, Leah Kuhnert, Lucy Andrus, Maya Fried, Rio Mentz, and Emma Schaffer.*

*Right, Barbara Bauman helps the children display some of the letters they learned during their first year of religious school. Joseph Ellner is showing the letter Shin, and Emma Schaffer is showing the letter Tet.*



## News & Announcements

### Upcoming events at JCOGS

**“An Evening of Magic”** with mentalist Oz Pearlman on July 17. Meet the performer and enjoy a light dinner at 7 p.m., followed by the family-friendly show at 8 p.m. Oz has been dazzling audiences with his world-class sleight-of-hand and mind-reading ability for over a decade. Tickets are \$20 per person.

### Summer Celebration Shabbat and Oneg on July 25.

A musical Shabbat service with Rabbi David and special guest and cantorial soloist Arielle Rosenberg will take place at 6 p.m., followed by a kosher dinner and concert in the tent prepared by Vermont Kosher. Tickets are \$22 per person.

### Anniversary Oneg Shabbat

on Aug. 1. Are you celebrating a summer anniversary

or birthday? Do you know someone that is? Our annual festive Shabbat service at 6 p.m. will be followed by a scrumptious Oneg Shabbat.

### JCOGS Community BBQ

on Aug. 24. This end-of-summer social in the tent includes a casual picnic-style dinner catered by JCOGS members. Dinner begins at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$15 per adult and \$5 for children 12 and under.

### Sukkot Shabbat and Harvest Shabbat dinner

on Oct. 10. At the peak of leaf-peeping season, JCOGS will celebrate Sukkot with a service in the Sukkah at 6 p.m., followed by a Kosher harvest dinner. Rabbi David will lead us in song and prayer as we share this traditional holiday together. Tickets are \$22 per person.

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and new, saying: “We are committed to this renewal!” In the words of Rabbi Lisa Stella, “Marking the new moon is about the individual responsibilities of each witness and the maintenance of the communal system at the same time. This process requires the contribution of individuals, working together to celebrate as one community, even if we are far apart from one another.”

This June 27 marked my installation as the first full-time rabbi of the Jewish Community of Greater Stowe. This date also fell on the new moon, as we welcomed the new month of Tammuz. Even if you did not attend this special event, a fire at each mountaintop brings word of the excitement of this newness for JCOGS, the momentous news of a first full-time rabbi for our commu-

nity. Even as the moon wanes, there is a pregnant fullness of blessing. We pause, gazing out at the possibilities, saying “Thank You, G-d!” Thank you for the abundance of natural systems that brings us to Stowe, in awe. Thank you for the gifts that each person has brought to this community.

As the moon grows in strength, consider how great the fires can grow with each person’s full contribution. Just as each person of Israel would set the stage for the drama of renewal of the new moon, I hope that you will join me in reigniting JCOGS as a vibrant centre of Jewish life in Stowe.

What will you bring this coming year to our community that will help light the fire of renewal at JCOGS?

Rav brachot, many blessings of fullness, fire, abundance, and renewal,

*David Fainsilber, Rabbi of JCOGS*

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adults and children. Working together, as a team, as a family, as a community, we can build from our wonderful strength and foundation, together. We need your involvement to realize our potential. And we need everyone to be emissaries to find and cultivate new members.

Thank you for being such a caring community and demonstrating a wonderful culture in times of joy and sorrow. And thank you for giving me the opportunity to work together, with you, to build our community.

Enjoy the summer and do take the time to participate in many of the social and religious events on our calendar.

*Ron Feinstein, president*

For more information: 253-1800, [jcogs@jcogs.org](mailto:jcogs@jcogs.org).

# Member Spotlight

The Steiner Family

This special feature of the newsletter — a “get-to-know-you” Q-and-A with members of the JCOGS community — is a fun, simple way to share our unique stories and connect as a community.

## Where are you and/or your family from originally?

We are originally from “Longuyland” New York. “The 5 Towns,” actually.

## When did you move to Vermont, and what brought you here?

We had purchased land and built our, then, vacation home in Jeffersonville in 2001, after 9/11. In February 2013, after both our children moved to the Midwest for college and careers, we sold our New York home and moved up here permanently.

## How much time do you spend in Vermont on an annual basis?

Except for the occasional business trip or vacation, we are happily here full-time now.

## What are some of the highlights from your most recent trip to Israel? Do you travel there often?

We don't get there often enough! Peter and I have visited Israel individually before we were married, and also as a family.

