

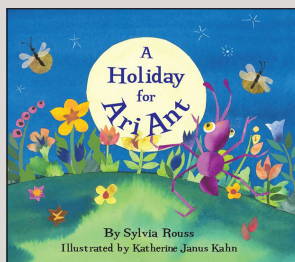


## Stepping Up to the Challenge page 6



### HONORING AND RECOGNIZING SOLDIERS

We celebrate and commemorate soldiers for Yom Haatzmaut, Victory Day and Memorial Day **PAGE 10**



### CELEBRATING SHAVUOT WITH OUR LITTLE ONES

Crafts, activities, books and more you can do with your children to celebrate Shavuot and Lag B'omer **PAGE 12**



### FAMILY FACES NEW STAY-AT-HOME CHALLENGES

With the continued help of JCARR, an asylum-seeking family from Angola continues to learn at home **PAGE 5**

## Humbled by Our Community's Efforts

"My heart is bursting with joy!" I know it's hard to believe that given the current circumstances we are all confronting due to COVID-19. This quote by me has been broadcasted often after being recorded on April 25th during our volunteer drive to package surgical masks for distribution to those who need them. I just could not contain my exuberance over the incredible outpouring of love and kindness as people lined up in their cars to participate in a drive-through, socially distant volunteer effort. We had cars stacked up a mile down Amity Road with people who just wanted to help. It was heartwarming and a reminder of the best of our community.

The Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven began planning for COVID-19 before the pandemic hit with full force. Thankfully we've had a little experience with crisis management in recent years, which has helped us make the shift toward working remotely. The creativity and dogged determination by our staff team at the Jewish Federation, JCC and Jewish Foundation enabled the quick

transition to a complete virtual experience with offerings, programs, meetings and recorded content for all. While we may not be able to leave our home to be together, we have been gathering online with record participation in fitness classes and programs.

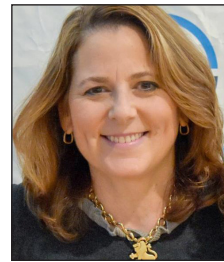
There is no question that our community is experiencing pain both personally and communally. Our effort to reach out to each of you through our phone calls has been one of the great blessings of this moment. As we have called to check in and see how your community can help you, we have received such warm responses. We are grateful that we can all support one another during this challenging time. Our calls will continue through this crisis; we will be here for each of you to help in any way we can.

We are also assisting with rising needs through our Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation COVID-19 Response/Maimonides Fund, which provides resources to meet urgent human needs. We have granted two rounds of support

to Jewish Family Service and The Towers at Tower Lane. The fund is open for agencies and congregations to apply for help. We expect the needs to continue and encourage those who are able to support the fund with a contribution.

In this alternate reality we are living through, it is expected that we will struggle with melancholy from time to time. But if we can find the sunshine and rainbows in small acts of kindness and compassion, then we will carry through. My first grandchild was born a couple of weeks ago. While the circumstances were not at all what everyone had anticipated—and it will be some time before I will smother Dylan in his Bubbe's love—just thinking about his arrival gives me great hope for the future.

With my best wishes for your continued strength and health,



## SHALOM NEW HAVEN

SHALOM NEW HAVEN is published six times per year and delivered free of charge to the Greater New Haven Jewish community by the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven.

### COPY DEADLINES

Copy deadlines for the upcoming Shalom New Haven issues are:

- May 20 for June online issue
- June 17 for July/August issue
- July 31 for September/October issue
- Sept. 30 for November/December issue
- Nov. 30 for January/February 2021 issue
- Jan. 29 for March/April issue
- March 30 for May/June issue

### SUBMISSIONS

To submit an article or photo, please email [shalomnh@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:shalomnh@jewishnewhaven.org). Please include your contact information when submitting.

Space is limited; submission does not guarantee publication. All articles are subject to approval by the editorial board.

### SHALOM NEW HAVEN STAFF

Nurit Kohl  
Director of Marketing & Communications

Ariana Fine  
Shalom New Haven Editor

Wendy Bowes  
Senior Graphic Designer

George Hauer  
Advertising Sales Manager

### EDITORIAL BOARD

Chesky Holtzberg: Chair  
Chava Light  
Mark Oppenheimer  
Cindy Papish Gerber

### LEADERSHIP

Dr. Jeffrey Hoos  
President

Judith Alperin  
Chief Executive Officer

Scott Cohen  
JCC Executive Director

Lisa Stanger, Esq.  
Foundation Executive Director

Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven  
360 Amity Road, Woodbridge, CT 06525  
(203) 387-2424  
[jfgnh@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:jfgnh@jewishnewhaven.org)  
[jewishnewhaven.org/SNH](http://jewishnewhaven.org/SNH)



## Local Volunteers Offer Safe Healing Place for Homeless

"When we started hearing at the end of February from colleagues working with the homeless on the West Coast—especially in Seattle—we knew we needed to think about how to help our homeless here self-isolate and maintain social distancing since they could not do so in transitional homes or shelters," said David I. Rosenthal, M.D., the Medical Director of Homeless PACT for VA Connecticut Healthcare System and an Assistant Professor for Yale School of Medicine.

Local shelters, with guidance from the state of Connecticut, started a program in mid-March to move the homeless, especially those who were more vulnerable, to hotels where social distancing was possible.

However, an issue arose about how to help those recovering from COVID-19 who were still sick and needed respite care but were not sick enough to stay in overwhelmed hospitals. Within a week, a strategic medical respite plan was created with the City of New Haven, the mayor's office, the Columbus House, and other organizations and volunteers. The Hill Regional Career High School's gymnasium, a designated emergency shelter location, was chosen. The facility accepted its first patient on April 9 with beds available for up to 50 patients. As of the end of April, the facility was serving eight people.

"While shelter personnel would normally staff the homeless shelter, they didn't feel comfortable in a medical setting," said Dr. Rosenthal. Instead, 30-40 Medical Reserve Corps volunteers, including Stacey and Ari Wyner, work in 8-hour shifts with at least two medical personnel in the "contamination zone."

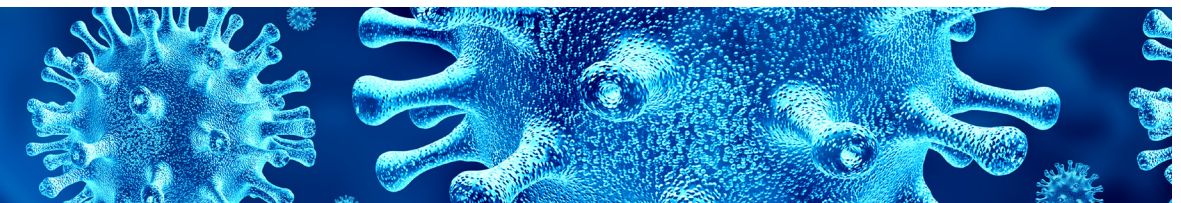


"[This] has been a life lesson on how we can come together and make our world a better, safer place for a group of people that otherwise would have no safe place to complete their isolation time following a Covid-19 diagnosis," says Stacey Wyner, a nurse on temporary leave from her nurse practitioner position in a school-based clinic at Hamden High.

As part of the New Haven mayor's office commitment to the community, there is 24-hour police coverage at the facility to maintain staff security and ensure those still recovering don't venture into the community next door. There haven't been any problems, reassures Dr. Rosenthal.

"To make the place a respite and as comfortable as best we can, we need to get their basic needs met and provide them with engagement," **CONTINUED ON PG. 16**

# Donate to



## The COVID-19 Response/Maimonides Fund because Kol Yisrael Arevim Zeh La'zeh "All Jews are responsible one for another"

The Jewish Federation and the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven have launched the COVID-19 Response/Maimonides Fund, seeding it with \$108,000 to support the immediate needs of those most vulnerable. As of May 4, the fund has distributed \$163,600 in emergency grants—and another \$51,600 pending—to provide for critical human needs to synagogues, Jewish Family Service (food assistance and social services), JCARR, the Towers at Tower Lane (food assistance) and the Jewish Federation.

