

## Summertime at JCOGS

For those of us who trudged through a long winter in Vermont, we are ever grateful that we have arrived at summer in Stowe! Many told me that this was the most grueling winter in a long time. Or spun another way: As we enter this season of summer, there is more to be grateful for in these coming months!

Life is filled with turmoil, whether a long winter that doesn't seem to end, the day-to-day stresses of getting the kids to school on time, or big life-events that throw us for a loop.



Judaism preempts that negative imbalance by reminding us to stay positive. No, this is not “feel good” Judaism or new-age pop psychology out of a recent magazine. This is a thousands-year-old tradition of cultivating gratitude, *hakarat hatov*, which means, “recognizing the good.”

Thus, we wake up in the morning with the first words uttered from our lips: *moda ani* for women, *modé ani* for men: “I am grateful!”

And three times a day, tradition has us practicing *hakarat hatov* with one of my favourite blessings from our most meditative prayer — the standing *Amidah*: *modim anachunu lefan-echa*, “We are grateful before You!” What are we grateful for? “For Your miracles, which are with us everyday, and for Your wonders and all of Your acts of goodness which You provide every moment, evening, morning, and afternoon.”

For those of us who are hardwired toward gratitude, these blessings are a reminder of our natural state. For those of us who have to work at it more, these blessings are a challenge to live our lives to the fullest despite our grievances.

Though gratitude is a state of being for some, for most of us it is a practice. It is something to work at — work hard at. We tend to work hard at making a living, getting food on the table, and getting our daily to-do list done. But what about working at being more grateful?

So take a moment now, just a few seconds even, to think of something in your life that you are grateful for. It need not be anything big. As our prayers teach us, miracles are *everywhere*, in the smallest details, too.

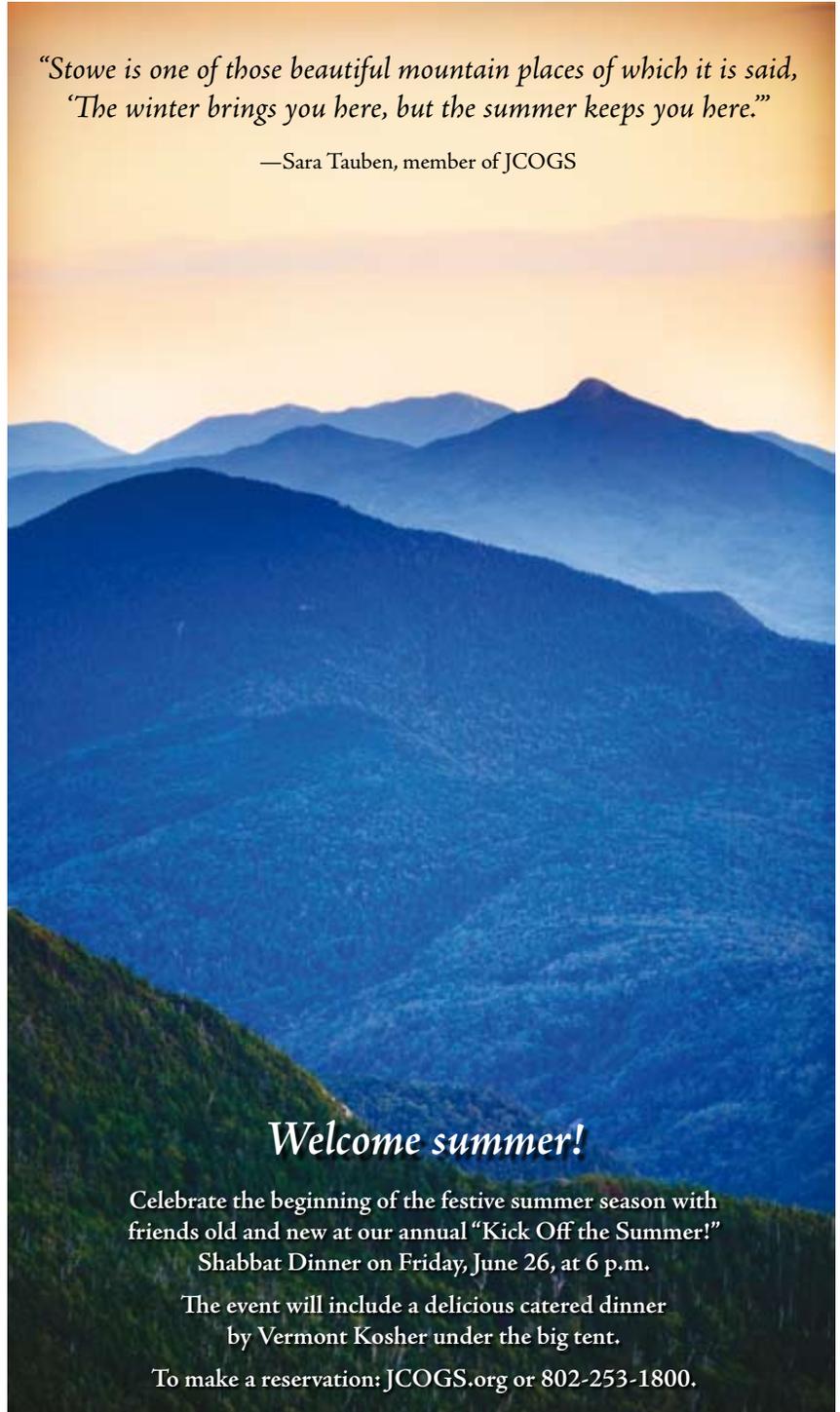
One thing is for sure: It's easy for all of us to be grateful for summer in Vermont. Let us count our blessings.

