

## Jews commanded to eat, drink, and be merry

BY PATTI RUBIN

It all started in ancient Persia in the 4th century B.C.E. The bold headline on the front page of the Shushan Jewish Times read: "Haman's Plot thwarted. Queen Esther rocks. Jews to celebrate." Hundreds have gathered in the courtyard of the palace of King Ahasuerus and Queen Esther to catch a glimpse of the dozens of A-listers that have been invited to the gala banquet.

Brooke of Gladstone from APPR (Ancient Persian Public Radio), works the crowd. She spots Vidal of Sassoon, Queen Esther's hair stylist. And then spots Party Planner Mindy of Weiss from the Hills of Beverly.

"It's going to be fabulous," she says. "We are serving harissa potatoes, bean stews with fenel breads and hummus with za'atar. The pas-

try chef has created pastries shaped like Queen Esther's jewelry. They are studded with dried cherries and pomegranate seeds to represent her many garnets and rubies. Adam of Levine and the Five Macaroons will provide the music and Jerry of Seinfeld is emcee."

Heard from an older woman in the crowd: "I remember the time Barbara of Walters interviewed Haman. He cried. I also know for a fact that he never called his mother." Another woman says: "I heard Natalie of Portman will play Queen Esther in the movie."

A younger woman is overheard telling others that Donna of Karan made Queen Esther's tunic and that she hopes the knock-offs will be on sale at Bloomies after the gala. At that moment, someone yells: "Hey, there's Jon of Stewart of the Daily Show."

Brooke spots Mordecai's brother, and he

asks her to sit. With a sage-like manner, he strokes his long white beard and says: "My brother Mordecai is a mensch and a respected leader in the Jewish community. He raised Esther as if she was his own daughter. Mordecai discovered Haman's plans to destroy the Jews. He knew that Esther was capable to take on the dangerous mission. She's not only beautiful, but very intelligent. The rest is Jewish history."

A hush falls over the crowd. From the top balcony of the Palace, a messenger steps out and unfurls a scroll and reads: "It is declared today that on the 15th of Adar, Jews around the world are commanded to eat, drink and be merry."

*The story of the Book of Esther is an age-old tale of power and intrigue, plots and counterplots, romance and bravery, with a Hollywood-type ending of deliverance and retribution.*

*Don't miss the JCOGS Purim Party! It's your once-a-year opportunity to dress in costume while hearing the reading of the Megillah with graggers in hand. And don't forget the hamantaschen and much more!*

### Purim Party Extravaganza

Wednesday, March 4

To celebrate Purim this year, we have big plans.

Behind the scenes, our Religious School will meet at 4:30 p.m. to (secretly) prepare for the party (shhhh .... don't tell anyone). Then, we'll hold a kid-focused program and Purim carnival at 5:30 p.m. (Kids-at-heart are welcome to come along for the ride!)

At 6:30 p.m. we'll gather together for and Mexican-themed "make-your-own tacos dinner," followed by the Megillah reading.

Come drink some (spiked) punch and listen to the "whole Megillah," the wild and wacky story of Queen Esther and Mordechai. Hold on to your hats (or masks or groggers) and get ready for this one!



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I WRITE THIS LETTER to all of our members and affiliates of our beloved community of JCOGS on the date *T"u BiShevat* (the 15th of the month of Shevat), known as the Jewish holiday of the Birthday of the Trees. Looking out on the Vermont landscape, there are a great many trees to look upon, each one covered in snow, thank G-d; each evergreen filled with green needles, thank G-d; each deciduous tree free of its leaves, thank G-d.



I say "thank G-d", *baruch Hashem*, (literally, "blessed is G-d") because with the life of each Vermont wintry tree, we celebrate the manifestation of G-d's majestic, natural world. Minus degrees or not, we in the greater Stowe area know how to appreciate the wonder of wonders that surrounds us daily.

Yet, as we bless G-d for this winter wonderland, we know that this time of year in Vermont is hardly the spring awakening that the Kabbalistic rabbis in the 16th century in Northern Israel dreamt of when they infused this peripheral Jewish holiday of *T"u Bishevat* with spiritual meaning. Northern Israel, yes, but

not that far north.