Your support of this fund will enable us to make grants to our Jewish agencies and synagogues to help provide services related to food insecurity, unemployment and mental health support.

We are facing unprecedented times. United as one Jewish community, we will meet the rising needs in our community and overcome the great challenge before us.

[jewishnewhaven.org/covid](http://jewishnewhaven.org/covid)



# FREE MASKS CT GIVEAWAY!

Contact us to find out how to get distribution in your CT area!

[www.masksforCT.org](http://www.masksforCT.org)

# Exercising Indoors and Out in These Uncertain Times

by Susan Donovan  
 Director of Fitness & Wellness Services  
 JCC of Greater New Haven

Our world has been hit by this pandemic. Whether we are directly impacted or not, we have all been affected in one way or another. It might be worrying a bit more about the health of our family and friends, disruptions in our sleep or, for many, a drastic shift in everyday routines.

During a time when the media seems to target our deepest uncertainties and fears, staying physically and mentally strong is of utmost importance. Although we can't change the events that are unfolding, we can control our mindset and reduce our stress—even when we are stuck at home!

You may begin to realize how dependent you've become on exercise as a coping technique. When this is removed, it can be extremely detrimental to both our physical and emotional health.

With our JCC closing, many of us aren't able to maintain our everyday workout routine. Thankfully, modern-day technology has allowed us the incredible capability to do a variety of workout classes in our own homes. However, if an at-home workout isn't for you, there are alternative ways to keep active and manage your stress with outdoor activities.

**WALKING** is one of the best activities that everyone can do! If the weather permits, get out for a 30-minute walk at a brisk pace at least 5 days a week. You can use an app or pedometer to meet the U.S. Surgeon General's moderate goal of 10,000 steps. The average person takes between 2,000 and 2,500 walking steps per mile. Walking is a weight-bearing exercise—which means it's good for bone health—and

helps build cardiovascular endurance.

**RUNNING or JOGGING** are terrific cardiovascular activities that will improve your stamina. Running steps have a longer stride length; you may take between 1,400 and 1,700 steps per mile. A total of 10,000 steps equals 4 to 5 miles. Running can put more stress on the knee, ankle and hip joints so it may not be for everyone. The key is to start off slowly and increase your time or distance by no more than 10% each week. For both running and walking activities, it is important to get a good pair of shoes. Pay attention to the surface on which you run. Paths and grass are softer, but they're uneven and could have holes. Concrete is harder, but good shoes help absorb shock.

**CYCLING** is another excellent cardiovascular choice. It is also a great way to explore your community, bike paths and trails. It's important, however, to make sure your bike is fitted properly to your body to avoid putting too much stress on your back or knees.

**HIKING** uses a lot of up-and-down movement, so you get a tremendous leg workout along with the cardiovascular benefits. It can provide a relaxing atmosphere with scenic trails and wildlife, and may not seem like a workout at all.

**WATER SPORTS and ACTIVITIES**, such as kayaking, are great for upper body muscles. Paddle boarding is an effective core exercise while swimming is a great and very joint-friendly total body workout. Of course, these activities require specific equipment and good weather.

Pick the activity that best suits your needs and interest and, most importantly, something you enjoy doing. Focus on your breathing, enjoy your favorite music, and appreciate the fresh air and scenery. It's time for reflection, and simply clearing your head while getting some healthy activity.



# All Jews are Responsible for One Another



by Dr. Jeffrey Hoos  
 Jewish  
 Federation  
 of Greater  
 New Haven  
 President

Most of us think of money, business or negative experiences when we think of the "timing is everything" phrase. The timing of any decision can make the difference between being happy, sad, rich, poor, or even life and death. Most people make decisions based on personal choices and experiences. Although "timing is everything," the decisions sometimes get put on us.

When making decisions, we ask ourselves what could possibly happen as there are risks and rewards in the decisions we make. Sometimes things happen that are beyond our control and just "bad luck." Our "timing" has little to do with those personal decisions, except

if we put ourselves at extreme risk.

So what "gets put on us" can really affect our daily lives and controlling events can really change everything. Our constant is our attitude of how the things put upon us affect our thoughts. Timing is everything; it has a way of making us stop and think about things. Imagine we are all out on Long Island Sound, enjoying the beautiful water and views, on sailboats of all different sizes and shapes. Suddenly, a storm comes up with huge waves and winds. The sailors with lots of experience, strength of character, the right support crew and a "can do" attitude know what to do to ride out the storm. They make it through the storm with some damage. Other sailors cry out in despair and pray as hard as they can, but do nothing. The water comes in, people fall overboard and many are lost. Once the storm passes, some will learn and others will go back to their old ways. What is interesting is that they were all in the same storm, but in different boats.

So many times, people say, "we are all

in the same boat." But it is just not true. We are all in the same storm, but not in the same boat. How we react to the storm makes all the difference.

We are in the same Covid 19 storm, but I am certain we have different sizes of boats and resources at our disposal. Some of us were prepared and others had to get prepared as we went along facing the challenge. The event was put upon us and "timing is everything" seems to really be in play.

But there is one thing we all know: we need to help each other as much as we can. We do have a responsibility to help each other while in the storm. "Please consider giving to the Give to COVID-19/Maimonides Response Fund and Masks for Heroes." Remove the "give" Fix the name of the fund to "COVID-19 Response/Maimonides Fund."

Most sincerely written,

Dr. Jeffrey Hoos



## Helping Jews around the World

Jewish Federations overseas have continued to partner with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) since the COVID-19 outbreak. They have been working around the clock to serve a growing number of Jews affected by COVID-19 worldwide. Hundreds of JDC essential workers are delivering life-saving aid to vulnerable Jews whose needs are more urgent due to this crisis. This includes supplemental emergency medicine, medical care, and food for those poor elderly and children who can no longer get it themselves. Efforts include supplying personal hygiene gear, private transportation and communications equipment to reach clients in remote locations. They are also working to ensure the health safety of staff and clients, and deliver food and medicine amid restrictions to public services.

**UKRAINE:** In Dnepro, the Jewish community prepared more than 200 food packages and hygiene products for vulnerable elderly.

**RUSSIA:** More than 1,000 elderly people were contacted from a call center to provide them with moral support and identify risk groups.

**KAZAKHSTAN:** In Karaganda, community members sent photos of lit candles and their family stories to a "Candle of Memory" WhatsApp group in observance of Holocaust Remembrance Day.

**ETHIOPIA:** As the virus has begun to spread, we know that now is the time to take action and slow this deadly virus in the heart of Africa. We work with healthcare professionals to establish handwashing and hand sanitizer stations in areas with limited or no access to clean water and soap.

For more info on JDC's efforts, visit [jdc.org/coronavirusupdates](http://jdc.org/coronavirusupdates).

# JCARR Families Face Challenges Living in a New Culture

by Jean Silk

The complicated reality of the COVID-19 pandemic hit many people by surprise. The order to stay at home came from not only the governor of Connecticut, but also from Integrated Refugee and Immigration Services (IRIS), which provided detailed explanations in the languages JCARR's immigrant families speak. The families are listening to the news in their own languages; they understand that JCARR personnel and volunteers can't come to their homes to visit and talk together about their current needs. Most of JCARR's volunteer drivers are retirees; they regretfully said they cannot provide rides to our families. JCARR has created a LYFT Concierge account so it can pay for rides in case of an urgent need.