As a family we've visited about four times over the past 15 years. Our son, Jacob, spent a summer there on a Legacy Heritage Foundation science program for high school students and then, during his sophomore year at University of Michigan, spent a semester at Hebrew University. Our daughter, Robyn, spent a summer during high school in Israel as a counselor at the Koby Mandell Foundation's Camp Koby. She worked with girls who lost a family member to terrorism. Robyn also participated in a group intersession trip to Israel while a sophomore at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Our most recent trip was to visit family and to attend a wedding. We split our time in Israel with a stay at the beach in Netanya and time in Jerusalem. The wedding was amazing! Set in the desert, at sunset.

## What do you enjoy about life in Vermont?

There is so much to enjoy about living up here! The fresh air most of all (both literally and figuratively). We do a little skiing and snowshoeing in the winter. This past winter we discovered hiking the Notch Road. In the spring, summer, and fall we enjoy biking on the Stowe rec path and the Burlington bikeway, kayaking, and hiking. We are fortunate to live on the border of State forest land — we love being able to walk our dog on the trails behind our home.

## What are your personal interests, and/or activities you enjoy as individuals or as a couple?

In addition to the above, I enjoy photography. There is no end to the wonderful subjects and scenery im-



Debra and Peter Steiner with their children Jacob and Robyn during a recent trip to Israel.

mediately around us. Peter is an aviation enthusiast. You'll find him staring up at the sky at the slightest sound of a plane.

## What are your professional pursuits?

First let's get one thing understood: we are not retired. Many people have assumed we've moved here to retire. Peter and I run a public relations consultancy specializing in biotechnology and healthcare. One of the reasons we were able to finally make the move up here is that cell phone and Internet access was brought up to and improved near our home. As long as we have those we can do business. No more speaking to technical support for three hours each time we attempt the Internet or standing on one foot, leaning out a window to get a cell signal!

## What does being a member of JCOGS mean to you?

A Jewish community is very important to us. We moved up from a suburban area that was religious, and were accustomed to having facilities and neighbors that were all similar to us. Vermont is so diverse, rural, spread out. It is crucial to have a place where you can go and feel you belong. Where you can exchange ideas, share similar beliefs and backgrounds. Our shul in New York was huge. We began to feel lost there. JCOGS is so warm and welcoming. On our first Shabbat visit last year we were immediately personally welcomed and included. We look forward to being able to share our love and support of Israel and Judaism, and contribute to the many events at JCOGS.

## As long-time members, what do you feel are the benefits of involvement in JCOGS? How has the

## experience enriched your life?

Although we are long-time members, joining just after we built our home and about the time JCOGS' current home was built, we still feel like new members since we've only been attending regularly for just over a year. The warmth and inclusiveness found at JCOGS is its greatest draw. JCOGS offers something for everyone: every age, every interest. From Rabbi David's Shabbat morning Torah study classes to his Friday night children's services. From “pot luck” dinners to catered holiday meals. Lectures, movies, musical entertainment, outings. The membership at JCOGS wants to make it the Jewish community center. We truly enjoy being a part of that. Knowing that whatever your interest, whatever your level of understanding, you can come to JCOGS and find a place for yourself. And if you think of something that isn't there that could be, the JCOGS' board is open to new and fresh ideas.

## In what ways have you been able to give back to the community? And what does that mean to you?

We are still discovering the communities here in Vermont. We loved participating in the Tikkun Olam gleaning trip last summer. In addition to the camaraderie in the gleaning effort, we learned about the organizations here in Northern Vermont that help those in need. Donating canned and boxed foods through the receptacle in the JCOGS entryway is another convenient means for everyone to easily help out. Sharing and giving is an essential element of Judaism. We look forward to working with committees at JCOGS to raise needed funds and support for the local community and for Israel.



Shoppers look for treasures at last year's Nearly New Sale.

## Nearly New Sale on tap for Aug. 10; donations needed

The JCOGS annual Nearly New Fundraising Sale will take place on Sunday, Aug. 10, from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year, so we're hoping for as much community support as possible.

The Nearly New sale, like many fundraising events held at JCOGS throughout the year, raises money for our annual fund, which supports JCOGS' annual operating budget. Components of the budget include: educational programming, the children's Religious School, membership dues for members who are unable to pay, and our caring community initiative for members facing health or other challenges and in need of additional support at home.

