



Jewish Federation[®]
OF WESTERN CONNECTICUT

*Candle
Lighting*
7:17 PM

Shabbat

Shalom



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DONATE TODAY!

Antisemitism and Jewish Pride at UConn

It has not been an easy year for Jewish students at the University of Connecticut. There have been seven documented cases of Antisemitism in this academic year alone. As we know, there is more than one virus affecting our society. But when four such incidents occurred over Passover a couple of weeks ago, UConn Hillel

students decided that they needed to take immediate and public action.

Last week, UConn Hillel students, ably assisted by Hillel's terrific professional leadership, put together a Solidarity Gathering on campus to make sure that the University as a whole understood the magnitude of the problem. UConn President Tom Katsouleas spoke at the Gathering in support of the Jewish students. In addition, many non-Jewish students, including leaders of the Undergraduate Student Government, joined the program to denounce the proliferation of hatred targeting Jews. This is as it should be. After all, communities are not judged by whether bad actions occur, but by how the community responds to these bad actions. The Hillel students know that they have allies on campus. That's important.

Still, the majority of the speakers were Jewish students, most of whom were Hillel board members or leaders of Huskies for Israel. Some focused on the shock associated with the repeated manifestations of Antisemitism. Some noted that for the first time they were scared on campus. Some reminded the audience that Hillel and the Jewish community are always there for others who experience discrimination or are the targets of hate. Some talked about Jewish values. Some addressed the unfair treatment Israel receives. Some highlighted a set of very specific action steps that students will be recommending to the University Administration in response to Antisemitism on campus.

But, whatever the specific message, all the students spoke eloquently, bravely, and with great pride in being Jewish. I was the Interim Executive Director for UConn Hillel during the last academic year. I know these students well and think the world of them. During last year's Hillel Board orientation, I told the student leaders that being Jewish on a college campus was more difficult for them than it was for students of my generation. I noted that, as Jewish student leaders, they would have to be brave and smart and have the confidence to stand up for themselves when necessary. Because I knew these students, I also told them that I had total confidence that they would rise to any challenge that they may face.

Neither the students nor I anticipated that repeated incidents of Antisemitism would be the challenge that they would be called upon to face. However, their response in organizing the Solidarity Gathering and in articulating the concerns of Jewish students on campus showed that they are more than up to the challenge. I hope these students understand that the Jewish community across Connecticut is very proud of them and will continue to support them.



Contact Gary Jones:
gjones@jfed.net or
203-267-3177 Ext. #304

OUR UPCOMING EVENTS

4 DAYS TO GO!



The Jewish Federation of Western Connecticut is preparing for its participation in the ninth annual,
"Give Local Greater Waterbury & Litchfield Hills Fundraising Campaign."

This year's 36-hour fundraising campaign starts at 7:00 AM on April 20th and continues until 7:00 pm on April 21st. During that period you will have the chance to support the Jewish Federation of

Western Connecticut by making a donation through the Give Local link.

**The link below will be available starting at
7 am on April 20th.**

Click here for our Give Local link at the appropriate time!

Your donation is like planting a garden. Each donation is a seed that we will plant and watch it grow. Each seed represents the growth of how we can contribute to our community. Your support of The Jewish Federation, whether in connection with the Give Local event or at any other time, allows the Federation to continue its work of addressing the educational, social, spiritual, and physical needs of the Jewish community in Western and Northwestern Connecticut, in Israel and around the world, as well as responding to the needs of our friends and neighbors of all faiths that reside in our catchment area.

Listed below are some tips on how we can make our garden grow.

Southbury's Kick Start

\$1,000

Awarded to the Southbury organization with gifts from the most unique donors between 7-10 AM on April 20.

Sponsored by Southbury Community Trust Fund

Double Down

\$500

The first 5 organizations to inspire a single gift of \$500 will be doubled.

Sponsored by Post University

Southbury Grows

\$1,000

Awarded to the Southbury organization that sees the largest percentage growth in dollars raised compared to Give Local 2020.

Sponsored by Southbury Community Trust Fund

All donations are tax-deductible and the donor will instantly receive a receipt for the contribution.

**FLY WITH US OVER ISRAEL!
SUNDAY, APRIL 18 AT 2:30PM**

**The Southern New England Consortium—SNEC
& Partnership 2gether with Afula-Gilboa present**

Fly With Us Over Israel!

Sunday, April 18 | 2:30 pm



Join our Afula Gilboa partnership friends for an aerial flight over Israel with retired Israel Air Force pilot Lieutenant Colonel Alon Moller - in honor of Yom Haatzmaut - Israel's Birthday! Now a professional tour guide, Alon will show us an amazing birdseye view of the land and share the story of Israel through the lens of his family's journey.

REGISTER HERE!

**VIRTUAL LOVE&KNISHES
WITH AIRBORNE TRIO
ON APRIL 22 at 3PM!**



Join us virtually on Thursday, April 22 at 3:00 o'clock. The trio is a multi-cultural jazz group that will take us on a festive journey of music and dance.

Airborne has a trademark sound of Island Passion and Urban Emotion Music of Yesterday and Today - Variety of Songs, Styles and Genres Musical Journey to Cities and Places in the USA and the World - Cultural - Vibrant - Fun

RSVP HERE!