Although JCARR families' needs didn't change, the way of assisting them had to change. The newest family, asylum seekers from Angola, only arrived in New Haven in early February. JCARR's Education Task Force worked hard to get the six-year old enrolled in first grade and the father enrolled in ESL classes with New Haven Adult Education. The mother and the little girls signed up for ESL and early literacy classes through IRIS. They learned to get to classes by public bus.

Almost as soon as everything was set in place, though, schools were closed, and the family was confined to their tiny apartment. Barbara Klein and Gladys Horowitz got to work. They communicated with the first grader's school and



got her a Chrome device. Klein started tutoring the child via WhatsApp. Although it took weeks, they finally got internet access from Comcast. IRIS provided online ESL classes and materials. Sheldon Natkin helped the family improve their technology skills. Beth Jackson and Marillia Montgomery provided essential interpretation in Portuguese and English. Now the family is able to continue learning at home. JCARR communicates with them almost every day—usually in French. They are confident that the determination and motivation that led this family to walk from Brazil to the United States will serve them once again, and that one day they will be able to talk about COVID in the past—in English.

Jean Silk is the Coordinator for the Jewish Community Alliance for Refugee Resettlement (JCARR). She can be reached at (203) 687-8808 or [jsilk@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:jsilk@jewishnewhaven.org).

# JCC DAY CAMPS

54 ACRES OF OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

2020  
CAMP SEASON

jccnh.org/camp

For more information, contact  
Camp Director, Debra Kirschner at  
[summercamp@jccnh.org](mailto:summercamp@jccnh.org) or  
(203) 387-2424 x253.

JCC

OF GREATER NEW HAVEN

360 Amity Road  
Woodbridge, CT  
(203) 387-2424

# JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER NEW HAVEN:

## Hotline Brings Hope and Help to Community

**"It was the first time I smiled in a week!"**

*"Speaking with Sandy from the JCC felt like I had a new friend. It was the first time I had smiled in a week. I told her I was having a hard time finding toilet paper and she offered to drop some off to me. I could not believe such kindness from a complete stranger. Saturday morning I walked outside and saw the toilet paper and a plate of decorated cookies from her! You are all doing excellent work and I am so proud to be part of this community. God bless!"*

**"Thank you for being there."**

*"I needed help getting to a doctor appointment since I can't drive due to a disability and public transportation isn't the best right now. I called the hotline at 11:30 p.m. Eric on the other end of the line assured me that he would be able to do it. He was tremendously accommodating—especially considering the appointment was a 40-minute drive on a weekend, and I wasn't sure exactly how long it would be.*

*Thank you for being there for me when I needed your support."*

**"A donation is all I can think of, but it wouldn't be enough."**

*"I just got off the phone with Eric, who answered the hotline. He helped me with my Mac; I couldn't send emails out. He spent over an hour with me; he's terrific. I've got to do something to thank him or the JCC. A donation is all I can think of, but it's not enough."*

## Getting 900,000+ Surgical Masks to 160 Towns



Alarmed by the rise of COVID-19 cases in Connecticut and the lack of access to personal protective equipment (PPE), the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, in collaboration with Madison residents Bob and Amy Stefanowski, have created Masks for Heroes. Masks for Heroes delivers much needed protective surgical masks to hospitals, nursing homes, physicians and first responders throughout Connecticut.

However, with the new state guideline requiring the usage of masks in public spaces, Masks for Heroes added Masks for CT to address the widespread public need for masks. Both efforts, which so far delivered 800,000 surgical masks to 160 towns and cities across Connecticut, are conducted in partnership with the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven.



# JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE: Stepping Up in Crisis



Since the agency physically closed in the middle of March, the Jewish Family Service (JFS) of Greater New Haven's staff quickly adapted to continue to meet clients' needs in new, creative ways.

The mental clinic continues to run smoothly over video connection. It is accepting new clients, just as if the office were open.

The staff has focused on aging adults in the community with accessible ways to engage with them. Previously planned groups are running through video or conference calls where several individuals are able to engage at one time. These groups are meeting weekly; they provide social interaction and therapeutic support to the most vulnerable.

The therapeutic foster care team has also created a

Zoom support group to connect parents and children who are now all home.

JFS foster care case workers supported a woman who was fostering an 11-year old who was a danger to himself and others. Together, they brainstormed with the child on ways to help him. Through this collaboration, and with the help of DCF, they were able to connect the child with his birth father—something he identified as important to him.

JFS' volunteer coordinator and pantry director have organized pre-packed bags that clients in need are able to receive through a no-contact pickup model.

During one of the virtual groups, clients talked about the need to take it one day at a time and push themselves to be flexible. The JFS staff are inspired by their clients tenacity and resiliency.

SOS case managers helped a newly unemployed father obtain Husky health insurance for himself and his daughter, and three hours of mental health services helped him contain his anxiety before he could take that next step.

JFS continues to seek innovative ways to engage with clients and meet the ever-changing needs of the community.

Contact JFS at (203) 389-5599 or via emails addresses available at [jfsnh.org](mailto:jfsnh.org).

**Water Bill Assistance from Dollar Energy Fund**  
JFS is able to help community members with their

water bills by partnering with Dollar Energy Fund ([dollarenergy.org](http://dollarenergy.org)), a grant organization that provides monetary assistance for utility payments. In Connecticut, qualifying individuals who have South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority may be eligible for assistance. Individuals whose household income was at, or below, 175% of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines in the last 30 days could be eligible for a one-time payment of \$175 towards their bill.

Currently, JFS social workers are placing these applications over the phone. Applicants must digitally provide their water bill and income verification for household members reflective of the last 30 days. To be screened for eligibility and apply, call Liz Davenport, LMSW, at (203) 389-5599, x117. Leave your name and callback number.

### Journey through Grief Support Group

During these times of uncertainty and social isolation, feelings of grief and loneliness may intensify. Andrea Joseph, LCSW, will be hosting a virtual bereavement support group for adults 60 and older who are grieving the loss of a loved one. Come talk about what you are experiencing in a supportive and safe environment. The 1-hour group session will begin on Friday, May 8, at 11 a.m. and will continue to meet virtually every second Friday of the month during the public health crisis. To RSVP, and for more information about the group and how you can connect, email [ajoseph@jfsnh.org](mailto:ajoseph@jfsnh.org).

## THE TOWERS AT TOWER LANE: Volunteers at Work

The Towers at Tower Lane's Volunteer Coordinator and Spiritual Leader Sarah Moskowitz has been transforming life for The Towers' residents and community since she began two years ago. Since her start, she has helped over 170 community members engage seniors in meaningful ways.

The COVID-19 pandemic has necessitated a re-imagining of volunteer service once again. Thanks to the hard work of Moskowitz and Healthy Living Coordinator Dean Tinari, The Towers at Tower Lane residents are getting newly delivered programming and volunteer services.

Currently, Towers volunteers are writing letters weekly and handmade cards. Local schools and synagogues have been donating arts and crafts supplies, puzzles, crossword puzzles, books and magazines. A brigade of volunteers, with the leadership and help of Doris Zelinsky and Linda Schultz, are making masks for employees and residents. Volunteers are also calling several residents weekly for friendly chats and social connection.

There are 26 "super volunteers" who are calling an entire floor of residents seven days a week between 10-11 a.m. to check in on them. They have been so critical to residents' well-being in addition to helping The Towers team follow up when someone needs more care and attention. They are forming deep relationships with the residents.

Director of Support Services Dawn Staton is grateful for the tirelessly working team supporting residents and their families. CEO/President Gustave Keach-Longo expresses his gratitude as well. "We are grateful to the entire community for showing us support during the pandemic. We appreciate the expertise, financial support, time and partnership that has been extended to us as we care for the community's most vulnerable. With your continued support, we will stay strong, stay safe and stay connected," he said.