You can support this important fundraiser by donating new and gently used items, offering your time to volunteer, or providing home-

baked goods for our bake sale. If you have items to donate, please keep in mind:

- Items must be able to sell for at least \$5 or more.
- No clothing will be accepted other than ski jackets that are clean and in perfect condition.
- The following items tend to sell well: toys, sporting equipment, art, collectibles, purses, jewelry, kitchen supplies, dishes, power tools, pet supplies, and electronics. No heavy items, please.
- Please write your name on your donations so that we know who to contact if we have any questions.

Donations can be dropped at JCOGS; please call the office at 802-253-1800 to arrange a time.

We would appreciate any support, so if you can do any or all of the above, please contact Suzan at [sfeibus1@gmail.com](mailto:sfeibus1@gmail.com) or 802-585-1516 as soon as possible.

## Free baby-equipment rentals

Do you have visitors with small children coming to visit this summer? Free rentals of baby equipment are available for JCOGS members. We have strollers, booster seats, car seats, and portable cribs. A small deposit is required. Also, please let us know if you have gear you wish to contribute. Contact: Miriam at 802-888-5056, or [miriamrosenbloom@gmail.com](mailto:miriamrosenbloom@gmail.com).

## Stowe Guide article shares JCOGS news

A short article about Rabbi David's installation is featured on page 42 of the summer issue of the Stowe Guide Magazine. We are excited to share the news of our new full-time rabbi with the greater Stowe community and out-of-town visitors. You can pick up a copy of the free magazine at many local businesses, including Shaw's grocery store and the Stowe Reporter offices on School Street.

## Friday Night Supper Club debuts at JCOGS

Not sure where to go for dinner on busy Friday nights? Just pulling into town and ready to unwind and relax? Every Friday night this summer, beginning July 11th, you can BYOB and enjoy friends, family, and a great kosher meal at JCOGS. Members and non-members are welcome, and reservations are helpful but not required. Dinner will be served following our traditional breaking bread together after services.

Our chefs are Sandi Schlosser and Rachel Jacobs, who will be alternating throughout the summer. The menu for each week will be included in the weekly email. The meal will include a main course, side dishes, dessert and coffee or tea. The price is \$18 for members and \$23 for non-members; children ages 5-12 are half-price, and children under 5 are free. If cost is an issue, you are welcome no matter what you are able pay.

For more information or if you would like to be involved behind the scenes, contact: Steve Berson, [sbberson@gmail.com](mailto:sbberson@gmail.com); or Miriam Rosenbloom, [miriamrosenbloom5@gmail.com](mailto:miriamrosenbloom5@gmail.com).

## The women of JCOGS are cordially invited to attend Afternoon Tea for Alison

Monday, July 14, from 2 to 4 p.m.

at the home of Betsy Blechman, 62 Vista View, Morrisville

Hosted by the Ladies of JCOGS

A get-together to officially welcome Alison Link (Rabbi David Fainsilber's wife) to our JCOGS family and to Vermont.

Please RSVP to Miriam: [miriamrosenbloom5@gmail.com](mailto:miriamrosenbloom5@gmail.com), 802-888-5056.

If you wish to bring a delicacy, please call Rita at 802-888-5848.



JAKE WAGNER will celebrate his bar mitzvah on Saturday, July 12, at JCOGS. Jake just finished seventh grade in Essex Junction, Vermont. He enjoys skiing, sailing, and running, and plays tennis competitively. He studied hard in school this year, and for his bar mitzvah. Three years ago Jake decided he wanted to study Hebrew and Judaism.

## Yahrzeits

**June 29 - August 30**  
1 Tammuz - 4 Elul

The following Yahrzeits go by the Gregorian calendar unless the Hebrew date observance was specifically requested by the family. The names of loved ones will be read at the indicated services.