Even as the trees sleep, we are filled with quiet anticipation, because we know that relatively soon they will awaken. But it doesn't happen all at once. Before we see those first tiny buds appear in early spring, the tree will be hard at work preparing for the rapid growth to come.

This fall, before the trees entered their winter sleep, a truly intergenerational group of JCOGS members made their way through Wiessner Woods, setting up camp at the "Sugar Shack." There, we sipped hot chocolate and ate snacks; and then with song and merriment, surrounded by bountiful trees, the littlest ones among us danced the hora. This was likely the first time those trees had seen the hora! See page 4 for a photo.

As we settle into these final months of winter, I am humbled and inspired to continue on as your rabbi for the coming years. Alison and I love raising our children here. We are blessed to be part of this community, both within JCOGS and beyond, and to enjoy a quality of life that the beautiful natural world of northern Vermont offers us. I love walking through the Farmer's Market, meandering along the rec path, or heading into the hills for a hike. And in wearing my

kippah and in getting to know the community better, it's just incredible the conversations in which I'm gifted to participate, connecting on a daily basis with JCOGS members and others.

As we set a course together in community, the potential is enormous. To me, JCOGS is like a tree in winter, the potential known, yet waiting to bud and fully bloom. In the coming years, we will reach out to interfaith and Jewish families and individuals with our *heimishe*, intimate culture; grow our curriculum and participation in the Religious School; increase our year-round, high-quality religious, educational, cultural and social programming, including guest speakers and musicians; and cultivate our lay leadership as we grow our roles as caring companions of our fellow Jews, our fellow citizens of the world, and of nature. I look forward to many conversations with all of you, in connecting personally and in visioning for our shared future.

Rav brachot, many blessings of a bright future ahead of us, of snow-covered trees, and of much joy in community,

**David Fainsilber**  
Rabbi of JCOGS  
*T"u Bishvat 5775*

A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO I shared with you the good news that your board of trustees had enthusiastically accepted your search committee's recommendation that we renew Rabbi David Fainsilber's agreement and that we all move forward together as a united community to continue to build our future. I know you were excited to hear this conclusion to our efforts to plan our journey together, because we heard from almost half of our membership, endorsing this decision. I want to, again, thank the many members who expressed their opinions, their wants and needs, and, of course, the lay leadership who were diligent in this process.



What was most exciting to me was to read the 80 or so emails and the stories that came from them — young children asking Rabbi David to please stay, families who had wonderful simchas who wanted us to know the special role our rabbi played in their family events, families suffering with loss or tragedy who deeply appreciated the support they received from our rabbi in their time of need, and people who historically had been uncomfortable joining High Holiday services who said their experience was breathtaking. I felt privileged to momentarily peek into the

private lives of so many people, of all ages, near and far. Thank you for sharing. Thank you for being a part of what makes the greater Stowe area's Jewish community so special.

On a personal note, as I answered hundreds of emails, spent hours upon hours on the phone, and drove the many trips to and from Boston to attend special meetings and interviews, there were moments when I wondered where I found the time to play a role in this historic milestone. In hindsight, I feel honored to have been able to be a part of this important chapter in JCOGS history. Thank you for allowing me to have that opportunity.

And now we are at the exciting point in our long-range planning, where we have the ability to have our first full-time rabbi lead us in creating something so special for our future. As time goes on, we have a clearer vision of what that future might look like:

We know that having talented, warm, caring clergy, living in our community, with a young vibrant family, is the catalyst for growth and vibrancy. Our rabbi's religious and educational leadership will make an extraordinary difference in our future, in our vibrancy, and in our membership growth. Our mission talks about creating and sustaining an environment that perpetuates and celebrates Jewish traditions, observances, and sense of community. I honestly believe

that not only is our mission incredibly valid and potentially even more important today than when it was originally crafted, but as we embrace a culture of caring and respect and tolerance and diversity, we will be equipped for the challenges of our future. We are committed to expanding the educational content of our programming for a variety of our constituencies. Along with our adult educational offerings, we are committed to creating a robust religious school for our children.

We are very aware of the opportunities to reach out to mixed marriages and young families, and the importance of interfaith outreach. These, too, will be important initiatives in our future.