To get involved and help The Towers, contact Volunteer Coordinator Sarah Moskowitz at (203) 772-1816, x410, or [jennifer@towerone.org](mailto:jennifer@towerone.org).



## COVID-19 Fund, PLUS Annual Grants & Scholarships/2020

### COVID-19 FUND

**THE JEWISH FEDERATION AND JEWISH FOUNDATION OF GREATER NEW HAVEN COVID-19 RESPONSE/MAIMONIDES FUND**

Monies from this fund will be deployed in two ways:

1. **Emergency grants to our Jewish agencies and synagogues to allow them to meet increased and immediate community needs such as food insecurity, unemployment and mental health needs.**
2. **To provide direct assistance to individuals, families and households in need. Monies will be made available to and paid to an agency or synagogue, upon the request of the agency head or rabbi. No application or names are required. Requests will be made by a rabbi or agency head to the fund, on behalf of person in need. In the past, these monies have been distributed to assist with rent, medical bills and emergent needs related to unemployment, health and food insecurity. We expect this fund to receive many requests in the upcoming days, weeks and months; we want to be able to meet all of those requests. This fund has already made \$136,400 in emergency grants to Jewish agencies, including Jewish Family Service (for food assistance and social services) and to The Towers at Tower Lane (for food assistance).**

### GRANTS

To apply for any Jewish Foundation grant, go to [jewishnewhaven.org/grants](http://jewishnewhaven.org/grants) for online applications and descriptions.

#### FOR THE JEWISH ELDERLY

There is \$130,000 available in grants for the Jewish elderly. These monies are from funds from the Jewish Home Building Fund Corp, which were recently transferred to the Jewish Foundation. This will be an annual grants initiative. This year, the awards will be made on a rolling basis. **The first applications may be submitted beginning on Monday, April 13, and we will accept applications until midnight on June 30, 2020.**

#### SECURITY GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR SYNAGOGUES, CAMPS AND DAY SCHOOL

These grants are made possible thanks to the generosity of the Arthur Eder Family Fund at the Jewish Foundation and are made in memory of Arthur and Yvette Eder. **We ask that you apply by August 3, 2020.**

#### WOMEN OF VISION SOCIETY GRANTS

The Jewish Foundation's Women of Vision Society has been helping women and girls in the Greater New Haven area and Israel for over 20 years. This endowment, created by 100 founding members in our community, has tackled issues from domestic violence and health to acculturation and spirituality. The endowment has more than doubled its membership and giving since its creation. Since its inception, Women of Vision has disbursed over \$180,000 to help seed and sustain critical programming and services for women and girls. Grant awards typically range between \$500 and \$3,000 for qualifying programs. **Due May 29.**

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS FOR JEWISH EDUCATORS**  
**Due September 20.**

### SCHOLARSHIPS

To apply for any Jewish Foundation scholarship, go to [jewishnewhaven.org/scholarships](http://jewishnewhaven.org/scholarships) for online applications and descriptions.

#### COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

All applications must be completed online by **May 15**. All applications are confidential. This is a competitive process and, in most years, not all applicants will receive an award.

- **Mary Taylor Friedler Memorial Scholarship Fund:** For high school seniors. This scholarship is not needs based and requires an essay concerning what peace, justice and righteousness mean to you and your Judaism. Awards range from \$500-\$2,000. Applicants must reside in Greater New Haven. Awards are based on the strength of the application.

- **Stuart J. Drell Scholarship Fund:** May be awarded for any college year. Awards are \$2,500 and applicant must reside in Connecticut. Awards are based on the strength of the application and financial need.

- **Emma Kohn Podoloff Scholarship Fund of the National Council of Jewish Women's Greater New Haven Section** For high school seniors. The average award is \$1,500. The application includes an essay and three recommendations. Awards are based on the strength of the application and financial need.

#### ISRAEL EXPERIENCE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Jewish Foundation Israel Experience Scholarship Program enables local Jewish students to have the opportunity to participate in an Israel experience to develop and enrich their Jewish education and reinforce their Jewish identity. The Jewish Foundation provides scholarships for both short-term (3-week program minimum) and long-term organized Israel educational programs. Greater New Haven youth ages 14-19 are eligible.

For 2020 summer trips, awards have already been made. For the 2020-2021 gap or academic year programs, applications are due by May 15, 2020. An essay and two recommendations are required. All applications are confidential and anonymously reviewed by the Israel Experience Scholarship committee. Go to [jewishnewhaven.org](http://jewishnewhaven.org)/scholarships for more information, a list of qualifying programs and application requirements. This is a competitive process and, in most years, not all applicants will receive an award.

#### JEWISH OVERNIGHT CAMP GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

##### One Happy Camper

The Jewish Foundation offers needs-blind incentive grants for first-time campers as well as needs-based aid for first-time and returning campers.

Go to [jewishnewhaven.org/scholarships/one-happy-camper](http://jewishnewhaven.org/scholarships/one-happy-camper).

#### SYNAGOGUE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

**Due October 19, 2020**

## Ezra Academy Continues Expanding Learning for Students

Even as their online learning continues in earnest, students took part virtually in a special ceremony for Yom HaZikaron on April 28. On April 29, on Yom Haatzmaut, they joined the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven in a virtual "party" for the Israeli emissaries who had served the Greater New Haven community until they had to return to Israel in March. After the party, Ezra Academy students played an online Jeopardy-like game with all categories involving Israel among other fun activities to celebrate Israel.



Ezra Academy's online learning program continues with children virtually meeting together as a class, and in small groups and one-on-one with their teachers. They continue to celebrate first aliyot to the Torah and first-time Torah readings. During the week of April 20, they had over 50 people join in for such milestone occasions with grandparents, friends and relatives joining in from as far away as Israel.



Students continue to engage in project-based learning. For instance, they made movies to depict Newton's Laws of Gravity. They have engaged in music, art and building Minecraft projects to respond to the reading of a novel. Students have also participated in live, online learning with the likes of Bill Gates and Hadi Partovi, founder of Code.org.

"Perhaps the most touching moment for me has been the video our community made to express their appreciation of our faculty and the amazing work they are doing in this difficult time," says Dr. Melanie Waynik, Ezra Academy's Head of School. "You can see many of these things firsthand if you go to our Facebook page."

Find out more about Ezra Academy in Woodbridge at [ezraacademyct.org](http://ezraacademyct.org).



## Thank You

The Towers expresses our gratitude and appreciation to all the community members who are stepping up to help us through these trying days.

#### Thank you

- Our Resilient Residents
- Our Supportive Families
- Our Wonderful Volunteers
- Our Impactful Donors
- Our Dedicated Staff
- Our Board of Directors for their Leadership
- Our very special Robert Katz who has gone above and beyond

#### Thank you to the following organizations for financial and material support:

- Association of Jewish Aging Services
- The Jewish Federation and The Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven
- The Community Foundation/United Way COVID 19 Fund for Greater New Haven
- The Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven
- Jewish Family Service of Greater New Haven
- Masks For Heroes
- Ezra Academy

**We appreciate your continued support.  
Thank you for making a difference!**



Your first time camper may be eligible for up to \$1000 off Jewish Camp!



The Jewish Foundation's One Happy Camper program provides 1. Needs-blind incentive grants of up to \$1000 for first-time campers and 2. Needs-based aid for first time and returning campers to over 195 Jewish overnight camps.

To learn more or apply, please visit: [jewishnewhaven.org/one-happy-camper](http://jewishnewhaven.org/one-happy-camper)

# From the Frontlines of the Everyday Fight

We truly appreciate the service and sacrifices of those that have served in the armed forces. Our community is tied together celebrating and commemorating three holidays from three different continents honoring those currently serving, veterans and fallen soldiers. We would like to take this opportunity to spotlight stories about those connected to our New Haven community for Yom Haatzmaut (April 29), Victory Day (May 9) and Memorial Day (May 25).

