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**THANKSGIVING THOUGHTS . . .**  
**APPRECIATING THE BEAUTY OF GOD'S WORLD . . .**

Yes, we all know there are difficult / tragic events that are part of our world. Diseases, weather events, horrible accidents... you name it.

But there is also great beauty and joy in the world, and it is part of the reality and dichotomy of life that both are together.

In our Judaism, we have special blessings acknowledging the presence of God in the natural world. There is a special blessing for seeing a rainbow, for example. There is a blessing for seeing the ocean or magnificent mountains. There is a blessing for acknowledging new life and even one acknowledging the end of a life. One of my favorite blessings is acknowledging waking up for a new day after the "death" of sleep.

Earlier in October, Iris and I took a mini vacation to Acadia National Park in Bar Harbor, Maine. Acadia is the oldest national park in the eastern side of the United

States and, I read, the most visited of all America's national parks.

Magnificent views of mountains and the ocean, as well as the panorama of changing colors of leaves, were all around us. Each day the sun was brightly shining and that enhanced the beauty we were experiencing. However, even a cloudy day would have shown the park's beauty, and there is a different beauty to the park in the cold months of winter.

Some psalms in the Book of Psalms are well known; others are not. Psalm 104 is a paean to God's presence and power seen in the natural world. It is one of the longer psalms, and translations will vary a little but whatever translation you use, you will find the psalm ennobling and inspiring...

**RABBI GARY ATKINS**

**O LORD My God, You Are Very Great**

**104** Bless the LORD, O my soul!  
O LORD my God, you are very great!  
You are clothed with splendor and majesty,  
<sup>2</sup> covering yourself with light as with a garment,  
stretching out the heavens like a tent.  
<sup>3</sup> He lays the beams of his chambers on the waters;  
he makes the clouds his chariot; he rides on the wings of the wind;  
<sup>4</sup> he makes his messengers winds, his ministers a flaming fire.  
<sup>5</sup> He set the earth on its foundations, so that it should never be moved.  
<sup>6</sup> You covered it with the deep as with a garment;  
the waters stood above the mountains.  
<sup>7</sup> At your rebuke they fled;  
at the sound of your thunder they took to flight.  
<sup>8</sup> The mountains rose, the valleys sank down  
to the place that you appointed for them.  
<sup>9</sup> You set a boundary that they may not pass,  
so that they might not again cover the earth.  
<sup>10</sup> You make springs gush forth in the valleys;  
they flow between the hills;  
<sup>11</sup> they give drink to every beast of the field;  
the wild donkeys quench their thirst.  
<sup>12</sup> Beside them the birds of the heavens dwell;  
they sing among the branches.

<sup>13</sup> From your lofty abode you water the mountains;  
the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.  
<sup>14</sup> You cause the grass to grow for the livestock  
and plants for man to cultivate,  
that he may bring forth food from the earth  
<sup>15</sup> and wine to gladden the heart of man,  
oil to make his face shine  
and bread to strengthen man's heart.  
<sup>16</sup> The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly,  
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.  
<sup>17</sup> In them the birds build their nests;  
the stork has her home in the fir trees.  
<sup>18</sup> The high mountains are for the wild goats;  
the rocks are a refuge for the rock badgers.  
<sup>19</sup> He made the moon to mark the seasons;<sup>[a]</sup>  
the sun knows its time for setting.  
<sup>20</sup> You make darkness, and it is night,  
when all the beasts of the forest creep about.  
<sup>21</sup> The young lions roar for their prey,  
seeking their food from God.  
<sup>22</sup> When the sun rises, they steal away  
and lie down in their dens.  
<sup>23</sup> Man goes out to his work  
and to his labor until the evening.  
<sup>24</sup> O LORD, how manifold are your works!  
In wisdom have you made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures.

25 Here is the sea, great and wide,  
 which teems with creatures innumerable,  
 living things both small and great.  
 26 There go the ships, and Leviathan, which you formed  
 to play in it.  
 27 These all look to you,  
 to give them their food in due season.  
 28 When you give it to them, they gather it up;  
 when you open your hand, they are filled with good  
 things.  
 29 When you hide your face, they are dismayed;  
 when you take away their breath, they die  
 and return to their dust.