Rav brachot, many blessings of small wonders, gratitude, spiritual practice, and the good life,

**David Fainsilber**  
Rabbi of JCOGS

“Stowe is one of those beautiful mountain places of which it is said,  
“The winter brings you here, but the summer keeps you here.”

—Sara Tauben, member of JCOGS



## Welcome summer!

Celebrate the beginning of the festive summer season with friends old and new at our annual “Kick Off the Summer!”  
Shabbat Dinner on Friday, June 26, at 6 p.m.

The event will include a delicious catered dinner  
by Vermont Kosher under the big tent.

To make a reservation: [JCOGS.org](http://JCOGS.org) or 802-253-1800.

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## High Holy Days Schedule of Services

2015/5776

**Sunday, Sept. 13**

Erev Rosh Hashanah

**Monday, Sept. 14**

Rosh Hashanah, Day 1  
and Tashlich

**Tuesday, Sept. 15**

Rosh Hashanah Day 2

**Tuesday, Sept. 22**

Kol Nidre

**Wednesday, Sept. 23**

Yom Kippur & Commu-  
nity Break-the-Fast

## Save the Date

**JCOGS' annual meeting**

Sunday, June 14

*Coffee and bagels will be served at 9:30 a.m., followed by the meeting at 10 a.m.*

As well as an opportunity for schmoozing, the annual meeting is a terrific way to get involved and find out what your leadership and volunteers have been up to since last summer. We look forward to seeing new and old friends at this vital community event!

# Anita Diamant visits JCOGS

## Best-selling author to speak on July 30

If you've ever read any of Anita Diamant's award-winning novels, you'll know that she has a unique ability to turn more obscure points in history into captivating stories. On Thursday, July 30, at 7:30 pm. at JCOGS, you'll have the opportunity to hear Diamant speak about her career as an author and journalist, and the influences of Judaism on her work. A post-talk reception will be held in the tent.

The prolific author has written 12 books, which include bestsellers "Day after Night" and "The Red Tent." Her most recent novel, "The Boston Girl," follows the story of Addie Baum, a young Jewish woman born in 1900 to immigrant parents. Addie's intelligence and curiosity take her through



the tumultuous social changes of 20th century women: a world of short skirts, movies, celebrity culture, and new opportunities her parents couldn't imagine.

Along with her works of historical fiction, Diamant has written six non-fiction guides to contemporary Jewish life, covering a range of topics from planning a Jewish wedding to raising a Jewish child. She is also an award-winning journalist whose articles have appeared in numerous publications.

Diamant is the founding president of Mayyim Hayyim: Living Waters Community Mikveh, a 21st century reinvention of the ritual bath as a place for exploring ancient traditions and enriching contemporary Jewish life.

Diamant grew up in Newark, New Jersey and Denver, Colorado. She graduated from Washington University in St. Louis with a degree in comparative literature and holds a master's



degree in English from Binghamton University. She lives in the Boston area with her husband.

For more information about Anita Diamant: [www.anitadiamant.com](http://www.anitadiamant.com) and <http://anitadiamant.blogspot.com>.

Seating will be limited, so watch for advance ticket info!

## The Magic of Music at JCOGS

# Summer music events on the horizon

**Rock Shabbat service with Dahg**  
Friday, June 5, at 6 p.m.

Come experience a "pumped up" version of our traditional Shabbat service with the Jewish band Dahg from Temple Sinai in South Burlington. The group combines classic rock with a creative twist on the traditional liturgy. This is an all-ages event, and will be followed by an enhanced potluck dinner.

**Hebrew Cantorials with organist**  
**Dr. William Tortolano**  
Tuesday, June 9, at noon

This concert of Hebrew Cantorials will be performed by organist Dr. William Tortolano, professor of music at St. Michael's College, and his Gregorian choir, as well as Rabbi Jan Salzman of Ohavi Zedek. The event is co-sponsored by JCOGS, and will be held at Stowe Community Church on Main Street.