## Israeli Soldiers From Our Community

by Sasha Weitzman

Throughout my childhood in Greater New Haven, my Jewish identity was integrally woven into the fabric of my life. When I spent a gap year in Israel, my Jewish identity became linked with my emerging "Israeli" identity, and all of these experiences ignited my desire to return and give back. I patiently waited until I graduated from college, and then made aliyah as a "lone soldier" through Garin Tzabar. I felt this would be the most effective way to give back to Israel, to learn the language and to integrate into Israeli society. Furthermore, after a year, I wanted to advance in my service, and was accepted into the officer's training program.

Nobody tells you however, when you draft, that many of the jobs you do feel very disconnected from these goals - kitchen duty, long hours of guard duty in remote far-flung places, holidays spent on an army base, tedium, and uncooperative soldiers who report to you, but to name a few.

But then COVID-19 hit. As an officer, I have been respon-

sible for helping to coordinate the army response to the pandemic. This has included long hours planning volunteer projects, such as soldiers delivering supplies to nursing homes, seeing that people who are isolated and alone have food, ensuring that the rules of social distancing are enforced, and making sure that soldiers who have sometimes been on base without break for 40 days or more are coping.

As stressful as COVID-19 has been, the leadership and organizational training I received from my service as an instructor and officer have prepared me for this task. Through this experience, I've gained a unique opportunity to connect with soldiers and civilians alike, to hear their stories, and work together to safeguard the nation and its people. Though the job is not yet done, I am grateful to be taking part in combating this global crisis and supporting this nation that I have come to call home.

*Sasha Weitzman, the daughter of Marc and Carol Weitzman of Woodbridge, is a First Lieutenant and Officer of Instruction and Operations for Training Command.*



## JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY:



## Jewish American Soldiers

by Lillian E. Chasnoff

*Excerpt and Abridgment of My Brother Sergeant Stanley Fishman, from Society's Jews in New Haven, Volume VII book (1987)*

Stanley Charles Fishman was born in New Haven on July 30, 1945. He received his early education at Roger Sherman School and then went to Troup Junior High School where he was a member of the student council. At Hillhouse high school, he worked on The Sentinel, the school newspaper, where he became advertising manager. In 1943, he graduated from Hillhouse.

After Pearl Harbor, Stanley was eager to serve his country. While still in high school, he took a four-month course at Technician's Institute in New York City to learn about communications since he planned to enlist in the army as a radio technician as soon as he finished his high school education.

Stanley finished high school in 1944 and postponed his college career to enlist in the army. But all his plans to be a radio technician were changed by Uncle Sam and he became a private in the United States infantry attached to Company K, 104th Infantry Regiment, 26th Yankee Division of General Patton's 3rd Army. He served as a runner and became a sergeant in November 1945. He died on January 4, 1945 as a war hero during the Battle of the Bulge.

According to the citation awarding him the Silver Star, "On the evening of the 12th of November 1944, the town of Rodalbe, France, then lightly held by our forces, was subjected to intense enemy artillery fire followed by an attack by enemy troops. The building in which the Command Post of Company K, 104th Infantry, was established, suffered a direct hit. Among the casualties was the company commander, Captain O'Neill... The enemy fire increased in intensity and the decision was made to withdraw... Remaining behind, striving to remove his wounded commander, PFC Fishman stayed with Captain O'Neill even after he narrowly escaped serious harm when a German soldier entered the room and sprayed it with automatic fire. With utter disregard for his own personal safety, Fishman persisted in his heroic effort. Finally, by creeping and crawling under heavy enemy machine gun fire, he half-dragged and half-carried his commander four hundred yards to the safety of one of our tanks. The Jewish War Veterans Post in New Haven was named for Stanley Fishman.

*The Jewish Historical Society (jhsghn.org) is dedicated to collecting and preserving historical documents, photographs, and memorabilia of the Jewish community of Greater New Haven.*



## Honoring Russian-speaking World War II Veterans

by Yelena Gerovich

Seventy-five years ago on May 8th, 1945, World War II came to an end in Europe. As the news of Germany's surrender reached the rest of the world, joyous crowds gathered to celebrate in the streets.

The German Instrument of Surrender signed on May 7, 1945 stipulated that all hostilities must cease at 23:01 (Central European Time) on May 8, 1945, just an hour before midnight. It was already May 9 in Russia at the time the agreement took effect. As a tradition, Russia and the other former Soviet states celebrate Victory Day on May 9.

Israel also marks Victory Day on May 9, as a result of the large number of immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

World War II has been the most destructive conflict in history. It killed more people, cost more money, damaged more property and had more far-reaching consequences than any other war in history. Almost everyone in the Russian-speaking immigrant community remembers losing friends and relatives in the war. More than 500,000 Jews fought against Nazi Germany in the ranks of the Red Army, and over 200,000 of them lost their lives. That is why, if asked which event was the most important one for his or her generation, any elderly immigrant from the former Soviet Union would say, "Victory Day." World War II led to the greatest loss of life in the history of the Soviet Union. Eighty percent of the Soviet males born in 1923 did not survive WWII.

Locally, there reside about 10 Russian-speaking World War II veterans, age 90 and older who bravely fought against the Germans. On May 10, the Russian-speaking immigrant community is planning a virtual celebration of the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II and the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany. The New American Acculturation Program will combine it with a Mother's Day celebration, which is on the same day. They are also planning an in-person celebration some time later, when the Jewish Community Center will be open and veterans will come wearing their medals, and sharing the joy of victory with their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

*For more information about the New American Acculturation Program, including sponsorships of specific program, contact Yelena Gerovich at 203 387-2424 x321 or email ygerovich@jewishnewhaven.org.*

## Life Lessons Learned in the IDF

by Jacob Wyner

I drafted into the IDF nearly a year and a half ago, right before Hanukkah began. I was fresh out of college and full of ideals and motivations that were mainly abstract. It was important to me to make aliyah and to serve in the army because I felt an obligation as a Jew to live in Israel and to help defend the rest of the Jewish people living there. I believed strongly in Zionist ideals. While I still do, the exact motivations that pushed me to never quit in training were not always quite so grandiose.

I finished college with a degree in computer engineering and decided to draft to an infantry brigade. After finishing a tryout consisting of three days and nights of crawling, sprinting, team work exercises, memorization tests and stretcher marches, I was accepted to a more specialized unit. This meant I would undergo a year and two months of training, learning everything from nighttime solo navigation to hand-to-hand combat to guided missile operation. Throughout the process, my original ideals and beliefs did motivate me. However, in the moment, in the third straight hour of carrying a heavy stretcher on my shoulder on our weekly marches, it was my friends who were with me underneath the stretcher and my family back at home that motivated me to never quit.

I changed a lot throughout this process. In the end, I wasn't allowed to finish training due to a knee injury in a hand-to-hand combat fight a month before finishing training. This was not at all simple for me. If I've learned anything, it's that some things are simply out of my control, and that is all right. The key is deciding that no matter what, you will never quit but also know when to rely on God and trust that everything will work out in the end.

*Jacob Wyner, the son of Evan and Stacey Wyner of Woodbridge, is in the Nachal brigade in the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF). He was in the Orev unit, part of the Gadsa'r Nachal, until his knee injury. He lives on Kibbutz Sde Eliyahu.*



Brothers Jacob (left) and Alex (right) Wyner stand together in IDF uniform.



# Shavuot for Families and for the World

by Stacey Battat

As we just passed Israel's Independence Day and continue to learn to celebrate holidays in all new ways, I thought I would bring attention to Shavuot and to one of the less known connections of this holiday—namely its connection to water.