We will continue our focus on providing help to those in need, our commitment to social action, and our unwavering support for our Jewish homeland, Israel.

And finally, none of this would be possible without recognizing the role fundraising must play in ensuring the financial sustainability of JCOGS.

Thank you for allowing me to be a part of our community and for all the wonderful things many of you are doing to make a difference in so many people's lives.

**Ron Feinstein**  
President, JCOGS

# Custom-made bookcase adorns entryway

## Dedicated to beloved JCOGS member

BY SUSAN BAYER-FISHMAN

Roselle Abramowitz, an artist and longtime JCOGS member who passed away suddenly last summer, had many visions for JCOGS. She wanted to create a beautiful, welcoming place where a community of people would feel inspiration and comfort. She felt a crucial part of that vision was the first impression you have upon walking through the entrance into the main hall.

The entryway hall needs to be useful for many different activities, from hanging coats to housing prayer books, serving food, and being a place to gather. Roselle's idea was a multipurpose bookcase/table. She felt a design could be created that would be both functional and attractive, conveying that crucial first impression of warmth, quality, and style.

Roselle wanted this so badly that she used to bug me every year



Roselle Abramowitz

to work out a design. Last year, I did complete a design. It is two bookcases that come apart and can line up back to back next to the railing. It can be configured as a table with different-sized tops. Together, we worked hard to come up with something that could fit everyone's needs. While I was working to line up the needed funding for this important piece, Roselle passed away.

It has been an honor to design and fabricate the new multi-configuring table/bookcase that was one of her dreams. I hope all of



you are enjoying the new piece that adorns our entryway. As each new piece has been added to our beautiful JCOGS building, the quality and design has been so important. Our intent is that these pieces will be there for generations to come, with hopefully no redos.

During the High Holidays, as everyone entered, got their books, and picked up their kippahs, I

knew she would have truly enjoyed the results of the piece made in her honor.

Roselle was also a lover of fresh flowers and orchids. A handmade vase will adorn the center of the entryway piece. We hope to keep it full of fresh flowers for special events, and if so moved, friends are welcome to leave flowers with thoughts of Roselle.

## Facebook: Help spread the word

BY ISRAEL ELLNER

Want to still feel connected to JCOGS even from afar, or help spread the news about the great things going on at JCOGS? That's the goal of our community Facebook page. This is where you can go to connect with other members, learn about the latest goings-on at JCOGS and in the Stowe area, and find other Jewish information. It's also a way to let your network know about JCOGS and life in Stowe.

In an effort to grow our voice and develop synergies with generations of Jews from all over the world who are connected to our Vermont home, we are working hard to develop inspiring and thoughtful Jewish content on our

Facebook page. But we need your help to spread the JCOGS conversation and message to your friends and network.

### Did you know?

You can regularly see JCOGS' Facebook posts, but only if you have "liked" our page.

Your network can only see JCOGS Facebook posts if you have liked or shared a JCOGS post that you have seen.

You can send your network a request to like the JCOGS Facebook page.

Here's how you can help support our social media efforts: If you are on Facebook, please go to our Facebook page and like us. Go to the recommend section and share



the JCOGS page with your network, and when you see a JCOGS post please like it and share it. When you like or share a post you will double the number of people who see our message.

The social media team would love your help. If you have a post

you'd like to request, or would like to join our team, please contact me at israel.ellner@gmail.com.

Please support our Facebook page and help us connect and build our community as we get the JCOGS message out to others. Visit us at [www.facebook.com/jewishstowe](http://www.facebook.com/jewishstowe).

# Weekend provides opportunity for Jewish connections

By SUSAN BAUCHNER

There is a new organization in Vermont called Jewish Communities of Vermont. It was founded last year and is led by a board and a professional leader, Susan Leff, formerly of UVM Hillel. The vision of the group is to work with Jewish communities throughout the state so that they will know what is available and how to access it. The ultimate goal is to strengthen Jewish identification and affiliation throughout the state through increased participation.

