



Response to Political Banner Containing Swastikas Displayed in Southbury

The following message is issued jointly by Gary Jones on behalf of the Jewish Federation of Western Connecticut and Rabbi Eric Polokoff on behalf of B'nai Israel Southbury:

The Jewish Federation of Western Connecticut and B'nai Israel Southbury commend the Southbury Board of Selectmen for its bipartisan statement condemning the use of swastikas on a political banner displayed briefly over the weekend. The display of a swastika to make a partisan political point is not only morally wrong, it trivializes the Holocaust and the suffering of the Jewish people brought about by Nazi Germany and its collaborators. As the Board of Selectmen's statement notes, Southbury has a celebrated history of opposing Nazism and the hate that it represents. By forcefully speaking out against the use of the swastika and other symbols of hate, the Town has added a new chapter to that celebrated history.



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Below is the Board of Selectmen's Statement:

The Board of Selectmen has been informed that a group of protestors at Playhouse Corner displayed a swastika on Saturday, July 24, 2021. We are saddened and disturbed to learn that this has occurred in our town. Southbury has a rich history of opposition to the Nazi symbol and what it stands for. The display of a swastika or similar symbols of hate, which are a false analogy to the reality of the Holocaust, have no place in Southbury. Displays such as this cheapen the memory of the millions of lives lost and ignore the trauma that lasts for generations. While our Board certainly respects the right of protestors to assemble peacefully and speak freely on topics of interest to them, we condemn in the strongest possible terms the use of any symbols of hate to do so. The display of a swastika in the Town of Southbury is contrary to everything we believe in as a community. Our Board stands strongly against hate and bigotry in all its forms, and together with all those in our community who expect and deserve to know that their elected leaders will work together to ensure that all people feel safe in Southbury.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE - DONATE TODAY!

UPCOMING FEDERATION EVENTS!



WEDNESDAY
4
AUGUST

"A WONDERFUL WORLD"
Fee: \$18.00

RSVP HERE!



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



6:30PM



Come join us for an evening of
Louie Armstrong's music
performed by Larry Gareau
Quartet on Wednesday,
August 4, 2021.

Doors open at 6:30pm for light

refreshments and music starts at 7pm.



Return, Live and In-Person.



THURSDAY
5
AUGUST

She has performed roles with Connecticut Lyric Opera and Opera Oggi in New York City. She is currently the soloist for the First Church of Christ Science, in Southbury, CT. Meg is also a board-certified music therapist with a private practice in Southbury and the Northwest Corner of Connecticut.

The program will consist of Operatic Arias, American Art Songs, Popular songs from the Thirties and Forties, and a few favorite Patriotic Songs for all to sing.

[RSVP HERE](#)



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



12PM



Please join us for a box lunch on with musical performance by Meg Capen Accompanied by Dawn Marie Conroy!

Meg Capen, a classically trained mezzo soprano who has studied with such prominent teachers as Antonia Lavanne, from the Mannes School of Music, Maestro Ubaldo Fabbri, and Dalton Baldwin. Meg has enjoyed a professional singing career performing in Europe, New York and throughout New England, giving performances in vocal solo recitals, oratorio and operatic performances.

SAVE THE DATE!



Sunday, October 3, 2021-Annual Campaign Kick-off Breakfast

9:30 AM, Jewish Federation of Western CT - 444 Main Street North, Southbury 06488



Wednesday, October 27 - Women's Philanthropy Luncheon

Time TBD - Jewish Federation of Western CT - 444 Main Street North, Southbury 06488

Chailights

We are proud to announce a new section that will occasionally be included in our weekly e-blast called “Chailights”. The purpose of Chailights is to showcase the variety of ways your Federation impacts the various institutions and communities in Western and Northwestern Connecticut. Your support of the Federation enables us to build partnerships and support so many important endeavors. In this section, we hope to give you a greater understanding of the value of your support.



SUMMER FUN AT FLANDERS!