The holiday of Shavuot has many meanings; it is the time of year that we received the Torah in Mount Sinai and, metaphorically, all of us were present to receive it. We recognize Ruth, a convert to Judaism, as a heroic woman, teaching us to look for heroes—and “she-roses”—for what they are and not who we may think they are. It teaches us to value nature and walking in the wilderness where we received the Torah. We celebrate by eating delicious dairy food like delicious blintzes and ice cream—even though we are not sure why! I hope you'll do a rain dance this Shavuot too—for that, I have learned why.

We are hopeful that the end of May allows us to be outdoors more. In Israel, Shavuot is the holiday of water. Water is essential to our world and growth, and even for fun. The origins of this holiday of water tradition aren't entirely clear. Some link it to North African Jewish communities ([myjewishlearning.com/jewish-and/the-70-faces-of-shavuot](http://myjewishlearning.com/jewish-and/the-70-faces-of-shavuot)) that celebrated water on Shavuot because the Torah is sometimes compared to the life-giving properties of water. In addition, it's the start of the hot season; frolicking outside with water is one of the fun ways Israelis celebrate. Israelis also embrace the water idea by taking hikes along rivers and streams.



Global awareness and the need to upgrade our thinking and appreciation of our resources, the earth and one another may help us pause to consider other ways water is invaluable to life as we know it. It helps us find ways to preserve and value water with more consideration.

Teaching ourselves and our kids to turn off water when we are not actively using it—such as when we are washing dishes or brushing teeth—is one small, easy to change habit. Collecting rain water for our gardens may be more difficult but worth considering. As a kid growing up in Israel and Florida, most rains left warm puddles

I loved—and still love—jumping into. Rain dances are so much fun!

PJ Library would like to thank Little Scientists offering a water-focused program in kindness as a service to our community and the planet. In this two-part series on May 3 and 24 at 10:30 a.m. for families with children ages 4-8, we will connect Judaism and science, including learning about water. There is no charge but pre-registration is required.

If you would like your children to learn more about science, Little Scientists' experiential classes offer opportunities from your home. Find out more at [little-scientists.com](http://little-scientists.com), [facebook.com/littlescientistsusa](https://facebook.com/littlescientistsusa) or [instagram.com/greatscientists](https://instagram.com/greatscientists).

For more information and registration for May events, contact PJ Library's Mindfulness Educator Stacey Battat at [pjlibrary@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:pjlibrary@jewishnewhaven.org) or visit [jewishnewhaven.org/pj-library](http://jewishnewhaven.org/pj-library).



## Lag B'Omer

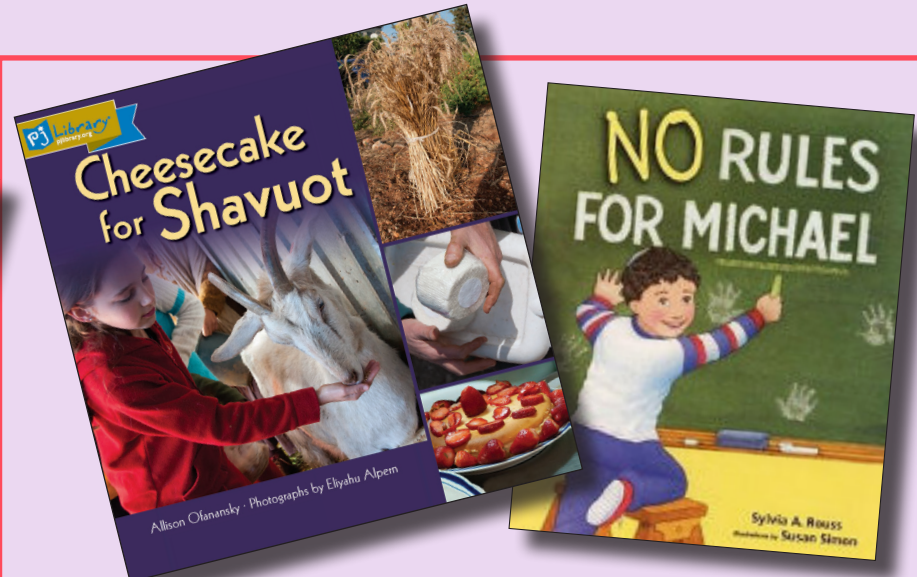
The 49-day countdown, called “counting the omer,” began on the second night of Passover and ends at the beginning of Shavuot. It is a joyful Jewish tradition on Lag B'Omer, which falls on the 33rd day (May 11-12), for families to celebrate by having barbecues, getting a haircut, building a bonfire, telling folk tales and singing songs. Find some activities for your family at [pjlibrary.org/beyond-books/pjblog/april-2015/lag-bomer-activities](http://pjlibrary.org/beyond-books/pjblog/april-2015/lag-bomer-activities). One fun idea is to create an edible Omer counter to get the kids involved in the countdown, similar to the Christmas

tradition of Advent calendars ([pjlibrary.org/beyond-books/pjblog/april-2020/counting-the-omer-with-children](http://pjlibrary.org/beyond-books/pjblog/april-2020/counting-the-omer-with-children)).

### BOOKS ABOUT LAG B'OMER

**A Holiday for Ari Ant**  
AGES 4-5  
by Sylvia Rouss  
([pjlibrary.org/books/a-holiday-for-ari-ant/1F00661](http://pjlibrary.org/books/a-holiday-for-ari-ant/1F00661))

**Sadie's Lag Ba'Omer Mystery**  
AGES 6-7  
by Jamie Korngold  
([pjlibrary.org/books/sadies-lag-baomer-mystery/1F491](http://pjlibrary.org/books/sadies-lag-baomer-mystery/1F491))



## Shavuot

The countdown of the omer ends on Shavuot (May 29-30)! Learn more about holiday's history, traditions and fun ideas to do with the kids at [pjlibrary.org/shavuot](http://pjlibrary.org/shavuot).

Create papercut shapes to decorate your windows, which is part of an Eastern European Shavuot tradition

Doing something related to flowers is a tradition in Israel that represents the spring harvest and the crowns of the Torah. Make flower crowns or crafts from real or cloth flowers, look at flowers

blooming in your neighborhood, paint a picture of flowers, or even paint with flowers.

### BOOKS ABOUT SHAVUOT

**Cheesecake for Shavuot**  
AGES 6-8  
by Allison Ofanansky  
([pjlibrary.org/books/cheesecake-for-shavuot/1F00866](http://pjlibrary.org/books/cheesecake-for-shavuot/1F00866))

**No Rules for Michael**  
AGES 3-4  
by Sylvia A. Rouss  
([pjlibrary.org/books/no-rules-for-michael/1F231](http://pjlibrary.org/books/no-rules-for-michael/1F231))

# New Executive Director: Camp Laurelwood



Summer 2020 is fast approaching. For Camp Laurelwood, that also means welcoming Rabbi James Greene as the new Executive Director. Rabbi Greene brings nearly 20 years of professional experience and a passion for Jewish camping to his new role. He is excited to get started—even if that start is happening virtually.

“It is an interesting challenge to join a community without being able to be together,” Rabbi Greene remarked about making the transition during the pandemic. “So much of relationship building is about that personal connection and human contact. Instead, we are relying on online meetings to connect. Even with all of that, it has been so rewarding to meet with camp families and stakeholders, talk about how we are problem solving some of the unique challenges of this summer, and look ahead to a time when we can be together again. Although we are physically distant at the moment, we remain deeply socially connected through these virtual technologies!”

With so much up in the air, the camp community is coming together to support one another. As the pandemic emerged and Connecticut closed down, Camp Laurelwood went online and quickly scaled up virtual programming with Israeli dance sessions, song sessions and camp tours conducted on Facebook Live and led by camp staff and specialists. Zoom Shabbat and Havdalah rituals were led by board members and alumni.