**June 29 - July 5**  
1 Tammuz - 7 Tammuz  
Service: July 4

Morris Rubinstein  
Adele Dananberg  
Norman Tischler  
Pearl Meshnick  
Nathan Wolfin  
Freda Rosner Finkelstein

**July 6 - 12**  
8 Tammuz - 14 Tammuz  
Service: July 11

Barbara J. Kole  
Philip Zell  
Sol Simon  
Richard Aronshon  
Rebecca Savage

**July 13 - 19**  
15 Tammuz - 21 Tammuz  
Service: July 18

Ben Rous  
Jay Robinson  
Diane Kalish

**July 20 - 26**  
22 Tammuz - 28 Tammuz  
Service: July 25

Ceil Davis  
John Saxby  
Rose Siegel  
Victor Danziger

**July 27 - August 2**  
29 Tammuz - 6 Av  
Service: August 1

Theodore Manuel Gold  
Beth Kaen Kenuk  
Nathan Wisebord  
Erna Nachman  
Claire Edith Levenstein  
Ray Rubinstein  
Chana S. Smikun  
Shirley Magier  
Michael Harding  
Jane Lande

**August 3 - 9**  
7 Av - 13 Av  
Service: August 8

Cecil April  
Newman Freedman  
Sherry Rosenberg

**August 10 - 16**  
14 Av - 20 Av  
Service: August 15

Hester Black Striber  
Joel Geensburg  
Margareta Baltuch  
Irving Louis Gedanken

**August 17 - 23**  
21 Av - 27 Av  
Service: August 22

Hy Yanow  
Jack Bayer  
Edward K. Hamburger

**August 24 - 30**  
28 Av - 4 Elul  
Service: August 29

Dr. Louis Levenstein  
Benjamin Cohen  
Sarah Stepper  
Rose Posnick

## Tzedakah

"Who donates much to charity becomes richer for it ..." Zohar, iii 110b

We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of these thoughtful contributions in honor and memory of friends and loved ones. The following gifts were made between April 11, 2014 and June 27, 2014.

### GENERAL FUND

In honor of Rabbi David Fainsilber's ordination and installation...  
Miriam & Stephen Rosenbloom  
Edith Black Zfass  
Rita & Stephen Schneps  
Marsha Cohen & Nina, Sammy and Mike Pressman

In gratitude to Rabbi David Fainsilber for officiating at Elana and Michael's wedding...  
Raisa & William Gaines

In honor of the marriage of Deborah & Ron Feinstein's daughter...  
Suzan & Gary Feibus

In memory of Burt Rubin...  
Patti C. Rubin

In memory of Justin Gallanter...  
Rita & Stephen Schneps  
Fern Ellen Blood

In memory of our parents, Charlotte Israel, David Israel, and Sol Simon, on the occasion of their yahrzeits...  
Edee Simon-Israel and Mark Israel

In memory of Ruth Beshop...  
Carol Good

In honor of the marriages of Roselle Abramowitz's two grandchildren...  
Jean Remmer & Marvin Rosenbloom

### RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND

In honor of the ordination of Rabbi David Fainsilber...  
Lynne Gedanken  
Edee Simon-Israel and Mark Israel

In gratitude for Rabbi David Fainsilber's beautiful eulogy for my mother, Roselle Abramowitz...  
Marcie Scudder

### In loving memory of Roselle Abramowitz...

Abbey Neckwear Ltd. - Employees  
Elayne Aber  
Gloria April  
Sharon and Ron Baruch  
Rita Hirscheimer and Morrie Bergman  
Gretchen Rous Besser and Albert G. Besser  
Rabbi Brian Besser  
Betsy and David Blechman  
Fern Ellen Blood  
Gail and Steve Blumsack  
Jaymie, Karen, Hayley and Madison Bongard  
Barbara Bronfman  
Ruth Calof  
Libi and Ronald Cape  
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Barbara and Avrum Cohen  
Robin Cohen  
Debbie Corrado  
Susan Greenwald and Neil Creme  
Maxwell Cummings Family Foundation  
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Johanna and Lee Darrow  
Lita Stewart-DiPucchio, Jessie and Riley DiPucchio  
Judith and Larry Dunn  
Caroline and Marcel Elefant

Suzan and Gary Feibus  
Deborah and Ron Feinstein  
Nelly and Robert Fischer  
Candice Fleischmann  
Karen and Stephen Florence  
Raisa and William Gaines  
Beverly Gardner  
Lynne Gedanken  
Joan and David Genser  
Janet Pinsky Ginsberg and Alan Ginsberg  
Evelyn and Phil Gold  
Louise and Edgar Goldstein, Jaime and Kelley Roskies, Jennifer Roskies and family  
Krayna Golfman  
Ina and Mark Golfman  
Mona Golfman  
Nancy Grossman-Samuel  
Etta and George Grosz  
Charlotte & Gerald Guttman  
Joan and Aaron Hender  
Elana Levinson and Ron Himelfarb and family  
Sherri Freedman and Jeffrey Hoffman  
Ariane Siegel and Bernard Hyams  
Joan and Gerry Kadonoff  
Nicholas Kasirer  
Aviva and Sid Kastner  
Alissa and Barry Katsof  
Joan and Robert Katz