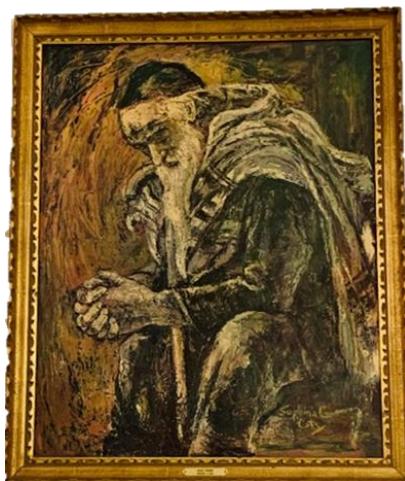
30 When you send forth your Spirit,<sup>ל</sup> they are created,  
 and you renew the face of the ground.  
 31 May the glory of the LORD endure forever;  
 may the LORD rejoice in his works,  
 32 who looks on the earth and it trembles,  
 who touches the mountains and they smoke!  
 33 I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;  
 I will sing praise to my God while I have being.  
 34 May my meditation be pleasing to him,  
 for I rejoice in the LORD.  
 35 Let sinners be consumed from the earth,  
 and let the wicked be no more!  
 Bless the LORD, O my soul!  
 Praise the LORD!



- > Dina Weber for her help with proofreading and mass mailings
- > Morgan Hallock for help with proofreading
- > Our Jewish Book Club Musketeers - Benay Birch, Ken Cohn, and Aida Koocher
- > Liz and Larry Eckman for our kitchen and bathroom supplies
- > Our Temple Board for meaningful online and in-person service options and activities
- > Jeff Klein for taking care of the myriad building issues
- > David Winthrop for maintaining our yahrzeit boards and Torahs
- > Michael Sydney for his continued efforts on behalf of the Manchester Hebrew Cemetery
- > The Singer/Sydney family for groundskeeping services
- > John Weber for his financial acumen and continued support
- > Carol Sternberg Chairperson of Kitchen Krew, Lunches and Gift Shop
- > Kiddush Krew - Benay Birch, Renee Brenner, Ken Cohn, Josh Nathan, Merle



We are grateful to Amy & Mitchell Weinberg generously donating 3 new highchairs - the best seats in the house!



Special thanks to Howard Gross for donating artwork for our Atrium. Come see them in person! Photos by Dixie Dame



**THE CHANUKAH GIFT SHOP IS OPEN!**



- Menorah Drip Dish - \$12
- Dove of Peace Menorah - \$30
- Tiled Menorah - \$25
- Candles - \$4
- Tzedaka Ball from Jerusalem - \$14
- Gelt, dreidels and tallit clips (not pictured).

# WE ARE GRATEFUL TO OUR MANY DONORS

## Thank You Kol Midre Donors!

Rabbi Gary & Iris Atkins  
Celine & Dustin Belanger  
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Karen Jacobs  
Josh Nathan & Christy Aberg  
Michelle Rosenthal & Jeff Klein  
Barbara & Harry Shepler  
Bernice Taube

## Memorial Tzedaka

Louis Allard in memory of Joseph Wainer  
Ken Cohn in memory of Sylvia Cohen  
Sandra Hoexter in memory of Gerda Hoexter  
Ruth Katz in memory of Rose Finn  
Barbara Novak Platt in memory of Leonard Novak  
Michelle Rosenthal in memory of Bernard Rosenthal  
Robert Thaler in memory of Morton & Esther Thaler