“One of the things that makes camp so special is the deep connection that our alumni have to Laurelwood. This place is magic, and the 83-year history of those relationships is what continues to sustain us,” said Rabbi Greene.

For more information about Camp Laurelwood, visit [campl laurelwood.org](http://campl laurelwood.org). Rabbi Greene can be reached at [james@campl laurelwood.org](mailto:james@campl laurelwood.org), or by calling the camp office at (203) 421-3736.

# Disinfecting Against the Coronavirus

For the five Arab villages near the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven's (JFGNH) sister city of Afula Gilboa, disinfection against COVID-19 was out of reach. JFGNH, together with 11 other Jewish communities from Southern New England, helped fund the crew, equipment and materials used to disinfect homes and businesses touched by COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of disease.



## JCC'S SPORTS BANQUET

Oct. 18, 2020 | 10 a.m. | \$55 per person

Kosher Brunch will be served  
JCC of Greater New Haven  
360 Amity Road, Woodbridge

**NOTE:  
NEW  
DATE!**

## Honoring Allan Greenberg

“A good coach can change a game; a great coach can change a life.”  
— John Wooden

Join us at our Sports Banquet to support our JCC and honor Allan for his 45 years of dedication to our community

## RSVP: [jccnh.org/rsvp](http://jccnh.org/rsvp)

Sponsorships, table captains and tribute-book ads are available.

Contact: Lindsey Barger, (203) 387-2424 x276 by August 1, 2020 to be included.

## ROBERT E. SHURE, INC.

FUNERAL HOME

Dedicated to the Dignity and Respect of Tradition

543 George Street, New Haven, CT 06511

Robert E. Shure Founder	203-562-8244 <a href="http://shurefuneralhome.com">shurefuneralhome.com</a>	James M. Shure President
----------------------------	--	-----------------------------

Porsche • Volvo • Mercedes • BMW

## the Woodbridge

# AUTO BODY SHOP inc.

- American and Foreign Specialists -

Free Estimate • Frame Machine • Professional Insurance Help  
Loaner Car Available • Interstate Car Carrier Service

203.397.2909

36 LUCY STREET, WOODBRIDGE, CONNECTICUT 06525

## A WORD FROM OUR LOCAL RABBIS

**During this time, we are also separated from our congregation families and leaders. We turn to two local rabbis for their words of wisdom about this challenging time.**

by Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus

We wake up and go to sleep these days with questions: “When will our lives return to normal?” “When will I return to my job?” “When will our kids return to school?” “When will a vaccine be developed?” The answer, of course, is we don’t know; COVID-19 has put much of our future on hold!

Recently, I was asked by a member of my synagogue: “Rabbi, what does Judaism say about coping with uncertainty?” “Truly,” I replied, “no people has grappled with life’s uncertainties more than ours! We’ve certainly learned something about that subject!” As I proceeded to reply to his question, an image sprang into my head; it was Marc Chagall’s famous painting of a rooftop fiddler. In the painting, Chagall depicts a smiling, dancing Jewish violinist who plays his instrument while somehow managing to balance himself on the roofs of his shtetl. I suddenly sensed that the fiddler epitomized Chagall’s answer—and mine—to a question. What does Judaism say about coping with an uncertain future?

Chagall’s painting evokes basic questions. Why doesn’t the fiddler seem worried about losing his balance and tumbling down those steep rooftops? Why does he appear so serene in his precarious world where, at any moment, a violent pogrom might be unleashed against him and his loved ones? I can almost hear the fiddler’s reply: “True, my future is rather unknown. But there is something that allows me to curb my worry and rise above the uncertainties in my life.”

What is that “something?” Well, an entire play has been written to answer that question!. It was, after all, Chagall’s painting that was the inspiration for the title of the well-known Fiddler on the Roof! musical. In fact, Tevye, the main character of the play, explains the symbolism of the fiddler in the opening scene:

*“A fiddler on the roof! Sounds crazy, no? But here, in our little village of Anatevka, you might say every one of us is a ‘fiddler on the roof,’ trying to scratch out a pleasant, simple tune without breaking his neck!...It isn’t easy!...And how do we keep our balance up there, you ask? Well, that, I can tell you in a word: Tradition! For...without our traditions, our lives would be as shaky as...as... a fiddler on the roof!”*

By “tradition,” of course, Tevye means the “Yiddishkeit,” the Jewish religious way of life that gives him and his fellow shtetl dwellers a sense of stability in their unpredictable lives. And he surely also means the blessings supported by tradition: love, family, optimism, friendship, laughter and community; these were blessings that were readily available to the Jews of Tevye’s shtetl. I think that’s what my dad, z”l, meant when he said: “Back in the shtetl, we had nothing; but on the other hand, we had everything.”

In this time of uncertainty, I can hear the fiddler speaking to us while carefully balancing himself on his roof: “Don’t let the pandemic unnerve you; savor the precious blessings available to you now that (with the help of modern technology) are right in front of you!”

Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus is the rabbi of Congregation Or Shalom in Orange.



Marc Chagall (1887-1985) “The Green Violinist” Guggenheim Museum, New York City

## The Day the Rabbi Emerged From Quarantine

by Rabbi Yossi Yaffe

What does it look like to “return to normal life” after a long quarantine? We can learn from Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai, whose life we celebrate on Lag B’Omer this year on Tuesday, May 12.

The Roman occupiers of the land of Israel wanted to execute Rabbi bar Yochai for criticizing their rule. He and his son, Rabbi Elazar, isolated themselves in a cave. No Zoom. No Instacart. No Amazon. The men survived on carob and water. They prayed and studied Torah all day. With no distractions, they grew in spiritual stature until they were like angels on earth.

When they emerged from the cave after 12 or 13 years, reality came as a shock. (And you thought your quarantine was long!) They saw farmers plowing their fields, people going about their daily life.

But their reality was meditation, study and a total dedication to the Divine. They could not reconcile the two. Are people blind to their purpose, to strive higher and unite with the Divine? Where is a world that shares these values?

They struggled with this question until, on Friday eve, they saw an old man running while holding two bundles of sweet-smelling myrtle. When asked, the old man told them that the two bunches were in honor of the Shabbat. Two bunches because of the two mitzvot in the Torah to “remember” Shabbat and “keep” the Shabbat.

“See how precious are the mitzvot (commandments) to the people of Israel!” Rabbi Shimeon said to his son. Then their minds were put at ease.

They understood then that our goal should not be to solely reach upwards towards G-d, but rather to sanctify the mundane by drawing the Divine downwards into our daily pursuits.

Every event is an opportunity for growth and spiritual development—whether it is positive or negative, pleasant or unpleasant, or painful or pleasurable. Every moment in life presents us with a mission; we just have to ask ourselves what that mission is.

Now we are isolated, separated from each other and from our normal routine. Yet we can use our time to the fullest. It can be a time of introspection; study; and connection to ourselves, our families and G-d.

And just like those rabbis, one day—hopefully soon—we also will emerge from isolation into society. We will be interacting with others and the world around us. The story of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai teaches us how to integrate these two seemingly opposite realities.

Even when we return to “the world” and our relationships with others, we need to bring along the best qualities of “the cave”: the slower pace; the yearning for transcendence; and the time for study, prayer and introspection.

At the same time, we need to recognize the unique beauty of encountering G-d in the middle of a fast-paced, busy “life.” Shabbat, keeping kosher and all the mitzvot are built-in opportunities for us not just to connect to the Divine, but also to integrate G-d into our daily lives and reveal His presence in everything we do and encounter. As Rabbi Shimon observed to his son, “See how precious are the mitzvot to the people of Israel!”

Rabbi Yossi Yaffe is the rabbi of Chabad of the Shoreline in Guilford.