This fall the organization held its first weekend summit in Killington. The theme of the conference was "connection." I attended the program to meet other Jewish people and to find out what is going on Jewishly in Vermont. Having lived in vibrant Jewish communities all my life, first in

Connecticut, then in Philadelphia, I was longing for more Jewish connection here in Vermont.

The highlights of the weekend for me were a warm Friday night service, a delicious Shabbat meal, and lively after-dinner singing. When I arrived at the event, I knew only a few people from Stowe and one man from Connecticut. I left knowing several very committed and energetic Jews from around the state.

Another highlight was a guided hike, which included stops for meditation. It was a great way to connect with a small group of women who shared an adventure in the snow.

Throughout the weekend, we were fed by Vermont Kosher Catering. The Killington Grand Hotel is beautiful, and many of us enjoyed relaxing in the heated outdoor pool and hot tub, and watching the snow fall.

Our own Rabbi David led a moving Havdalah service. It was followed by Saturday night dancing to the Burlington band "Dag" (Hebrew for "fish." Get it? Phish!). That was energizing and fun.

I was especially moved by Sunday morning's keynote by Barry Shrage, president of CJP, Boston's Jewish Federation. The perspectives he shared from his long tenure in the field of Jewish life were inspiring. His main message was inclusion.

Workshops throughout the day included topics such as Jewish comedy, Jewish film, the Jewish environmental movement, Israeli music and dance, growing your Jewish community (outreach), lessons from the life of Moses, and more.

Overall, it was a full and inspiring weekend. I would go again next year. Hope you will join us.

## JCOGS families take to the woods

By RABBI DAVID FAINSLBER

What a marvelous adventure we had this past November as children and adults ages 0-70 made their way through Wiessner Woods in Stowe. The pristine trails meander through beautiful woodlands and rolling hills -- and across lots of bridges, which is always a highlight for little ones. The trails are stroller friendly, so even our families with small children were able to participate.

We stopped at the sugarhouse to nosh a little on snacks and drink hot chocolate. Afterwards, we enjoyed some hora dancing with shakers! Wiessner Woods has never been so lively. It was so much fun that we've decided to come up with all kinds of upcoming family events. Stay tuned through our weekly emails and our new Mishpocha page in the JCOGS Bulletin.



## Save-the-Date

April 24-25

Shabbaton with Professor Alvin H. Rosenfeld

Professor of English and Jewish Studies

Irving M. Glazer Chair in Jewish Studies

Director, Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism at Indiana University



Professor Rosenfeld will speak on "Remembering and Forgetting the Holocaust" at a catered dinner after Friday night services on April 24.

He will speak again on Saturday morning, following the service and Kiddush, on the topic "Resurgent antisemitism: What it is and what we can do."

## Food and Judaism

### Upcoming workshops celebrate Jewish food and culture

Ever wanted to learn to make challah or vegan Passover recipes? What is "kosher," anyway? And what does Judaism have to teach about food? What are the central-justice issues around food security in Vermont, and how might we respond to the needs of our fellow citizens? Join JCOGS and UVM Hillel students for a whirlwind of activities on these topics:

**Friday, March 6, at 6 p.m.**

Shabbat services on the theme of food and Judaism will be followed by a dinner of local foods, partly catered by Vermont Kosher and partly potluck. Can you cook something to contribute to the meal from foods grown in Vermont?

**Saturday, March 7, at 9 a.m.**

A Shacharit morning service will include

Torah service, followed by a Torah Study focusing on a Jewish response to food justice and security.

**Sunday, March 8, from 1 to 3:30 p.m.**

Challah-making with Rabbi David and friends. Learn the secrets of challah-making and learn about food justice and security issues from UVM Hillel students.

**Sunday, March 15, from 3 to 5 p.m.**

Vegan Passover Workshop with Patti Rubin "Oy, my son has become vegan and plans to bring his vegan girlfriend home for Passover. What will I serve them?" Not to worry. Seasoned Vegan Patti Rubin is here to help!

*Workshops will be held at JCOGS. Space is limited. Watch weekly emails for sign-up information.*

## Member Spotlight

Jennifer and Richard Salzman

*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.*

Mazel Tov! Jennifer and Richard have just moved into a new home. We'd like to thank them for taking a break from unpacking to share their story with us.

