



Candle Lighting
8:13pm

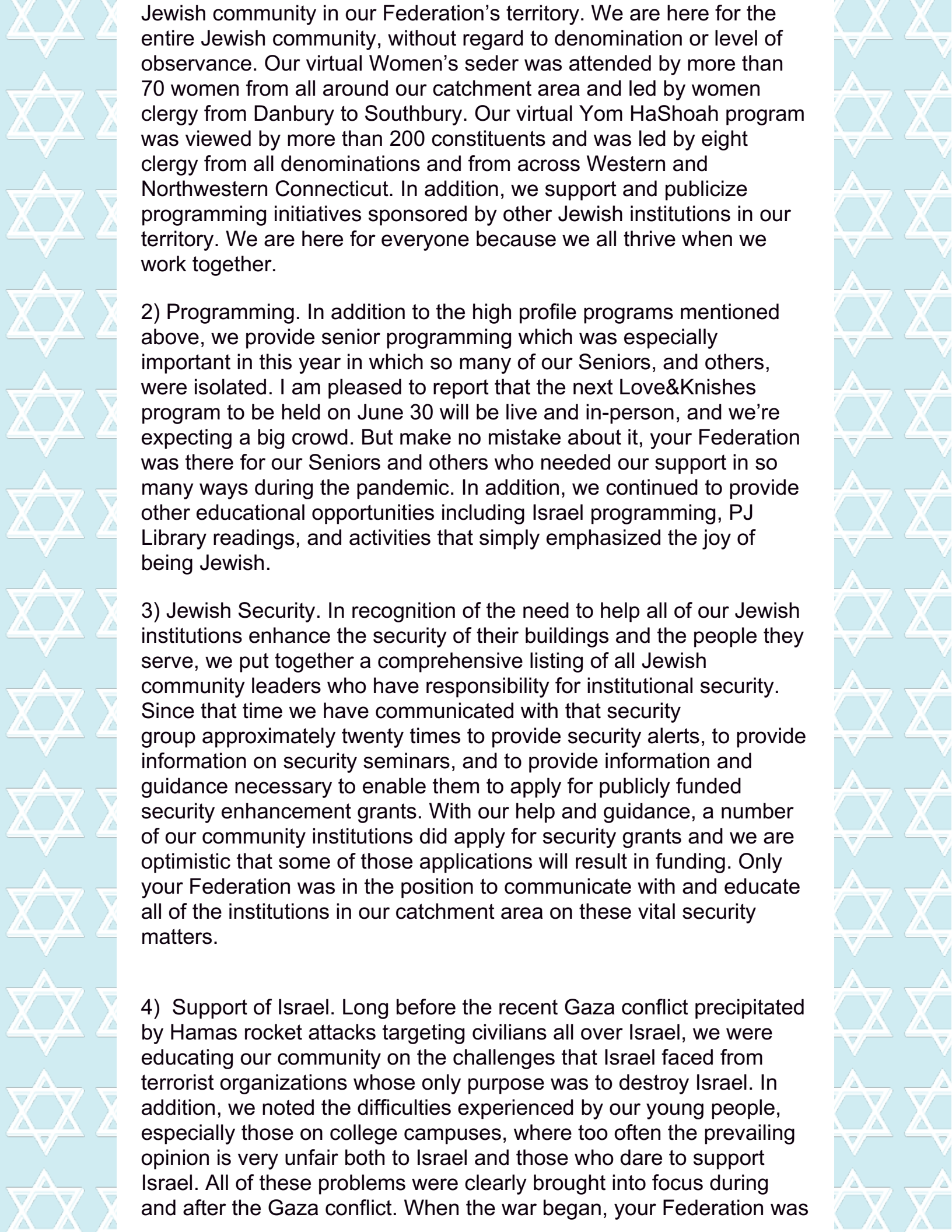


Dear Federation Members and Friends,

I wanted to remind you that our fiscal year ends on Wednesday, June 30. For those of you who have already contributed to the Federation during this fiscal year, we thank you. For those who have not yet had the chance to support us for this year, please consider doing so now, either by clicking [HERE](#) or by sending a check to: Jewish Federation of Western Connecticut, 444 Main Street North, Southbury CT 06488.