Barbara and Ronny Kay  
Kerrie, Larry, Michael and Ellie Kennedy  
Paula Keyfitz and Adam, Sari, Ilana Birnbaum  
Barbara Klein  
Sylvia and Bill Klein  
Rona Klein  
Elaine and Julian Kotler  
Nancy and Reid Krakower  
Dale Lastman  
Lynn-Beth Sutton and Sheldon Levy  
Cheryl Jacobson and Sheldon Lewis  
Carole and Stephen Lichtenstein  
Jewel and Paul Lowenstein  
Elaine and Dr. Michael Malus  
Edna and Victor Mashaal  
Jackie Rosenbloom and Jeffrey Mazur  
Lori and Ian Miller and family  
Nancy and Eliot Morrison  
Shelley Solomon and Fab Mosconi  
Sandy and Bernie Nisenholtz  
Adele and Marvin Orleans  
Alta Abramowitz and Joe Ottoni  
Tina and Gabriel Ottoni  
Barry Pascal and family  
Betty Polow  
Susan Rogers  
Anne and Bruce Rosenberg

Jean Remmer and Marvin Rosenbloom  
Miriam and Stephen Rosenbloom  
Patti C. Rubin  
Santa Fe Weaving Gallery  
Richard Sargent  
Betty and Irving Schonfeld  
Karen, David, Paige and Sara Scudder  
Barbara Sederoff and family  
Monica and Barry Shapiro  
Lili and Morris Shaw  
Barbara Stern  
Lisa Stotland and family  
The Surchin family  
Sara and Irwin Tauben  
Shirley Tebovici  
Robin and Scott Trowbridge  
Laurel and Norman Wolfe  
Francy Kussner and Arthur Yallen  
Cynthia and Charles Yerrick  
Edith Black Zfass

Due to the newsletter deadline, this donor list is not complete, as tribute donations continue to come in on a daily basis. A complete listing will be shared with the family soon, and names not included on this list will appear in the next issue of the bulletin.

## Mazel Tov

### Simchas in our community

**Hillel and Mitzi Becker** celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary on June 21st.

**Helenmarie Patashnick** celebrated her 75th birthday on May 17th.

**Carly Segal**, daughter of Marc and Susan Segal, was named to the dean's list for academic excellence for the fall semester at Johns Hopkins University. Carly, a sophomore, is majoring in international studies.

### Graduations and Honors

We wish our graduating seniors strength and good fortune as they transition into this new and exciting time of life. Congratulations to:

**Toby Israel**, daughter of Edee Simon-Israel and Mark Israel, graduated Summa Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Middlebury College. She majored in anthropology.

**Ben Kanuk**, grandson of Beverly Albert, graduated from the University of Delaware. He will pursue a three-year master's/doctoral program in physical therapy at the University of Southern California.

**Tara Lichtenstein and Sophia Goldberg**, granddaughters of Steve and Carole Lichtenstein, received recent academic achievements. Tara graduated from the University of Maryland this spring, and Sophia received the National Honors Society Award and the New Jersey Youth Holocaust/Genocide Awareness Award. This award is presented each year to two high school students for educating and inspiring their peers about the issue.

**Rachel Nunez**, daughter of Wendy and Nick Nunez, graduated Magna Cum Laude from Middlebury College with bachelor's degrees in dance and sociology. Rachel is currently traveling in Europe with her sister and will be moving to New York City in July. She has accepted a position with Dancing in the Streets, a non-profit organization based in the Bronx which produces free public performances of dance, interdisciplinary, and site-specific works that build bridges across generations, communities, and cultures.

**Ariel Goodman**, daughter of David Goodman and Sue Minter, graduated from Oberlin College (Oberlin, OH) in May with a bachelor's degree in history and a minor in Africana Studies. She is working this summer at the School for International Training (SIT) in Brattleboro helping to lead the Governor's Institute of Vermont program in Current Issues and Youth Activism, and she will also be a group leader in SIT's US-Iraqi Youth Leadership Exchange.

**Aleks Karosas**, daughter of Alison and Al Karosas, graduated Cum Laude from University of South Florida this spring. She received a bachelor's degree in health sciences (nutrition).