**1. Where are you from originally?**

We both grew up in Brookline — a suburb of Boston. We grew up about two miles apart, but did not meet until later in life.

**2. When did you move to Stowe, and what brought you here?**

We moved in May to Stowe for a more relaxed lifestyle. Richie's brother and family decided to relocate and they gave us the idea. Richie came up last year for a week of biking and came home with a lot of land.

**3. How much time do you spend in Stowe on an annual basis?**

We plan to be here fulltime (with a



Jennifer and Richard Salzman

potential escape to warmer climates for a few weeks in the winter). We also hope to rent our house for a few weeks in the summer and travel. (Portugal or Morocco are next on our wish list.)

**4. What do you enjoy about life in**

**Vermont?**

The great people and the beauty of nature — a year-round playground!

**5. What are your personal interests and/or activities you enjoy?**

We both love road biking, travel, hiking, skiing, cooking (more on

Jennifer's side!), and relaxing at the Waterbury Reservoir.

**6. What are you and/or your spouse's professional pursuits?**

Richie imports coffee for the promotional products industry. Jennifer's past life included risk management consulting.

**7. Why did you join the Jewish Community of Greater Stowe?**

We came to many events over the summer and were impressed with the warmth and friendliness of the community. We also found Rabbi Fainsilber and Alison to be inspiring and inviting.

**8. What do you hope to receive from your experience at JCOGS?**

We would like to feel part of a community and look forward to both the cultural and religious aspects of JCOGS.

**9. What do you hope you'll be able to contribute as members?**

Jennifer has joined the Tikkun Olam committee and is looking forward to helping with these and other activities.

## The Magic of Music series at JCOGS: Spring events

Music and song are part of every holiday, celebration, and occasion. The Magic of Music series at JCOGS brings an exploration of the history, variety and beauty of music in all its forms to the community.

Calendar of upcoming Magic of Music events:

**“Jewish Roots and Turkish Blues” with Shtreiml**

Sunday, Feb. 22, at 4 p.m.

\$10 for adults, \$5 for under 13.

Composer, pianist, vocalist and harmonica player Jason Rosenblatt, a leading performer and producer of new Jewish music, along with oud player and vocalist Ishmael Fenjiolu, a true master of Turkish music, explore the ancient connection between Eastern-European and Turkish music. The Montreal-based duo conjures images of the Bosphorus at sunset and transports the listener to a different time and place.

**“The Old Country Fiddler”**

Sunday, March 1, at 3 p.m.

Adam Boyce, composer, living history presenter and fiddler, portrays musical humorist

and fiddler Charles Ross Taggart (1871-1953) doing his favorite routine of Taggart's “The Old Country Fiddler at the Singing School.” Don't miss this afternoon of Americana, old-time music, and storytelling!

**The Kosher Katz A Capella Group**

Sunday, March 22, at 3 p.m.

University of Vermont Hillel's newest, and

Jewish, A Cappella Group will perform a mixture of English and Hebrew music. Some pop, some oldies, and some more traditional music.

*All musical events will be hosted at JCOGS. Events are free unless otherwise specified. Refreshments will be served after each program. All are welcome. Information: 253-1800 or [jcogs.org](http://jcogs.org)*



**A FULL HOUSE**

On November 16th acclaimed pianist Michael Arnowitt performed a special concert on JCOGS' newly acquired baby grand piano. A captivated full house enjoyed works by classical composers, such as Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, Takemitsu, Rachmaninov, Schumann, Brahms, and Ravel. The event was organized by JCOGS' arts and education committee.

Photo by Debora Steinerman

## Religious School: What’s the big idea?

By BARBARA BAUMAN,  
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN’S EDUCATION

What teachers stand out in your life, and what do you remember about them? This is the question Rabbi David asked our Religious School teachers, Barbara Bauman and Joyce Kahn, and our weekly volunteer Susan Rogers at the beginning of a teacher development workshop this fall.

After some thought, we came up with this list of attributes: listening, smiling, appreciating, praising, teaching with passion and enthusiasm, and living what they preach.