Your Federation is the home office and lead voice of the Jewish community in Western and Northwestern Connecticut. As such, we support and stand up for the Jewish community and all of the people of Western and Northwestern Connecticut in big and small ways throughout the year. Even during this horrible pandemic, your Federation has been working in every way possible to serve the needs of our community. Here are a few examples of how we benefit our catchment area, even in the age of COVID.

1) Unifying Force. We bring together and unite all aspects of the



Jewish community in our Federation's territory. We are here for the entire Jewish community, without regard to denomination or level of observance. Our virtual Women's seder was attended by more than 70 women from all around our catchment area and led by women clergy from Danbury to Southbury. Our virtual Yom HaShoah program was viewed by more than 200 constituents and was led by eight clergy from all denominations and from across Western and Northwestern Connecticut. In addition, we support and publicize programming initiatives sponsored by other Jewish institutions in our territory. We are here for everyone because we all thrive when we work together.

2) Programming. In addition to the high profile programs mentioned above, we provide senior programming which was especially important in this year in which so many of our Seniors, and others, were isolated. I am pleased to report that the next Love&Knishes program to be held on June 30 will be live and in-person, and we're expecting a big crowd. But make no mistake about it, your Federation was there for our Seniors and others who needed our support in so many ways during the pandemic. In addition, we continued to provide other educational opportunities including Israel programming, PJ Library readings, and activities that simply emphasized the joy of being Jewish.

3) Jewish Security. In recognition of the need to help all of our Jewish institutions enhance the security of their buildings and the people they serve, we put together a comprehensive listing of all Jewish community leaders who have responsibility for institutional security. Since that time we have communicated with that security group approximately twenty times to provide security alerts, to provide information on security seminars, and to provide information and guidance necessary to enable them to apply for publicly funded security enhancement grants. With our help and guidance, a number of our community institutions did apply for security grants and we are optimistic that some of those applications will result in funding. Only your Federation was in the position to communicate with and educate all of the institutions in our catchment area on these vital security matters.

4) Support of Israel. Long before the recent Gaza conflict precipitated by Hamas rocket attacks targeting civilians all over Israel, we were educating our community on the challenges that Israel faced from terrorist organizations whose only purpose was to destroy Israel. In addition, we noted the difficulties experienced by our young people, especially those on college campuses, where too often the prevailing opinion is very unfair both to Israel and those who dare to support Israel. All of these problems were clearly brought into focus during and after the Gaza conflict. When the war began, your Federation was

quick to issue a statement proclaiming our support for Israel and concern for all victims of the fighting and providing the background information necessary to understand the context of Israel's actions. Because that context was missing from so many news reports and especially in social media, a number of our community's Rabbis thanked us for the quick and helpful statement. We also gave our community access to helpful information and programs relating to Israel and the increase in anti-Semitic attacks and actions following the Gaza conflict. Please be assured that we will continue to look for ways to educate our community and others on the truth about Israel and to fight Antisemitism in all of its forms.

5) Grants and Allocations. Throughout the pandemic, our Federation has continued to provide funding for Jews and others in need in our part of the State. In fact, we even stepped up our efforts to provide additional support for soup kitchens, homeless shelters, and social service agencies that were serving an unprecedented number of people as a result of the pandemic. Working with our friends at the United Way of Greater Waterbury, we found a way to provide funding directly to individual first responders and essential workers who have suffered financially while putting themselves at risk for the entire community. At the same time, we have been able to continue to provide support for: our synagogues and day schools who are doing such great work in educating our children; our families who are sending their children to Jewish summer camps; tuition assistance to college students; local Jewish institutions; and social service institutions in our sister region of Afula-Gilboa in Israel.

We are proud of our work and extremely appreciative that so many of you recognize the value of our work by giving so generously to your Federation. If you would like to be in touch with me to discuss your gift, our activities, or anything else, please feel free to email me or call. Thank you for everything!