**Cellist Deborah Black**

Cellist Deborah Black has performed numerous times at JCOGS and throughout northern Vermont. She will present two concerts at JCOGS this summer:

**Sunday, June 14, at 4 p.m.: A classical concert with her string quartet.**

**Sunday, Aug. 9, at 4 p.m.: A solo performance.**

**Israeli dance workshops**

Friday, Aug. 21, at 8 p.m. & Sunday, Aug. 23, at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

This all-ages dance class will be facilitated by Danny Pollock, a New York City-based teacher. The class on Aug. 21 will take place after Friday services and will include live music. On Aug. 23, children will dance at 11 a.m. and adults at 2 p.m., with a potluck Israeli lunch for all at 12:30 p.m.

## A packed house for annual Passover seder

On April 4 approximately 100 people gathered at JCOGS for our annual Inter-generational Community Passover Seder, creatively led by Rabbi David. This was the most well-attended and family-focused seder in JCOGS' 20-plus year history. We were delighted to welcome a newborn and 90-year-old great-grandmother from the same family — a truly intergenerational event! Attendees enjoyed the reenactment of the story of Passover, a meaningful seder, and delicious food prepared by Vermont Kosher in a beautiful "heimishe" (homey) setting. A special thank-you to Patti Rubin for coordinating this special event.

We hope to see you next year at our second night seder!

# Nihao, Wo Shi You Tai Ren ('Hello, I'm Jewish')

BY EDEE SIMON-ISRAEL

Soon after I moved to Shanghai last September, a Canadian Jewish acquaintance met me for lunch. "Wo Shi You Tai Ren," she taught me to say, and joked that if I ever wanted a table at a busy restaurant, I should just walk in and tell them, "Wo Shi You Tai Ren" ("Hello, I'm Jewish") and I'd be seated right away.

More seriously, this friend explained that the Chinese have a great deal of respect and admiration for Jews — their family values, their emphasis on education, and their (albeit stereotypical) business acumen. She also said that she found it nice to be living in a country where being a Jew was such a positive. And so began my introduction to being Jewish in Shanghai!

## A long history of Judaism in China

Since my arrival in China, I've learned that the history of Shanghai, as well as elsewhere in China, has Jewish chapters throughout. To my surprise, I discovered that many of the landmark buildings along the Bund (that well-photographed boulevard along the Huangpu River) were built by three Baghdadi Jewish families — the Sassoons, the Haradoons and the Kadoories — in the late 19th century. Seven synagogues were built in Shanghai; two of them are still standing — one is a museum and the other is owned by the government but is occasionally used for services.

In the 1900s, thousands of Jewish refugees (first from Germany, and then from other European countries) found safe haven in Shanghai, which at that time was an open port, where passports and visas were not required. A community was established while they waited for passage on to America, Canada, Israel, and Australia.

Far north of Shanghai, just south of the Russian border, lays Harbin, a Chinese city with a rich Jewish past, where Russian Jews fleeing the Bolsheviks settled and thrived in the early 20th century. A cemetery and

synagogue building (once one of many, now the only one left, which serves as a museum of the history of Harbin's Jews) still remain, as well as mezuzot and other symbols of the original Jewish owners of buildings along Harbin's main road downtown, now a busy pedestrian shopping street.

The Chinese city of Kaifeng is where the "Chinese Jews" lived and still practice Judaism today. Historically, this community is said to have existed since the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127). An American man I know often flies to Kaifeng from Shanghai on Fridays to spend Shabbat with the tiny Jewish community there, and I plan to join him one weekend in the future.

## Jewish life in Shanghai

Today, Jewish life is centered in Mainland China's two major cities, Beijing and Shanghai, where large global expatriate communities are found. Both cities have an active Chabad presence, as well as growing Reform congregations.

Since moving to Shanghai, I have become very involved with Kehilat Shanghai, a young Reform community that formed five years ago. Made up of American, Canadian, British, French, and Israeli Jews, the community is addressing the spiritual, cultural, and social needs of many Jewish expats, including a number of intermarried families (Jews married to Chinese nationals) seeking a Jewish community in which to raise their children.

I should point out that Jewish religious practice could not exist without the goodwill, so to speak, of the Chinese government, and like everything else in China, Kehilat Shanghai functions at the behest of the government and is open only to expats and their families — allowing Chinese would be considered proselytizing, which is a major no-no!

My new Shanghai synagogue is still much too small to have its own building or a full-time rabbi (long-time JCOGS members will surely relate!). High Holiday services and other major holiday events are



held at a hotel that's conveniently located right off a major highway. Whenever my husband Mark and I pass that hotel, one of us always calls out, "There's the shul!"

For Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur of 2014, Rabbi Jonathan Stein, the retired head of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, was our special guest clergy, and this Passover a youth educator from Melbourne came to lead our seder. Kehilat Shanghai has a special relationship with the Union for Progressive Judaism (UPJ) in Australia, as well as the Reform community in Hong Kong. As one of the world's newer Reform Jewish communities, Shanghai is receiving attention, support, and mentoring from the World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ), including our first Sefer Torah, donated by a congregation in Rio de Janeiro and presented at the WUPJ's global conference there in May.

Beyond the synagogue, Jewish life in Shanghai takes other forms. Shanghai has a Moishe House, where young single Jews live and

hold Shabbat dinners and other programming, open to the wider Jewish community but focused on the many young adult Jews in the city. The Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) has a young Argentinean couple as its new Shanghai representatives. Beyond its traditional mission of saving Jews around the world, JDC's new focus is on Jewish cultural life in emerging communities.

Lastly, there are many Israelis living in Shanghai, primarily for business reasons, and an Israeli consulate. There is even an Israeli/Mediterranean restaurant and a kosher food store run by Chabad (my source for Matzoh).

So while I would not call Shanghai a Jewish city by any means, Jewish life and a sense of community are alive and well if you look for it. The Jews whom I've met are warm and welcoming. Moving to a place where I'm essentially "illiterate and mute" (as a fellow expat harshly, but accurately, put it) is difficult. Being Jewish — and having a Jewish life here — makes it easier.

# JCOGS website gets a facelift

## The man behind the code

Many people are first introduced to JCOGS when they attend a special holiday service or one of our many cultural programs. Others visit JCOGS for the first time, not in person, but through our website. They may land on our site for many different reasons: They're thinking of relocating to the area and are searching for a town with a vibrant Jewish community; they've heard about JCOGS from a friend; or they attended an event at JCOGS and want to learn more. Or they're a current member who's looking for information about current events and programs.

When thinking about the functionality of our website, we have to keep in mind all of these audiences, and their many different reasons for visiting our website.

That's been the job of Dan Lax, our webmaster, over the past few months, as he works to revamp the JCOGS website to reflect the needs and expectations of our site visitors.

"Any non-profit organization's

website should be a multi-faceted resource for its members, donors, and potential visitors," Dan said. "JCOGS fills a very-unique niche in the Stowe community. Therefore, its website should reflect the rich diversity of its constituents, rabbi, employees, services, and facilities, and feel welcoming to folks who want to learn more about the organization."

Dan designed JCOGS' current website in 2011, and this spring offered to modify it to more modern standards.

"With the recent ascendancy of hand-held devices like smart phones and tablets, website design and technology have changed radically during the past couple of years," Dan said. "JCOGS' new website will be more graphic, and be easier to navigate on those platforms. And it will provide an updated and comprehensive perspective of JCOGS, reflecting the warmth and spirituality of its new rabbi, David Fainsilber."

Although Dan lives in Atlanta,

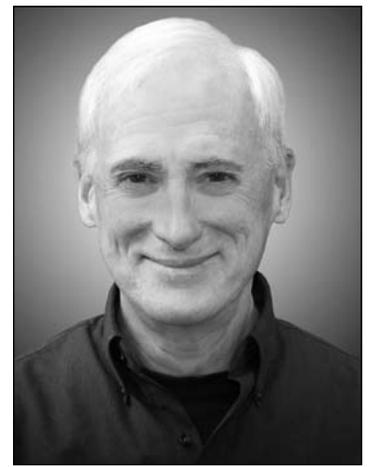
he has a long history in Stowe.

"I came to Stowe after college, in 1973, with the intention of staying just a couple of years to learn to ski better," he said. "But as many people of that era did, I stayed for almost two decades."

During his time in Stowe, he worked as Union Bank's first computer officer and served on the Stowe Winter Carnival and Stowe Performing Arts boards. He also wrote and administered the first personal computer-scoring programs used at the World Cup ski-racing level in North America.

Dan met longtime member of JCOGS Marvin Gameroff while managing the Whip Lounge at the Green Mountain Inn during his "ski bum" days. The two would often talk about the limited number of religious and social outlets for Jewish people in Northern Vermont, outside of Burlington, he said.

Marvin later became involved in the founding of JCOGS, and his close friend, Barry Lyman, built and maintained JCOGS' first web-



Dan Lax, JCOGS webmaster

site for a number of years. After Barry "retired" from his volunteer position, Dan offered to step in and take over the role.

"We are so fortunate that Dan has been willing to share his time and talent with us over the years, and without charging for these very important services," said Ron Feinstein, president of JCOGS. "We are grateful for his longtime commitment to our community and look forward to our continued work together as we grow JCOGS' Web presence in the months and years to come."

*Stay tuned! The new website will be unveiled this summer.*

## JCOGS building celebrates 10th birthday

### Maintenance and improvements are ongoing

BY GARY FEIBUS, CHAIR OF JCOGS' BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE



Believe it or not, we moved into our "new" building 10 years ago this May. Although for many of us it feels like a blip in time, a full decade has passed since we held our first Shabbat in the new sanctuary. In Vermont, buildings age more quickly due to our extreme weather conditions. The role of the buildings and grounds committee is to

stay on top of maintenance issues, and to anticipate future needs.