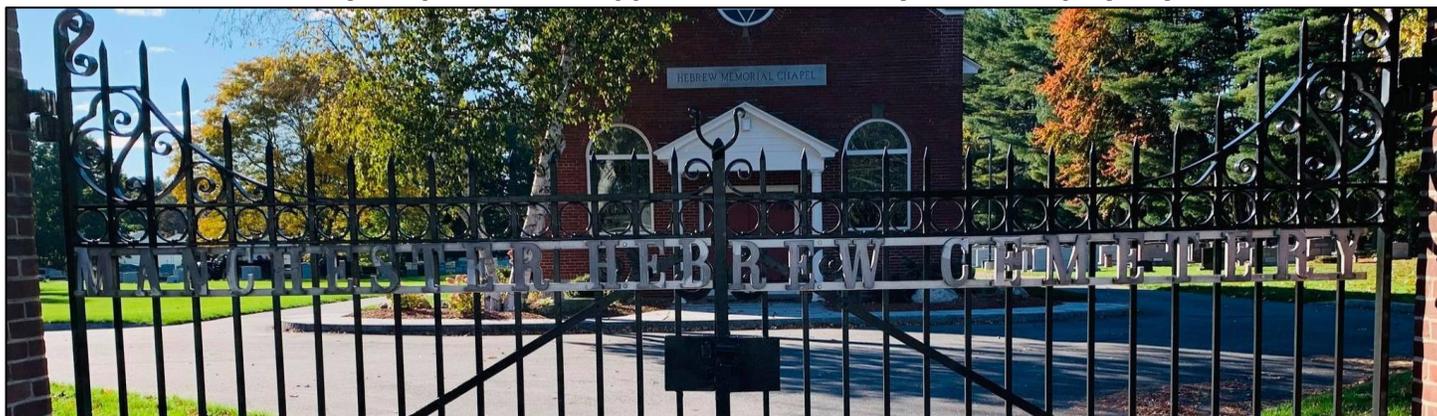
Renee Brenner in memory of Jennie Sidman  
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Ruth Katz in memory of Ben Perlman  
Gary Lindner in memory of Raymond Lindner  
Michele & David Plotkin in memory of Sally Plotkin  
Lillian & Stephen Singer in memory of Sidney J. Siegel

## Other Donations

Iris & Rabbi Gary Atkins in honor of Jeff Klein  
Brian Grodman for Deli Dinner in the Sukkot  
Bruce Harrison in memory of Toni Gasser  
Phyllis Levine in honor of Iris & Rabbi Gary Atkins  
Sedra Michaelson & Ron Deeter in honor of Steve Saulten

Iris & Rabbi Gary Atkins in honor of David Winthrop  
Ellen & Matthew Harrington in memory of Toni Gasser  
Judith Jolton in memory of Toni Gasser  
Sedra Michaelson & Ron Deeter in memory of Toni Gasser  
Cindi & Gary Singer for cemetery fence repairs

**Thank you to the Singer/Sydney family for commissioning work on the Hebrew Cemetery gate, which was sorely in need of repair. The results are beautiful!  
The cemetery is open 24/7, no appointment needed, you can stop by any time.**



Photograph by Dixie Dame



# The Chevra Kadisha of Central New Hampshire

by Ruth Chevion and Jeff Klein

The “Chevra Kadisha of Central New Hampshire” is called by this long name to distinguish it from three other holy societies in New Hampshire. There is one near the seacoast, one in Nashua, and one in Bethlehem New Hampshire. Each is a volunteer group committed to providing *tahara* for the people in its geographic area, or for the members of one specific temple.

There are about 300 such Chevraot in the United States and Canada. They all do essentially the same thing - they recruit and maintain a group of trained individuals, men for men and women for women, who know how to do the physical aspects of preparing a deceased person for burial. This includes washing in a particular way, dressing in white linen garments, saying prayers and psalms, placing in the wooden coffin, and closing the coffin on its wooden pegs.

The Chevra that serves Temple Israel also serves Temple Adath Yeshurun and Temple Beth Jacob, and will perform when called upon for Jews who are unaffiliated, whether in the central New Hampshire area or beyond. A *tahara* was once performed in a backyard by the women of this Chevra for a family that wanted the ritual done at their home.

But usually, *tahara* is performed in the preparation room of a funeral parlor. The cooperation of our local funeral homes is essential.

The Chevra Kadisha of Central New Hampshire currently has 14 members, with representation from all the local congregations. The group was initiated in 1998.

Our initial training was provided by the members of the long standing Chevra Kadisha at Temple Beth Abraham. That training consisted of day long demonstrations, explanations, and practice, followed by observation in their funeral home in Nashua.