**NEFEESH MOUNTAIN TO PERFORM IN
FREE ONLINE CONCERT AT UNITED
JEWISH CENTER OF DANBURY
Sunday, April 24, 2021 - 3pm**



The United Jewish Center

141 Deer Hill Avenue, Danbury, CT 06810

Phone: 203.748.3355 Fax: 203.790.1448

E-mail: office@unitedjewishcenter.org

www.unitedjewishcenter.org

PRESS RELEASE

NEFESH MOUNTAIN TO PERFORM IN FREE ONLINE CONCERT AT
UNITED JEWISH CENTER OF DANBURY
SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2021 – 3 pm



The United Jewish Center of Danbury will present Nefesh Mountain, one of the first bluegrass/Americana bands to openly represent Jewish American culture, tradition, values, and spirituality in the world of American roots music.

Nefesh Mountain is the place where Bluegrass, Old-Time, and American Roots music meet with Jewish heritage and tradition. Creators, band leaders and husband and wife team Doni Zasloff and Eric Lindberg are the heart of this eclectic offering, pioneering a new world of American culture which seamlessly blends their deep love for American and Western musical forms with their own cultural backgrounds as Jewish Americans.

The concert is free, sponsored by the UJC Robert S. Young Fund.

Registration is required.

Click here to register in advance:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEpcuiuqz0jHdl5D1jws9_E_smo2Tnd_XDV4

SPECIAL SPEAKER SERIES PRESENTATION, THURSDAY, APRIL 29 – 4:00 PM Southbury vs the Nazis

**“WHEN SOUTHBURY SAID NO TO
THE NAZIS!” – TWO SHORT FILMS
AND A PANEL DISCUSSION.**

*The premier of these films in Southbury
was so overwhelmingly popular, the*

venue had to be moved to the High School Auditorium, which holds 900 and many were still turned away.



In light of recent events in our country, this presentation is more relevant than ever before. Co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Western CT, Temple B'nai Israel Southbury and The Greater Washington Coalition for Jewish Life, these two short films that honor the 75th Anniversary of when Southbury said no to the Nazis will be shown, followed by a panel discussion.

In 2012, a group of Southbury town leaders, including Ed Edelson (First Selectman from 2011 to 2014), Rabbi Eric Polokoff, Temple B'nai Israel Southbury and Reverend Shannon Wall, South Britain Congregational Church, Southbury, commissioned a documentary on this very important moment in Connecticut history. The documentary includes two short films, "*Home of the Brave*" and "*Honoring the Brave*." The introduction of the films will be given by Rabbi Eric Polokoff and Rev. Shannon Wall (producer).

Following the films, a panel discussion will include Rabbi Eric Polokoff, Reverend Shannon Wall, Ed Edelson, Rabbi James Greene, Greater Washington Coalition for Jewish Life and Gary Jones, Executive Director, Jewish Federation of Western Connecticut.

Home of the Brave: This film was produced to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the people of Southbury peacefully mobilizing to stop the German-American Bund (a Nazi-inspired organization) from building its largest youth training camp just south of what is now Exit 15 on Interstate 84. Combining original source documents and oral history, the film recites an inspiring story of how the events unfolded, the bravery of the town's leaders and the commitment of this small farming community to say (in today's language) "Hate has no home here!"

Honoring the Brave: This documentary has additional oral history as well as the emotional response of the community.

As a result of the documentary, the story came to the attention of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and is included in the major exhibit, "*Americans and the Holocaust*," that opened in April 2018. When asked about the story, Museum Curator Rebecca Erbelding said, "that in all their research, Southbury was the only town to stand up against the German-American Bund."

This event is virtual and free. To pre-register and get the Zoom link, email jewishlifect@gmail.com or call Sally Talarico at 860-868-2434.

LEGACY HERITAGE FUND CAMPERSHIP INCENTIVE PROGRAM

We are delighted to announce Legacy Heritage Fund has established an incentive program at Camp Laurelwood and Ramah Sports Academy for new campers for two summers, starting in summers 2021 and 2022. This incentive program is for campers from smaller Jewish communities, and includes the Western CT Jewish Federation area! The program's goal is to enrich children's Jewish learning and identity by giving them the opportunity to attend camps with strong Jewish content and programming.

The incentive program provides a \$1500 grant to new campers entering 4th-10th grade for two summers! This is in addition to campership grants provided by the Jewish Federation of Western Connecticut, as well as first-time camper grants, or any other discounts or assistance the camps provide.

For more information, contact the camps directly at info@camplaurelwood.org or info@ramahsport.org

DONATE TO THE FEDERATION TODAY!



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**DONATE TODAY -
IN CHALLENGING TIMES
WE ARE GRANDER TOGETHER**

With the uncertainty in our world it is imperative
now more than ever that we join together as a
Foundation of strength for each other.

Please consider a donation today. Our
Federation may be closed nonetheless we are
still working. Working to support our community.



DONATE TODAY!



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**The Jewish Federation
of Western CT
444 Main Street North
Southbury, CT 06488**



**DONATE
TODAY**

The Jewish Federation Of Western Connecticut | 444 Main Street North, Southbury, CT 06488

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with

