

# XHIBITION

Passage to Israel – Berkshire Jewish Voice – Summer 2017 – Readership: 6,250

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## Berkshire JEWISH VOICE

A publication of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, serving the Berkshires and surrounding NY, CT and VT

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### Challenges for the Marginalized in Israel

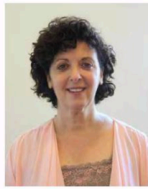
Tova Hartman on Social Action at the August 11 Knosh & Knowledge

**GREAT BARRINGTON** – On Friday, August 11, Knosh & Knowledge hosts Professor Tova Hartman, a scholar, author and social entrepreneur. She currently serves as the Dean of Humanities at Ono Academic College, a model of multicultural, practical and interdisciplinary programming and education-based social reform, as well as the fastest growing institute of higher education in Israel.

The Jewish Federation of the Berkshires program will take place at Hines of Southern Berkshire at 10:45 a.m., and will be followed by lunch. The topic will be “Shared Societal Challenges and Opportunities of Multiculturalism in Israel.” To preview some of the themes of her talk, Professor Hartman kindly shared the following op-ed with the JBV.

By Tova Hartman / Special to the JBV

On July 4, a day that has become almost universally synonymous with independence, I had the great honor of conferring bachelor's degrees in education upon a sea of eager undergraduates at Ono Academic College. Among them were 100 female Arab students who had taken specialized courses that would allow them to develop inclusive educational programming and assist youth at risk across the country. Hard fought, this academic certification provided these exceptional women with life-altering opportunities and empowered them to write new chapters in their lives and improve the lives of countless others.



Tova Hartman

Like many of our students, these Arab women had faced a long road before finding their way into our classrooms, a gauntlet of cultural, social, and political challenges. Lucky for us (all of us), they never gave up hope and found the strength to overcome every obstacle. As they grew the stage, triumphantly accepting their diploma one by one, many with children in tow, I realized in the knowledge that our society and educational system was now so much richer.

One hundred new, dynamic educators. One hundred erudite and productive members of society. A stunning victory for diversity in the classroom and beyond.

But while stories like these buoy the spirit and reaffirm our faith in the possibility of a harmonious multicultural society, the reality is that the average Israeli university is far from diverse and our higher education system is less than accessible to under-represented populations.

**HARTMAN KNOSH**, continued on page 3

### Passage to Israel

A visual documentary into the untold stories of Israel



Passage to Israel is a 2016 book of images of Israel that depicts the country's diverse nature, culture, sites, and individuals taken by more than 35 photographers (including Ilan Greenberg, whose photo of a flock of pelicans appears above). An exhibit of images from the book was on view this July in Jerusalem, and will tour cities across the world, including Toronto and Montreal, Melbourne and Sydney, and London, Berlin, and Barcelona. Please see page 24 for a selection of images and visit [www.passage2israel.org](http://www.passage2israel.org) – the photos are spectacular.

### Thanks Again for Your Support!

Hundreds turn out for annual meeting and major donors event

Thank you to everyone who attended two of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires' most important annual events, both in Lenox – our annual meeting at the Seven Hills Inn and the Major Donors Breakfast at Cranwell Resort, Spa, & Golf Club. Hundreds of enthusiastic supporters packed both venues, showing support for our work building and sustaining Jewish community in this beautiful part of the world. For more on both events, please see pages 12-13.



Attendees arrived at the Seven Hills Inn on a beautiful evening for Federation's annual meeting (left), while our Major Donors Breakfast, co-chaired Marilyn and Zevy Kozman (above) showed a message of resilience.

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### Maimonides Society Meeting

Professor Alfred Ivy to talk about Maimonides the physician

**LENOX** – On Sunday, August 20 at 10 a.m., the Maimonides Society of the Berkshires, organized under the auspices of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, will hold its fourth annual meeting, this year at the Lenox Community Center at 60 Walker Street.

The featured speaker will be Alfred Ivy, Professor Emeritus of Jewish and Islamic philosophy at NYU and author of *Maimonides: Guide of the Perplexed: A Philosophical Guide* (2016), whose topic will be “Maimonides as Physician of the Body and the Soul.” All health care professionals working in or visiting the Berkshires are invited to this networking event – no funds will be solicited, and a bagels and lox breakfast will be served.