All the best,
Gary



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

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE - DONATE
TODAY!**

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.



**Pauline Zimmerman, Federation President
and Rabbi Yehuda Brecher**

**Pauline Zimmerman, Federation President,
Rabbi Yehuda Brecher, Rabbi Yaakov Lehrman
and Yeshiva Students**

Rabbi Yehuda Brecher, Principal of Yeshiva K'tana of Waterbury, invited Pauline Zimmerman, President of the Jewish Federation of Western Connecticut, to visit the Yeshiva's campus last week. Pauline noted that she was excited to see the ongoing upgrades to the campus and was especially pleased to see the enthusiasm of the students who attend the Yeshiva. The Federation is proud to support Yeshiva K'tana, and other religious schools in our catchment area, with direct funding to offset the cost of educating our community's students. In addition, the Federation provides direct funding to students and families in the form of campership grants and

scholarships for college students and study in Israel programs.



The Jewish Federations[®]
OF NORTH AMERICA



Watch this very informative 45-minute webinar from the Jewish Federations of North America with speaker David Horovitz, Editor-in-Chief of the Times of Israel, on the new government in Israel!

[Watch the Recording Here!](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

"UNPACKING THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER STUDY"

MONDAY, JUNE 28TH

7:00PM-8:00PM

Join Dr. Becka Alper as she presents Pew findings focused on
Jewish congregational life and younger Jewish Americans'
attachment to Jewish institutions and Jewish life.

Becka A. Alper is a senior researcher at Pew Research Center. She contributes to the Center's domestic religion polls and is an expert on the views and demographic profile of U.S. Jews. Alper is an author of Pew Research Center reports such as "Jewish Americans in 2020," "A Portrait of American Orthodox Jews," "The Religious Typology," "What Americans Know about Religion," and "What Americans Know about the Holocaust." Previously, she was a postdoctoral research associate working on the Youth Activism Project at the University of Arizona. Alper received doctorate and master's degrees in sociology from Purdue University.



REGISTER HERE TO RECEIVE THE ZOOM LINK

SPONSORED BY



Jewish Federation Association
of Connecticut (JFACT)

**REGISTER
HERE!**



LOVE&KNISHES with "Hot ACOUSTICS"
Wednesday – June 30, 2021 at 12 noon

We are happy to announce that we will host our very first "Welcome Back " luncheon celebrating Fourth of July at the Jewish Federation of Western CT.

Please join us for a box lunch with a musical performance. Alyce & Gary Bertz, a guitar and violin duo playing a wide variety of songs. Tunes include original renditions from jazz to popular. Cost of the program is \$10. Please RSVP by clicking the link below by Thursday, June 24th.

**REGISTER
HERE!**

alzheimer's  association®

Connecticut Chapter



Connecticut Education Programs

June 29 at 10:30 AM **Virtual Alzheimer's Community Forum**

(In Conjunction with the Southwestern CT Agency on Aging & Independent Living)

June 29 at 1:00 PM **Healthy Living for Your Brain & Body. The Latest Research**

July 13 at 10:30 AM **Dementia Care: Community Resources that can help**

July 13 at 1 PM **Dementia Conversations**

July 19 at 5:30 PM **10 Warning Signs**

LEGACY HERITAGE FUND CAMPERSHIP INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Amazing experiences. Friends forever.
CT's premier jewish co-ed overnight summer camp



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SCHEDULE A TOUR, PLEASE CONTACT US TODAY!

463 SUMMER HILL ROAD, MADISON, CT • (203) 421-3736 • WWW.CAMPLAURELWOOD.ORG



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.

SPECIAL FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR SMALLER JEWISH COMMUNITIES!

ramahsportsacademy.org/grant

RAMAH SPORTS ACADEMY SUMMER 2021

The Northeast's premier Jewish sports camp for athletes of all abilities and backgrounds.

The collage features four girls in RSA uniforms at the top. Below them are several smaller action shots: a baseball game, a soccer player, and a basketball player.

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 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.



Jewish Federation of Western CT www.jfed.net