During the workshop, Rabbi David introduced us to the “Big Idea.” Our goal this year is to incorporate an enduring lesson into each class. We want students to walk away from each lesson with something “big,” some lasting and thought-provoking idea about Judaism and life that they can carry with them for the rest of their lives.

We dissected topics of ethics, Jewish foundations, and spiritual experiences to explore and rehearse how we will engage our students with these new ideas. As teachers we’re committed to affirming our students by accepting that every question asked has validity, and meshing learning with fun and incentives. Lesson plans include hands-on, experiential activities to help students strengthen their connections with ritual, Jewish history, the study of Torah, and their relationship with G-d.

### What’s happening

Our dedicated core-class of nine (half Chai) meets each week. We are thankful to the parents of the students for making and keeping the commitment to attend class. In today’s busy world, making class time a priority and sticking to it is both an accomplishment and a gift. This consistency has made a significant difference in our class culture. Todah!

Our class enjoys Rabbi David’s participation just about every week. He brings song, story, and a sense of calm before we recite prayer. We are grateful for all he has added to our weekly curriculum.

Our activities seem endless, but here are a few highlights:

- Each class begins with a prayer recited before we eat snack.
- Birthdays are celebrated by singing “Yom (Day) Huledet (of Birth) Sameach (Happy!).”
- Students enjoy videos to learn lessons. For example, this fall we enjoyed a video that taught us about Jacob and Esau, and most recently the story of Chanukah.
- We sometimes have guest teachers, and we recently enjoyed our annual visit from Zipporah (Zippy) Rogg. Zippy made Aliyah to Israel from Stowe a few years ago. Zippy used to teach at JCOGS and continues to visit the class, teaching us first-hand about life in Israel. Zippy is full of life, and always comes supplied with Israeli treats for the students.

• Lynne Gedanken, chair of the Tikkun Olam committee, was also a guest to our classroom. Tikkun Olam (“repairing the world”) is our year-long class theme. Lynne sparked thought-provoking ideas and insights for our entire class.

• Our class has a Pet Monster tzedakah box that is passed from student to student every few weeks. Each student is responsible for feeding him while he is in their care. He is getting fat!

We are busily preparing for our upcoming spring holidays of Tu B’shtar, Purim, and Passover. Our final class Shabbat service will be held on May 1, and we are well on our way to leading another memorable Kabbalat Shabbat.

*Inquiries about the religious school are always welcome. For contact information, please contact the JCOGS office at 802-253-1800.*



Students from the Religious School celebrated Tu B'Shevat in the classroom. The children enjoyed white and red grape juice and different types of fruit in honor of the Jewish holiday. Rabbi David led the class in this celebration of the “Birthday of the Trees.” For Tu B'Shevat we eat fruits with seeds, such as apples and pears; fruits that can be eaten whole, such as strawberries, blueberries, grapes and figs; and fruits with hard skin, such as oranges and bananas. From left, Emma, Molly (hidden), and Gabbie Schaffer; Sadie Ellner; Rio Mentz; and Joseph Ellner.



A festive Chanukah at JCOGS. From left, Eric Lane and daughter, Isabella Rauch, and Robin Singer.

## Chanukah party brightens the season

By ISRAEL ELLNER

Our festival of lights on Dec. 21 was alive and bright with energy as the children led us all in the playful joy of Chanukah songs, games and the prayers of thanksgiving. Rabbi David conducted a chorus of dancing children who surrounded us with delightful song and memories. The bright light of the candles blessed the seventh night with a beautiful display of the most unique and diverse collection of cherished family chanukiyot. We enjoyed a bounty of delightful holi-

day treats that included a melody of traditional and savory potato latkes.

The children enjoyed our annual raffle with a generous display of creative prizes. For the adults it was a race for the cheese. As the grand raffle unfolded all eyes were on the giant blocks of Cabot.

Our annual tradition drew in many new faces and built many new memories of fun and tradition. With many blessings of thanks to everyone who joined us and helped JCOGS continue our joyful holiday celebration.

**February 1 – March 28**  
**12 Shevat – 8 Nisan**

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.