After that, their members came to our first few *tahara* calls until we were ready to go on our own. We still maintain a mentor/mentee relationship to the Temple Beth Abraham Chevra Kadisha.

We are now doing our own training sessions for new members as they come in. We are always interested in

interviewing new members. What does it take? Basically we look for a certain *kavanah*, feeling, in our members. We don't ask people to keep strict kosher, or to be in temple every week, but we seek out individuals with a commitment to Jewish tradition and a willingness to look past what others might find uncomfortable, to provide this meaningful service to others and their families.

What can you expect as part of Chevra Kadisha? Basically it's being willing to drop everything when called. For example, Gary Singer told us an anecdote about his father Irving Singer z"l getting up in the middle of dinner, dropping everything when he was called to perform *tahara*.

We are not usually in such a hurry, but within a day or two of the call, members gather to do their duty to the deceased. Jeff Klein sends out texts to reach men. Ruth Chevion gathers the women. Ruth or Jeff coordinate with the family and the funeral director as far as setting the time ahead of the funeral. Our Chevra once reached out for a rabbinical ruling on whether to perform on *shmini atzeret*. *Tahara* may not be performed on Shabbat or holidays.

What else? *Tahara* is famously the only gift you give someone without getting any thanks. The deceased cannot thank us, and because the identities of the members is not public knowledge, we are not thanked by the family either. For some reason, not receiving thanks becomes part of the special joy of performing this mitzvah.

Once a year, on or about Adar 7, we celebrate the birthday of Moshe Rabbeinu, by meeting together, men and women, for a social event. We've been hosted in some beautiful homes. Last year it was dinner together at Piccola Italia Ristorante with spouses and partners of members, and what a good time we had. This year, we plan to show a movie at the Red River Theatre in Concord followed by discussion and refreshments.

Interested? Contact:

Jeff Klein ([jlklein@comcast.net](mailto:jlklein@comcast.net)) or

Ruth Chevion ([ruth@mcttelecom.com](mailto:ruth@mcttelecom.com)).



# Temple Israel Book Club

## by Benay Birch

September's book, "The Corner of Bitter and Sweet" was well received, however, the big excitement was October 6<sup>th</sup> at Temple Israel when Gigi Georges, PHD, presented live a review of her acclaimed book "Downeast" a non-fiction book visiting the life of Five Maine Girls and the Unseen Story of Rural America. Gigi vividly recounted her journey in writing the book and the stories of each girl and their success in life in a rural town.

Everyone enjoyed a stimulating and fun social Book Club Live event.

The Live Book Club events continue **December 15<sup>th</sup>** when Michael Davidow, Esquire and Writer will discuss his new novel, "the hunter of talyashevka."

Quoting parts of Monica West's review from *InDepthNH.org*,

**"The Hunter of Talyashevka** is a most interesting read. It is basically a story of the history of the Jewish faith within the confines of Russia in 1926. Author Michael Davidow draws on his very considerable knowledge of history and religion to tell the story of the Jews in Russia at that time and an American journalist who travels to Kiev in search of film locations."

Ms. West continues, "Michael Davidow was born in Boston and raised in Manchester. He graduated from the Johns Hopkins University and the University of Michigan School of Law. After working in both Boston and Washington, D.C., he returned to New Hampshire, where he practices criminal defense. He and his wife Catherine have one son."

Michael's previous novels are "Gate City, Split Thirty, The Rocketdyne Commission" about politics and advertising and "The Book of Order."

Mark your calendar now, **December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM**, you won't want to miss this **Live** Book Club meeting at Temple Israel moderated by Michael himself! And, yes, there will be desserts and coffee for everyone!!

We will be back to Zoom on November 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 to discuss Pulitzer Prize Winner Richard Russo's book, "Chances Are...." the story of three men who had gone

to college together and now in their late 60's gathering on Martha's Vineyard to revisit each other. On the minds of each of these friends is an incident on Memorial Day Weekend forty-five years ago. Mr. Russo's novel holds lies, secrets and a missing friend's ghostly presence. Set in a time many of us will remember, it brings back moments of your own life. You will definitely enjoy "Chances Are...."