Here are a few things we've been up to:

- This year we purchased the "big tent," which we previously had rented, for our summer gatherings. The tent should provide us with years of service and some cost savings.
- We've been going through all mechanical systems in the building and analyzing existing and future needs. Last year we replaced the air-conditioning system.
- We've completed a number of internal and external repairs, such as replacing some exterior wood with permanent materials, painting much of the interior, and making minor repairs and improvements to the kitchen area.
- We're in the process of replac-

ing our sound system, which will include a portable audio setup for use in the tent.

• We're considering the installation of a shed this summer to store difficult-to-move items.

This past winter Marvin Rosenbloom and I personally spearheaded a cooperative fuel program to help our current and prospective members save money on heating. The program was extremely successful — 50 of our members signed up, as well as the JCOGS building, and the reviews were favorable. We're looking to expand the program next year. Stay tuned!

We couldn't keep the building in topnotch shape without the continued support of our members. The reserve funds that were put aside to maintain the building

have been fairly well depleted. We initiated a campaign last year to help us fill the coffers, and it was heartwarming to see people care enough to step up and give us a hand. These funds will need to be continually infused in order to keep pace with the constant needs of the building in terms of repairs and replacements.

As we mark our 10th anniversary in our "new" building, we are happy to report that the facility is in fantastic shape. We hope that everyone is enjoying the building, and we're working hard to keep it the kind of place where our members and the greater community want to come and spend time.

We look forward to sharing our beautiful building and grounds with you this summer!

# Member Spotlight

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.

Sara and Irwin Tauben have so many fascinating stories to tell, and we are delighted that Sara took the time to share a few of them with us.

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

Both of our families originate from Poland. Irwin was born in Montreal one month after his parents arrived. I was born in Sweden. We had wanted to come to Montreal along with my mother's family but were refused Canadian visas. We came to the United States instead, settling in Los Angeles where the Montreal family eventually joined us. It is ironic that I ended up in Montreal anyway.

## 2. Irwin fought long and hard to reclaim property in Poland that belonged to his late grandfather when his parents left Poland in 1947. In an article about his experience (see link below), he said he continued the work “out of principle,” even when the expense and trouble became excessive. Why was this an important process for him to go through? (To read the article: <http://www.theseniorimes.com/finding-restitution-montrealer-reclaims-property-in-poland/>).

Irwin had always had a deep and emotional connection to his parents' past. Yet it was largely a mystery. The process of investigating properties served to bring the image of a foggy and abstract past into focus. It was concrete and real.

## 3. This process also reconnected Irwin to his Polish roots. What effect has this had upon your lives?

Our first trip to Poland came about as a consequence of Irwin's efforts to retrieve a property, as he had been called to appear before a Polish court. We went reluctantly and with considerable trepidation. The journey was, of course, difficult and emotional but also a profound and transformative experience. If we had expected to feel intimidated, instead we found the Poles to be polite, friendly, and even cheerful.



Sara and Irwin Tauben snowshoeing in the Notch with Taubie.

If we had expected to see only reminders of death, instead we found physical contact with places of former Jewish life to be both informative and deeply meaningful. We were especially impressed with our Polish guides, one of whom spoke Hebrew, who were deeply committed to understanding the Jewish history of Poland. Eventually, we came to realize that they were not exceptional.

On our second trip to Poland, we joined and were guided by our daughter. Our daughter has made four trips to Poland, each of which had a specific creative and educational objective. She is consciously seeking to retrieve “Polishness” as a positive part of her identity. And while Irwin and I can't share that particular desire, we have come to appreciate, through her contacts and experiences, that there is a significant renewal of Jewish life in Poland that is being generated by Poles as well as Jews. This change is significant not in terms of Jewish demographics, but in terms of institution building and shared cultural experiences.

Last October we participated in the events marking the opening of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews, chronically 1,000 years of history. The museum sits on the grounds of the former Nazi ghetto.

Its overarching purpose is to affirm that Polish and Jewish histories are inextricable. They are also committed to fostering renewed relationships between Poles and Jews within and outside of Poland.

We also visited the cities and towns where Irwin's parents and families had lived. There were many magical moments as we walked the streets, largely the same as they would have been before the war, stood in front of buildings, and imagined the life they led. We found documents in city archives and family tombstones in forgotten cemeteries. This is where we come from. We are Polish, after all.

## 4. What brought you to Stowe?

Stowe is one of those beautiful mountain places of which it is said, “The winter brings you here, but the summer keeps you here.” In the first year of our marriage, Irwin introduced me to all of Montreal's surrounding countryside: the Laurentians, the Eastern Townships, and Stowe. Connection to place is very personal and is usually established at first impression. I fell in love with Stowe at first sight. We have been enjoying summers and winters in Stowe ever since and, since 1998, have been very happy second-home residents.