**February 1 – 7**  
**12 Shevat – 18 Shevat**

**Service: February 6**  
Murray Dananberg  
Jean Lazar  
Joyce Gilbert  
Dinah Adelson  
Albert Katsof  
Gertrude Anna Zamvil  
Harvey Steiner  
Randolph Wolfgang

**February 8 – 14**  
**19 Shevat – 25 Shevat**

**Service: February 13**  
Monte Aaron Feinstein  
Harry Moses Lazar  
Joseph Lyman  
David Tunick  
Rhoda Lee Baskin Kaplan  
Reva Schneps  
Sigmund Weishsel  
Anne Bayer  
Louis Davis  
Nathan Siegel

**February 15 – 21**  
**26 Shevat – 2 Adar**

**Service: February 20**  
Dinah Brauer Poley  
Harry Feinman  
Zui Hirsch Lazar  
Anne Klein  
Joseph Greenbaum

**February 22 – 28**  
**3 Adar – 9 Adar**

**Service: February 27**  
Burton Bauchner  
Ruth Feinstein  
Rachel Levy  
Ruth Liebergal  
Rhoda Rosenbloom  
Cindy Goldstein Beer

**March 1 – 7**  
**10 Adar – 16 Adar**

**Service: March 6**  
Claire Rosenbloom  
Leonard Wevrick  
Lillian Yanow  
Sidney Greenberg  
Meta Denneboom  
Edith Besser Segall  
Josh Segal

Harold Rosen  
Morton Antelman

**March 8 – 14**  
**17 Adar – 23 Adar**

**Service: March 13**  
Zalman Raniel Stern  
Harry Feinman  
Abraham Allen  
Bobby Kaplan  
Marcy Bauman

**March 15 – 21**  
**24 Adar – 1 Nisan**

**Service: March 20**  
Henry Geensburg  
Paula Goldstein  
Rhoda Hazen  
Mack Weinstein  
Sam Noyes

**March 22 – 28**  
**2 Nisan – 8 Nisan**

**Service: March 27**  
Herbert M. Cohen  
Eric Stanley Gould  
Morris Shreter  
Sophie Weinstein  
Andrew K. Andrews  
Martin Nachman

*“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 October 9, 2014 and December 10, 2014.

*In honor of Al Besser's 90th birthday...*

Joan & Bob Katz  
Carol Good  
Carole & Steve Lichtenstein  
Sandy & Bernie Nisenholtz  
Barbara Stern  
Edie Zfass  
Eugene Posnick  
Anne & Bruce Rosenberg  
Rita & Stephen Schneps

*In loving memory of Roselle*

Abramowitz...  
Mary, Ken, Nicholas & Aidan Scudder  
Karen, David, Paige & Sara Scudder  
Marcie, Bill, Daniel, Sabrina, Jeremy, Elana & Mike Scudder  
Kerrie, Larry, Michael, & Elizabeth Kennedy  
Sheila & Nahum Gelber

*In memory of my father, Jacob Karkus...*

Judy Allen

*In honor of Ron & Deborah Feinstein...*

Aron & Susan Ain

*In appreciation to Sara Schlosser &*

*Sandiwood Farm*  
Judy Allen

*In honor of Robert & Eda Crosby...*

Skip & Denise Wentz

*In memory of my father, William*  
*Allen...*

Cindy Allen-Berson

*In celebration of the birth of our grand-*  
*daughter, Elsa Freyda Bauman...*

Barbara & Robert Bauman

*In thanks to Sara and Irwin Tauben...*

Suzan & Gary Feibus

*In honor of the birth of Barbara &*  
*Robert Bauman's granddaughter...*

Susan Rogers

*In appreciation to Patsy & Michael*  
*Kazakoff...*

Anita & Ezra Beinhaker

Fern Ellen Blood

**Mazel Tov**

*Simchas in our community*

Al Besser celebrated his 90th birthday on Nov. 19.

Josh Merson graduated in December from the University of Colorado at Boulder with an engineering degree.

Ron and Deborah Feinstein celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on Dec. 22.

Barbara and Robert Bauman announced the birth of their first granddaughter, Elsa Freyda Bauman. She was born on Dec. 31, 2014, in Berlin, Germany. Her proud parents are Josh Bauman and Stephanie Greenwald.

Al and Gretchen Besser celebrated their wedding anniversary on Dec. 28.