January 2022, Rabbi Gary has recommended "If All The Seas Were Ink: A Memoir" by Ilana Kershan. Ms. Kershan is the:

**\*\*WINNER** of the 2018 Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature and the 2018 Sophie Brody Medal for achievement in Jewish literature\*\*

**\*\*2018 Natan Book Award Finalist\*\***

**\*\*Finalist for the 2017 National Jewish Book Award in Women's Studies**

This memoir is a tale of heartache and humor, of love and loss, of marriage and motherhood, and of learning to put one foot in front of the other by reading a page of Talmud every day.

Rabbi Gary will be moderating. Be sure to check for the date in January 2022.

As always, you don't have to have read the book to join us as you will learn about them as we meet and quite often get off topic just having a wonderful time being together!

If you have any recommendations or questions, or want to participate, don't hesitate to please contact any of us:

### Questions? Please contact:

Ken Cohn: [newbegin04@yahoo.com](mailto:newbegin04@yahoo.com)

Aida Koocher: [akoocher@comcast.net](mailto:akoocher@comcast.net)

Benay Birch: [benay.a.birch@gmail.com](mailto:benay.a.birch@gmail.com)

# November

CHESVAN 26 TO KISLEV 26

Happy Anniversary to Sheryl & Dennis Hammond – Nov 9 – 46 years

## Happy Birthday to

Nov 2 - Elana Bannerman  
 Nov 13 - Michael Sydney  
 Nov 17 - Stephen Borofsky  
 Nov 23 - Sophia DePasse  
 Nov 29 - Louise Allard

Nov 2 - Elias Reed Weinberg  
 Nov 16 - Maureen DeLeasa  
 Nov 17 - Amy Weinberg  
 Nov 25 - Jonas Welch

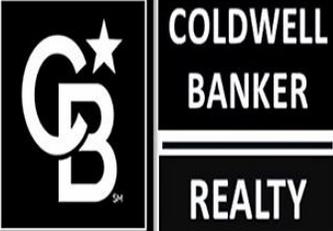
Nov 2 - Rafaela Zeballos  
 Nov 16 - Ami Kilchevsky  
 Nov 20 - Dina Weber  
 Nov 26 - Michael Davidow

Note: The calendar below is subject to change. Please watch you email and mail, visit our website at [www.templeisraelmht.org](http://www.templeisraelmht.org) or call the office for updates to our upcoming events and services.

NOVEMBER						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Chesvan 26	2 Chesvan 27 Rabbi Gary's Adult Ed On Zoom	3 Chesvan 28	4 Chesvan 29	5 Kislev 1 6:00pm Family Shabbat	6 Kislev 2
					Candles - 5:14pm	Toldot
7 Kislev 3 Hebrew School - 9:30am DST ends set clocks back	8 Kislev 4	9 Kislev 5	10 Kislev 6 Book Club Zoom Meeting 4:30pm	11 Kislev 7	12 Kislev 8 Office Closed	13 Kislev 9 Shabbat Service with Kiddush Lunch 10:00am
					Candles - 4:06pm	Vayetzei
14 Kislev 10 Hebrew School - 9:30am Kibbitz & Cooking 10:00am	15 Kislev 11	16 Kislev 12	17 Kislev 13	18 Kislev 14	19 Kislev 15 6:00pm Shabbat Service	20 Kislev 16
					Candles 4:00opm	Vayishlach
21 Kislev 17 Hebrew School - 9:30am	22 Kislev 18	23 Kislev 19	24 Kislev 20	25 Kislev 21 Thanksgiving office closed	26 Kislev 22 Office Closed	27 Kislev 23
					Candles 3:56pm	Vayeshev
28 Kislev 24 Erev Chanukah First Candle No Hebrew School	29 Kislev 25 Day 1 Chanukah Two Candles	30 Kislev 26 Day 2 Chanukah Three Candles				



Thinking of buying or selling your home?  
 Contact fellow Temple Israel member  
 and local REALTOR® Céline Belanger.  
 Cell: 310-500-5702  
 Office: 603.471.0777  
[Celine.Belanger@NEMoves.com](mailto:Celine.Belanger@NEMoves.com)



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