**MAIMONIDES SOCIETY**, continued on page 3

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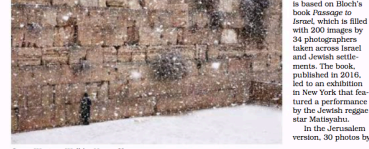
### CULTURE AND ARTS

### These Photos Capture Israel's Beauty and Diversity

By Andrew Tobin / JVA

**JERUSALEM (JVA)** – When the world sees photographs of Israel, they are often accompanied by reports of conflict and violence. But a photo exhibition that opened in June at the Jerusalem Theater aims to capture the country in a more flattering light. The images, which were on display through July, show Israel's people and geography from a variety of angles – from flocks of birds descending on the Hula Valley to a little boy carrying a rainbow flag.

"I wanted to do something beautiful that would display the country's inherent diversity," said Karen Leberman Bloch, the exhibition's American co-curator. "I'm not trying to beauty-wash Israel. I just think everyone has already seen enough of the conflict."



Snare Western Wall by Noam Chom



View of Pithulim by Amnon Younis (This mostly Arab city is near Afeka-Gilboa, the region connected to this Federation through the Jewish Agency's Partnership/Joint program)



View of Yaffo by Mario Prosser  
21 photographers were on display. Kara Meyer, the other co-curator, added two images by a young Arab-Israeli photographer to the exhibition, which otherwise is dedicated to the work of Jewish Israelis.

Bloch plans to show the photos next in Tel Aviv and elsewhere in Israel, and then on an international tour. More photos from the book can be found at the "Passage to Israel" website at [www.passage2israel.org](http://www.passage2israel.org).

### Summer Music Celebration Connects Jewish and African American Cultures

MassMOCA performance to feature young dancers and music mavens

**NORTH ADAMS** – A Summer Celebration of Jewish Music wraps up this year with a melding of Jewish and African American sounds and movement at MassMOCA. Musicians, singers, and dancers will join together to respond to Nick Cave's monumental installation "until," which addresses issues of gun violence, gun control policy, race relations, and gender politics in America today.

This event takes place on Thursday, August 17 at 8:30 p.m., and is free with regular admission to MassMOCA.

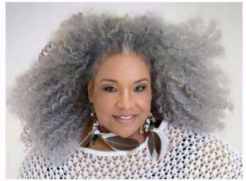
Charmist Paul Green (co-director of the annual Celebration series, along with Cantor Bob Scherer) says the idea for this event hatched when he participated in Knoset Israel's "Artist's Torah" program last year. "Artist's Torah" invited creative individuals working in a variety of styles to create work in reaction to the passage of scripture in the Book of Exodus where Moses tells the Children of Israel they are about to "go forth" toward the "Promised Land."

"My response," says Green, "was to go forth into the African American community." Green had been immersed in a jazz/klezmer fusion project with his band Two Worlds, in which he explored the historic alliances between African American and Jewish American music. He also had a strong response to Nick Cave's installation when he visited MassMOCA last fall, around the time of "Artist's Torah."

Green says he reached out (along with 81 member Jane Rosen) to local African American activist Shirley Edgerston, director of the Youth Alive step, dance, and drumming performance group in Pittsfield. Founded in 1995, Youth Alive provides arts and educational opportunities to young people 8 to 18 years old, teaching dance forms that include step, African dance, and hip-hop, with dancers backed by a band and bucket drummers.

Green says Youth Alive members were invited to "Artist's Torah" last November, and danced the hora at NJ. The relationship continued, and this summer Jane Rosen has coached Youth Alive dancers and young people from the Jewish community for the August 17 performance.

Joining Green and the dancers will be tuba player Eli Newberger and blues and gospel great Wanda Houston, who will sing the classic spiritual "We Shall Overcome." Also on hand will be local NAACP director of the Youth Alive



Shirley Edgerston  
tor Dennis Powell. The setting will be Nick Cave's provocative "until," which comprises "16,000 wind spinner, millions of plastic pony beads, thousands of ceramic beads, fruits, and animals; 13 gilded pages; more than 10 miles of crystals; 28 chandeliers; 1 crocodile; and 17 real-onion loam jockeys."

Says Green: "With 'Resilience' in the air, this was a good way to get cultural strands will be put together."

MassMOCA is at 1040 MASS MoCA Way in downtown North Adams. For more information, please call 413 662-2111 or visit [www.massmoca.org](http://www.massmoca.org). This event is co-sponsored by MassMOCA and a Summer Celebration of Jewish Music.

Link to clip: [https://issuu.com/jewishfederationoftheberkshires/docs/berkiv\\_july\\_17-web](https://issuu.com/jewishfederationoftheberkshires/docs/berkiv_july_17-web)