Photo on the right: Vince LaFontan, Executive Director of Flanders Nature Center and Land Trust with Gary Jones, Executive Director of Jewish Federation of Western CT

As part of our ongoing effort to support local nonprofit institutions, the Jewish Federation of Western Connecticut is pleased to have provided a grant to help fund camperships for 23 young learners attending Flanders Nature Center and Land Trust's popular summer camp and academy series. At the summer camp and academy, children can explore nature, art, agriculture, and ecology in a fun, healthy, and stimulating outdoor environment. From farming fun to outdoor explorations, art adventures, or creative cooking, Flanders' summer camp offers more than 60 programs to keep children ages 3 to 13 educated and entertained! We consider Flanders Nature Center and Land Trust to be an amazing place and we are thrilled to be able to help make sure that children from all backgrounds can experience its incredible summer programs.

DONATE TODAY!



Jewish Federation[®]
OF WESTERN CONNECTICUT

**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!

**COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS
FOR 2021-2022 ACADEMIC YEAR**



The College Scholarship Applications for 2021-2022 the academic year is now available on our website.

There are a limited number of scholarships that will be awarded. Please click on the button below to be directed to the College Scholarship Application form.

[Click here for the Scholarship Application](#)

DEBORAH LIPSTADT, NOTED HOLOCAUST HISTORIAN, IS BIDEN'S PICK FOR ANTISEMITISM ENVOY



Deborah Lipstadt, the renowned Holocaust historian, is the author of the forthcoming book "Antisemitism Here and Now." (Osnat Perelshtein)

WASHINGTON (JTA) — President Joe Biden is set to nominate Deborah Lipstadt, the Emory University Holocaust historian, to be the State Department's antisemitism envoy.

The White House alerted top Biden supporters of the pick, which has been expected for weeks, on Thursday night, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency has learned.

Lipstadt is perhaps best known for defeating Holocaust denier David Irving after he sued her in a British court for defamation for calling him a Holocaust denier. Her 2005 book, “History on Trial: My Day in Court with a Holocaust Denier,” was made into a 2016 movie with Rachel Weisz starring as Lipstadt.

Lipstadt, 74, has been for years a go-to expert for the media and for legislators on Holocaust issues, particularly on how the genocide’s meaning should be understood in the 21st century, and whether it had any cognates among anti-democratic forces in the current day. She twice endorsed Barack Obama for president but has been on call for her expertise across the political spectrum. Last year, during the election, she broke a longstanding taboo on comparing present-day American politicians to the Nazis and endorsed an ad by the Jewish Democratic Council of America likening the Trump administration to 1930s Germany. Lipstadt said Holocaust analogies were still off-limits, but she could see parallels to the rise of the Nazis.

“I would say in the attacks we’re seeing on the press, the courts, academic institutions, elected officials and even, and most chillingly, the electoral process, that this deserves comparison,” she said at the time. referring to the JDCA ad. “It’s again showing how the public’s hatred can be whipped up against Jews. Had the ad contained imagery of the Shoah, I wouldn’t be here today.”

Jewish organizations, alarmed by a spike in antisemitism, have been pressing the Biden administration to name an envoy and to name a Jewish liaison to the community — another post that White House officials said would be filled soon. The Trump administration took two years to name an envoy.

Lipstadt will be the first nominee who will need to be confirmed by the Senate since Congress first created the position in 2004. Congress last year elevated the role to ambassador-level, granting the position more funding and easier access to the secretary of state and the president. If Lipstadt is confirmed, she will be the fifth person in the position.

The antisemitism monitor’s role is tracking and reporting on the phenomenon overseas, and lobbying governments to address anti-Jewish bigotry within their borders. The position does not have a domestic role, although Elan Carr, Trump’s appointee, sometimes criticized domestic actors, including J Street, the liberal Jewish Middle East policy group. His attack on J Street drew a rare rebuke from one of his predecessors, Hannah Rosenthal.

BY RON KAMPEAS

WEEKLY WISDOM



**THOU SHALT NOT BE A
VICTIM, THOU SHALT NOT BE
A PERPETRATOR, BUT ABOVE
ALL, THOU SHALT NOT BE
A BYSTANDER.**

Yehuda Bauer, Israeli scholar



Jewish Federation of Western CT - www.jfed.net