**Join us for**

Our upcoming family-friendly events:

**February 13 and March 20:** Family and Children's Shabbat service and pizza party

**March 4:** Purim Party Extravaganza

**March 28:** Family and all-ages Shabbat sledding and snacks

**April 12:** Family swimming party at Stoweflake

**April 14:** Annual Family-Friendly Passover Seder

**Welcome new members!**

BY RICH JACOBS

Welcome to all of our newest members at JCOGS:

A wonderful time was had by all who attended a recent New Member Social at The Phoenix Restaurant in Stowe. Thank you to the staff and management of The Phoenix, who provided a delicious Jewish-themed food event for our enjoyment. In attendance were both new and veteran members, as well as young families with children. Three of our newest member families received a gift basket filled with delectable delights supplied by Stowe Wine and Cheese. Since that event we have begun reaching out to our newest members not in attendance so that they, too, will receive their JCOGS welcome basket.

1. Bev Allen
2. Elaine & Mitchell Diamond and son
3. Linda Sallop & Michael Fenlon
4. Julia & Charles Goldstein
5. Audra & Michael Hughes and children
6. Anita & Ira Krieger
7. Mark E. Laxer and children
8. Dara & Jarett Levan and children
9. Caroline & Calvin Melmed
10. Minda Moskowitz
11. Amy Wolk Murphy and children
12. Diane Richler
13. Judy Litvack & Carl Ravinsky
14. Nancy & Allan Salzman
15. Jennifer & Richard Salzman
16. Jill & Alan Slootsky
17. Terrye Goren & Michael Voelger



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## Calendar

Friday night services held every week at 6 p.m. Torah Study will be held at 10 a.m. on Feb. 7 and 21 and March 7 and 14.

### FEBRUARY

**Friday, Feb. 13: 5 p.m.,** Family and Children's Shabbat service led by Rabbi David, followed by complimentary pizza dinner.

**Sunday, Feb. 22: 4 p.m.,** "Jewish Roots and Turkish Blues" musical performance by Jason Rosenblatt and Ishmael Fenjiolu of Shtreiml. \$10 for adults, \$5 for under 13.

### MARCH

**Sunday, March 1: 3 p.m.,** "The Old Country Fiddler" portrayal by Adam Boyce of the Vermont Humanities Council.

**Wednesday, March 4: 6:30 p.m.,** Purim Party Extravaganza. (See page 1 for details.)

**Friday, March 6: 6 p.m.,** Shabbat services on the theme of food and Judaism, followed by a potluck dinner of local foods.

**Saturday, March 7: 9 a.m.,** a Shacharit morning service that includes Torah service, followed by a Torah Study focusing on a Jewish response to food justice and security.

**Sunday, March 8: 1-3:30 p.m.,** Challah Baking Workshop with Rabbi David and friends.

**Sunday, March 15: 3-5 p.m.,** Vegan Passover Workshop with Patti Rubin.

**Friday, March 20: 5 p.m.,** Family and Children's Shabbat service led by Rabbi David followed by complimentary pizza dinner!

**Sunday, March 22: 3 p.m.,** UVM Kosher Katz Acapella Group.

**Thursday, March 26: 1:30 p.m.,** book club. Location TBA.

**Saturday, March 28: 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.,** family and all-ages Shabbat sledding and snacks at the Stowe Elementary School playground sledding hill.

### APRIL

**Saturday, April 4: 5:30 p.m.,** Annual Family-Friendly Passover Seder.

**Saturday, April 11: 10 a.m.,** Yizkor and Shacharit morning service on the last day of Passover, in commemoration of lost loved ones.

**Sunday, April 12: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.,** family swimming party at Stoweflake Resort & Spa. Bring a bag lunch and a treat to share. \$5 per person/maximum \$15 per family.

**Sunday, April 19: 3 p.m.,** a concert with Paul Orgel to memorialize Holocaust Remembrance Day, co-sponsored by the Greater Stowe Interfaith Coalition.

*All events will be held at JCOGS unless otherwise noted.*

### Join us for

Our Annual Family-Friendly  
Community Passover Seder

Saturday, April 4  
at 5:30 p.m.