## Sara and Irwin Tauben

## 5. How much time do you spend in Stowe on an annual basis?

We are here all year round on weekends and longer stays when we can.

## 6. What do you enjoy about life in Vermont?

Vermont is post-card perfect: green pastures, red barns, black and white cows, fluffy clouds, and cobalt blue skies outlining distant mountain ranges. Life is relaxed, and people are impossibly friendly. We have wonderful friends with whom we enjoy recreational and social activities. We marvel at people well into their 70s and 80s who continue to bike, hike, and ski. Stowe must surely be the Fountain of Youth!

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

Irwin and I share many personal interests and enjoy most of our activities together. We met skiing (in Israel, but that's another story), and we are still each other's best ski buddies. We bike (part of Stowe Velo, a group of very active seniors), hike, and take in the beauty of Vermont. We have also been very active in the Jewish community of Montreal and have enjoyed becoming part of JCOGS as well.

## 8. What are you and/or Irwin's professional pursuits?

Professionally, we are no longer in much pursuit of anything. Irwin retired five years ago but he keeps very active managing his affairs and in his communal commitments. He has also discovered a talent for crafting jewelry. I am a retired interior designer, but, based on the success and pleasure of designing our new home in Stowe, I am open to renewing my career.

## 9. Why did you join JCOGS? How has being a part of the JCOGS community enhanced your life?

We both feel the creation of JCOGS and the building of a community centre/synagogue was a historic event: the establishment of a visible, formal Jewish community in a town in which Jews were once not welcome. We have participated in several holiday celebrations and many special programs. We enjoy the progressive and creative nature of the services and are delighted to have a dynamic full-time rabbi.

# Children wrap up busy Religious School year

BY BARBARA BAUMAN, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

It's hard to believe that we just celebrated the end of our Religious School year with our annual student-led Kabbalat Shabbat. Sports, dance recitals, school field trips and all sorts of activities keep our students (and their parents) hopping, so we ended our school year at the end of April to avoid conflict.

But we stayed busy up to the very last minute! Here's a quick look back:

• In February Rabbi David led our class in a lovely Tu B'Shvat seder.

We devoured juicy fruits, crunchy nuts, and mixed red and white juices honoring the New Year of the trees.

• During our Purim Extravaganza in early March, we sang festive Purim songs with Rabbi David, while he whirled a giant grogger around! The class dressed in all sorts of costumes, and we opened the classroom to guests of all ages.

• For Passover, the children participated in a festive class seder. We marked a few of the plagues by wearing sunglasses to remember the darkness, tossing around mini marshmallows to remember the hail, and holding creepy bugs to remind us of the vermin. Yucky but fun!



Students and Rabbi David sing Shabbat Shalom at the annual student-led Kabbalat Shabbat on May 1. The service, followed by a pizza potluck dinner, celebrated the end of the Religious School year. Pictured from left, Gavin Murphy, Lily Murphy, Sadie Ellner, Rabbi David, Joseph Ellner, Olivia Slen, and Lucy Andrus.

Religious School will resume in September. We look forward to seeing you this fall!

**Join us for Rob Mermin's "Bubble Show" and JCOGS' annual ice-cream social**

Sunday, July 12, at 4 p.m.

Rob Mermin, founder of Circus Smirkus, will present entertainment for the whole family, including circus stunts, bubble tricks, and hilarious film clips.

## Memory expert leads workshop at JCOGS



Memory expert Frank Felberbaum will hold a Memory Workshop on Sunday, July 19, at 3 p.m. at JCOGS. Felberbaum is recognized as one of the world's leading memory experts. He is the author of "The Business of Memory" and president of Memory Training Systems, an international memory consulting group, based in New York City. The cost of the workshop is \$15 per person.

## Workshop for Grandparents

### How to teach your interfaith grandchildren about Judaism

Grandparents are invited to join us after our 6 p.m. services on Friday, July 24, for a potluck dinner and "Grandparent Workshop." Through a facilitated group discussion, grandparents will be able to address their concerns and their hopes for their grandchildren who are in interfaith families. Grandparents will also learn skills with which they can begin to transmit their Jewish heritage and religious values to their grandchildren.

The workshop will be facilitated by Marion L. Usher, PhD. Over the past two decades,

Marion has worked with hundreds of Jewish interfaith couples — and many grandparents — to facilitate important conversation about Jewish identity and relationships. She serves as a clinical professor of psychiatry at the George Washington School of Medicine and Behavioral Sciences and works with individuals and couples in clinical practice.



Marion L. Usher, Ph.D.