**Kara Krakower**, daughter of Nancy and Reid Krakower, graduated as an Athena Scholar from Barnard College of Columbia University with a bachelor's degree in ancient studies and a minor in dance. She will begin work later this summer in New York City as a paralegal for the law firm Simpson Thacher and Bartlett.

### High school graduates:

**Ula Arielle Klein**, granddaughter of Doris and Sheldon Klein.  
**Emily Becker**, granddaughter of Lucille and Robert Becker.

### Middle School graduate:

**Gaelyn Skye Klein**, granddaughter of Doris and Sheldon Klein.

## Sad news announcements — Baruch Dayan Emet

Honouring lost loved ones

Roselle Abramowitz passed away in June.

Priscilla Minkin lost her mother, Mary Knox, in June.

May their memories forever be a blessing.



A bi-monthly periodical published six times per year.

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## Calendar

During the months of July and August, Friday Night Shabbat services will be held weekly at 6 p.m.

Have you always wanted to read from the Torah? Five-week Torah chanting class: Thursday evenings throughout August, and September 4. For details, contact Rabbi David at [dfainsilber@jcogs.org](mailto:dfainsilber@jcogs.org) or 802-253-1800.

### JULY

**Saturday, July 5: 10 a.m.,** Torah Study.\*

**Friday, July 11: 5 p.m.,** Family Service with Rabbi David, followed by a complimentary pizza dinner. Babysitting provided during our regular 6 p.m. service.

**Saturday, July 12: 10 a.m.,** Shacharit Morning Service and Bar Mitzvah of Jake Wagner.

**Thursday, July 17: 7 p.m.,** An Evening of Magic with the amazing Oz Pearlman. See page 6 for details. Info: 253-1800.

**Saturday, July 19: 9 a.m.,** Shacharit Morning Service with song, meditation, and Torah reading; 10 a.m., Torah Study.\*

**Friday, July 25: 6 p.m.,** a musical Shabbat service with Rabbi David and featuring cantorial soloist Arielle Rosenberg, followed by a kosher dinner and concert in

the tent. See page 6 for details.

**Saturday, July 26: 10 a.m.,** Torah Study.\*

### AUGUST

**Friday, Aug. 1: 6 p.m.,** Summer Celebration Shabbat and Oneg. Our annual festive Shabbat service will be followed by a scrumptious Oneg Shabbat. This event is free. See page 6 for details.

**Saturday, Aug. 2: 10 a.m.,** Torah Study.\*

**Sunday, Aug. 3: 11 a.m.,** Memorial Service for Roselle Abramowitz.

**Monday, Aug. 4: 8 p.m.,** Erev Tisha B'av Service, a somber commemoration of hardships befallen the Jewish people.

**Saturday, Aug. 9: 10 a.m.,** Torah Study.\*

**Sunday, Aug. 10: 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.,** JCOGS annual Nearly New Fundraising Sale. See page 8 for details.

**Friday, Aug. 15: 5 p.m.,** Family Service and Religious-School Reunion with Rabbi David, followed by a complimentary pizza dinner. Babysitting provided during our regular 6 p.m. service.

**Saturday, Aug. 16: 9 a.m.,** Shacharit Morning Service with song, meditation, and Torah reading; 10 a.m., Torah study.\*

**Saturday, Aug. 23: 10 a.m.,** Torah Study.\*

**Sunday, Aug. 24: 5 p.m.,** JCOGS Community BBQ. End-of-summer social in the tent. See page 6 for details.

**Saturday, Aug. 30: 10 a.m.,** Mahzor Study, unearthing religious meaning from our High Holiday prayer book.

### SEPTEMBER

**Saturday, Sept. 6: 10 a.m.,** Mahzor Study, unearthing religious meaning from our High Holiday prayer book.

**Wednesday, Sept. 10: 4:30 p.m.,** first day of religious school.

**Friday, Sept. 12: 5 p.m.,** Family Service with Rabbi David, followed by a complimentary pizza dinner. Babysitting provided during our regular 6 p.m. service.

### SAVE THE DATE

**Friday, Oct. 10: 6 p.m.,** Sukkot Shabbat and Harvest Shabbat dinner. See page 6 for details.

\*For newcomers and those experienced with Torah study.

For more information and tickets: 802-253-1800, [jcogs@jcogs.org](mailto:jcogs@jcogs.org), or visit [jcogs.org](http://jcogs.org).