### 'Speaking Across Conflict' topic of recent workshop

In May Rabbi Melissa Weintraub of "Resetting the Table" held a special workshop for JCOGS members to surface core issues of concern and disagreement around Israel and strengthen participants' capacity to speak, listen, and learn through differences. The workshop was well attended, and provided a forum for respectful, insightful dialogue across a diverse group of people.

"Our members engage with and support Israel — each in our own ways, each with a lot of passion," said Rabbi David. "Rabbi Weintraub taught us the skill of neither agree-

ing or disagreeing with people, but first and foremost listening and reflecting back to them what they said, so that the other person feels heard and respected."

Rabbi Melissa Weintraub is the co-director of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs' Resetting the Table: Building Dialogue, Deliberation and Civility on Israel. She is a noted educator who trains leaders and builds programs at the intersections of Israel, Jewish thought, and conflict resolution.

The workshop was organized by the Israel Committee of JCOGS.

## Summer Celebration Shabbat and Oneg

If you are celebrating a special milestone event this summer — a wedding, birthday, B'nei Mitzvah, etc., and would like to help in the preparation of our annual Summer Celebration Shabbat and Oneg, please contact Rita Schneps at 802-888-5848 or ritaschneps@yahoo.com. The special service will take place on Friday, Aug. 14, at 6 p.m. and will be followed by a potluck kiddush.

**May 31 – August 29**

**13 Sivan – 14 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.

**May 31 – June 6**  
**13 Sivan – 19 Sivan**  
**Service: June 5**

Roselle Abramowitz  
 Burton S. Rubin  
 Charlotte Israel  
 Edward Klein

**June 7 – 13**  
**20 Sivan – 26 Sivan**  
**Service: June 12**

Beth Danziger Keyes  
 Norman Redlich

**June 14 – 20**  
**27 Sivan – 3 Tammuz**  
**Service: June 19**

Beatrice Roth  
 Edward Mitchell

**June 21 – 27**  
**4 Tammuz – 10 Tammuz**  
**Service: June 26**

Elaine Posnick  
 Louis Heimann  
 Gary Patch  
 Stella Kurland Wise  
 Max Allen

**June 28 – July 4**  
**11 Tammuz – 17 Tammuz**  
**Service: July 3**

Morris Rubinstein  
 Adele Dananberg  
 Norman Tischler

Pearl Meshnick  
 Nathan Wolfin  
 Ben Rous

**July 5 – 11**  
**18 Tammuz – 24 Tammuz**  
**Service: July 10**

Barbara J. Kole  
 Philip Zell  
 Sol Simon  
 Richard Aronsohn

**July 12 – 18**  
**25 Tammuz – 2 Av**  
**Service: July 17**

Rebecca Savage  
 Arthur Avidon

**July 19 – 25**  
**3 Av – 9 Av**  
**Service: July 24**

Ceil Davis  
 David Israel  
 John Saxby  
 Rose Siegel  
 Victor Danziger  
 Sherry Rosenberg

**July 26 – August 1**  
**10 Av – 16 Av**  
**Service: July 31**

Theodore Manuel Gold  
 Beth Kaen Kenuk  
 Nathan Wisebord  
 Erna Nachman

Claire Edith Levenstein  
 Ray Rubinstein  
 Chana S. Smikun  
 Shirley Magier  
 Michael Harding

**August 2 – 8**  
**17 Av – 23 Av**  
**Service: Aug. 7**

Jane Lande  
 Cecil April  
 Newman Freedman  
 Irving Louis Gedanken  
 Jack Bayer

**August 9 – 15**  
**24 Av – 30 Av**  
**Service: Aug. 14**

Edward K. Hamburger  
 Hester Black Striber  
 Joel Geensburg  
 Margareta Baltuch

**August 16 – 22**  
**1 Elul – 7 Elul**  
**Service: Aug. 21**

Terri Levan Katz  
 Hyman Yanow

**August 23 – 29**  
**8 Elul – 14 Elul**  
**Service: Aug. 28**

Dr. Louis Levenstein  
 Hattie Rosen  
 Arnold Kaplan

*“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 March 18, 2015 and May 11, 2015.

**GENERAL FUND**

**In honor of the birthdays of Carole & Steve Lichtenstein...**

Patricia Herst  
 T.R. Segal & M. Segal  
 Barbara Stern  
 Fern Ellen Blood  
 Helenmarie & Mel Patashnick  
 Susan Rogers  
 Ellen & Larry Gibs  
 Bunny and Mort Lechter  
 Ann & Stephen Fried

**In honor of the 40th anniversary of Suzan & Gary Feibus...**

Priscilla & Andrew Minkin

**In recognition of the yahrzeits of my sister and nephew...**

Judy Allen

**In memory of Gail Gellis' mother...**

Rita & Steve Schneps

**In memory of Richard Jacobs' sister, Susan Reidy...**

Carole & Steve Lichtenstein  
 Miriam & Steve Rosenbloom  
 Ellen & Larry Gibs

**In honor of the birth of my great-granddaughter and the marriage of my granddaughter...**

Beverly Albert

**RABBI DISCRETIONARY FUND**

**In honor of Deborah & Ron Feinstein's anniversary...**

Priscilla & Andrew Minkin

**Sad News announcements**

**Baruch Dayan Emet**

*Honoring lost loved ones*  
 Sandra Greenburg's sister,  
 Renee Sklaw, passed away  
 on April 2.

Richard Jacobs' sister, Susan Jacobs Reidy, passed away in late March.

*May their memories forever be a blessing.*

**Mazel Tov**

*Simchas in our community*

**Sean Jacobson**, a junior at Stowe High School, wrote and directed an original one-act play, "A Far Better Thing." The play was presented at Stowe High School's International Thespian Society's spring festival.

**Evelyn Tauben**, daughter of Sara and Irwin Tauben, married Jordy Koffman on May 17 at the Bel-Air Hotel in Los Angeles. This is the same hotel where Sara and Irwin were married 38 years ago. The couple lives in Toronto.



**Henry Stern**, son of Kim Yellin and Mark Stern, will celebrate his bar mitzvah at JCOGS on August 15. Henry is a rising eighth grader at the Town School in New York City. He enjoys tennis, biking, soccer, reading, and playing catch and video games with his Dad. Henry has spent time in Stowe every summer since he was 8 months old.



*Pictured, Evelyn with her son, Ed (at left), and a family friend*

**Evelyn Redlich** turned 90 on May 3. Her family held a special celebration in New York City on April 5.

**Steve and Carole Lichtenstein** both celebrated birthdays in April. Steve turned 84 on April 24, and Carole turned 80 on April 17. Carole celebrated this milestone birthday with friends and family in New Jersey and Stowe.

**Join us for JCOGS' Annual Summer Barbecue**

*Sunday, Aug. 30, at 6 p.m.*

Our end-of-summer social in the tent includes a casual picnic-style dinner catered by JCOGS members, and the drawing for the Dugouts and Dough raffle, featuring cash prizes and a special Red Sox ticket package.

To RSVP or purchase raffle tickets: Barbara Bauman at [bdbauman@yahoo.com](mailto:bdbauman@yahoo.com) or 802-999-6370.



A bi-monthly periodical published six times per year.

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## Calendar

**Friday night services** will be held every week at 6 p.m. Special Shabbatot: Rock Shabbat, June 5; "Kick off the summer" Shabbat and dinner, July 26; "Deepening Prayer," July 10 and Aug. 7; enhanced musical services followed by a special oneg, July 17; Summer Celebration Shabbat and Oneg, July 21; and dinner discussion for grandparents, July 24.

#### Other religious programs:

- Torah chanting (leyning) class from 4:45 to 5:45 p.m. on the following Fridays: July 17, 24 & 31, and Aug. 7 & 14.
- Torah study at 10 a.m. on the following Saturdays: June 6 & 27, July 11, and Aug. 8 & 29.
- Shabbos Schmooze at Rabbi David and Alison's home at 4 p.m. on the following Saturdays: July 18 & Aug. 22.
- Tisha B'av services at 8 p.m. on Saturday, July 25.

### JUNE

**Sunday, June 7: 3 p.m.,** lecture by Hila Blum, Israeli author of "The Visit."

**Friday, June 5: 6 p.m.,** Rock Shabbat service. See page 2 for details.

**Tuesday, June 9: Noon.** Hebrew Cantorials at Stowe Community Church. See page 2 for details.

**Sunday, June 14: 9:30 a.m.,** annual meeting; 4 p.m., a classical concert by Deborah Black and her string quartet. See page 2 for details.

**Friday, June 26: 6 p.m.,** "Kick Off the Summer!" Shabbat Dinner. See page 1 for details.

### JULY

**Sunday, July 12: 4 p.m.,** Rob Mermin's "Bubble Show" and ice-cream social. See page 6 for details.

**Tuesday, July 14: 7 p.m.,** a lecture on the opera, "Tosca," with opera enthusiast Toni Hill.

**Wednesday, July 15: 7 p.m.,** screening of the movie "Tosca."

**Sunday, July 19: 3 p.m.,** Memory Workshop with memory expert Frank Felberbaum. See page 6 for details.

**Thursday, July 30: 7:30 p.m.,** Author Anita Diamant lecture. See page 2 for details.

### AUGUST

**Sunday, Aug. 9: 4 p.m.,** concert by cellist Deborah Black.

**Friday, Aug. 14: 6 p.m.,** Summer Celebration Shabbat and Oneg. See page 6 for details.

**Sunday, Aug. 23: 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.,** an Israeli dancing program. See page 2 for details.

**Sunday, Aug. 30: 6 p.m.,** JCOGS' Annual Summer Barbecue and raffle drawing.

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