# THRIVING IN SPRING: Well Wishes from Women's Philanthropy

In these unusual times of staying home to stay safe, it is easy to distance ourselves from our “usual” community responsibilities. Women’s Philanthropy members have been busy making cloth masks in addition to “Zooming” to meetings, exercise classes, shivas (unfortunately), classrooms, social events and even religious services at synagogues. But what about Women’s Philanthropy’s commitments from “BC,” or before Covid-19, times?

Our community had needs before March 2020, and now has needs more than ever. We need to remember the JFS Food Pantry, foster program, social services and counseling. Let’s not forget the seniors at The Towers at Tower Lane, hibernating in their rooms and at greater risk for this virus. Our day schools continue to educate our younger Jewish community members. Our JCC, the heart of our community, continues to provide exercise online for our bodies and minds. The needy in our greater New Haven community are also more stressed than ever before. We are all adjusting to this new normal and are unsure as to what the future brings. Let’s remember to continue to give generously to our Annual Campaign and to support our community at an even higher level than before.

It is not all “doom and gloom.” Thanks to the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven’s dedicated professional staff, Women’s Philanthropy has continued to offer programming via the internet. A series of Zoom lectures helped us prepare for an unique Passover experience. Other virtual social opportunities include a Happy Hour at 3 p.m. on Fridays, a monthly book club, and classes on Jewish genetic screening and other topics. We have postponed, but not cancelled, some upcoming events, including A Bend in the Stars author (TBD) and Cool Reads for Hot Days (September 10). Save the date of October 22 for the return of the fabulous, fun Baubles and

**In celebration of the spring harvest and nature, the Women’s Philanthropy shares its Shavuot cocktail recipes. L’chaim!**

### BLUEBERRY MINT JULEP

6 blueberries  
1 sprig of mint  
1 oz simple syrup (recipe at right)  
2 oz soda water  
2 oz bourbon

Take blueberries and mint, smash to create a puree and set to the side. Combine bourbon, simple syrup and soda water, and pour over ice. Add puree and stir gently.

### LEMON GIN SHANDY

1 oz gin  
1 oz lemon juice  
1 oz simple syrup (recipe at right)  
2 oz IPA beer  
01 sprig of mint

Shake gin, lemon juice and simple syrup together with ice. Pour into a glass with a few ice cubes. Slowly add beer, stir gently. Garnish with mint.



**Join Us! May 14, 2020 | 4 PM**

**Register in advance for this meeting:**

[https://zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/tJIsdu-urT8qEtV-vwHUTE1a8ukWoP\\_bmRVhK](https://zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/tJIsdu-urT8qEtV-vwHUTE1a8ukWoP_bmRVhK)

Bingo (previously Handbag Bingo). The fundraising campaign continues, with \$965,631.81 from 420 donors. If you have not made your annual pledge to the campaign, now is the time. Contact Kayla Bisbee (kbisbee@jewishnewhaven.org) or Amy Holtz (aholtz@jewishnewhaven.org), or visit jewishfederationofgreaternewhava.givingfuel.com/womens-philanthropy.

May is a beautiful month. We celebrate Mother’s Day, which this year may be particularly poignant. Call your mother, FaceTime with her or, even better, send a real card. Make a donation to honor her. We will celebrate Shavuot, commemorating the giving of the Torah, the time when we all assembled together as a community at Mount Sinai. We also celebrate Memorial Day to honor those who have served our country in the military.

*Wishing you all continued good health, safety and security, love and community, The Leadership of Women’s Philanthropy*

**Make sure to purchase the ingredients IN ADVANCE OF the class!**

### SIMPLE SYRUP

(will yield enough for both recipes)  
1 cup sugar  
1 cup water

In a small saucepan combine sugar and water, and stir. Bring to a simmer, stir until sugar has dissolved. Remove from heat and let it cool. Ready to use.



## HAPPY Mother's Day

This year show your gratitude with a scrumptious gift for mom filled with sweet and savory treats!

### Mother's Day Brunch

- Seasonal Fruit Salad
- Spinach Mushroom & Feta Frittata
- Pecan French Toast with Maple Syrup
- Artisan Salad
- Assorted Rugelach

**\$75.00**

Serves 4

No substitutions

FREE delivery to Woodbridge, Orange, Bethany, New Haven & Hamden

\*add \$20.00 for delivery to all other locations

Order deadline Thursday, 5/7 10 a.m.

Email us at [office@abelcaterers.com](mailto:office@abelcaterers.com) or call 203.389.2300

### Add Ons:

Bottle of Prosecco \$40.00

Bagels with Lox & Cream Cheese \$25.00

Bouquet of Tulips \$30.00

**abel**  
CATERERS, INC.  
The Kosher Catering Experts

[www.abelcaterers.com](http://www.abelcaterers.com)

70 Bradley Road, Woodbridge CT 06525

203.389.2300

[office@abelcaterers.com](mailto:office@abelcaterers.com)

## Local Volunteers Offer Safe Healing Place for Homeless

CONTINUED FROM PG. 2



explains Dr. Rosenthal. "With donations, we were able to get 15 tablets so patients could surf the internet. 'Egg crate' foam made the uncomfortable cots more comfortable."

"What is amazing to me is how the community is coming together with medical volunteers to staff the facility; support from the city and mayor's office; and community providing food, coffee, bedding and clothing as needed," says Dr. Rosenthal. "As this crisis goes on, how can we sustain these efforts in general? What we are doing is both preserving dignity for those that are sick and protecting public health in the whole community." Rabbi Michael Farbman, a Columbus House board member and the rabbi of Temple Emanuel of Greater New Haven, agrees about the community and interfaith effort.

The facility is run by the City of New Haven in partnership with donations accepted through the Columbus House nonprofit organization, which has been providing solutions to homelessness since 1982.

For an up-to-date list of new items, in-kind electronic, personal protection supplies and other needed donations as well schedule and drop off locations, email Jon Miller at [jon.miller.jrm267@yale.edu](mailto:jon.miller.jrm267@yale.edu).

To make a monetary donation to the respite facility, visit [columbushouse.org](http://columbushouse.org), and make tribute to "Career COVID respite."

# Exit Strategy from the Cave

by Eliraz Shifman Berman

Many of us feel these days that we have lost track of counting the days. These weeks of quarantine seem like years; we wish we could have been able to already count the days down. At the same time, Jewish tradition tells us to keep track of counting the omer—a tradition derived from the Torah to count 50 days from Passover until the holiday of Shavuot. That is the day that, according to tradition, we received the Torah.

We could have thought that those days between the two holidays would be only days of celebration; however, in Jewish tradition, they also include some mourning customs. According to tradition, 24,000 students of Rabbi Akiva—a leading sage in the first century CE—died during those days. Some say they died of a plague, while others say they were killed during the rebellion against the Roman Empire's prosecution of Jews. Rabbi Akiva himself died as a martyr defending the right to teach and observe the Torah.

The Talmud tells that after the horrible tragedy, five students of Rabbi Akiva survived and passed along the Torah. One of them was Rabbi Shim'on Bar Yochai (also known as Rashbi), one of the most famous sages. According to tradition, the thirty third day of the "counting of the omer" is Rashbi's yahrzeit, celebrated as Lag Ba'omer. A famous Talmudic legend tells that as Rashbi was himself persecuted by the Romans, he hid in a cave in the Galilee with his son. When he got out of the cave, after 12 years, and saw Jews occupied with agriculture instead of learning Torah, he was furious and smote everything by his very glance. A heavenly voice came down and said to Rashbi, "Did you emerge from the cave in order to destroy my world? Return to your cave!" We now can understand this heavenly voice as a criticism against the destruction of the world. However, Rashbi, according to the legend, went back to the cave and said to his son, "You and I suffice for the entire world."

How relevant to our days. We all mourn the horrible deaths of thousands of our current "plague" casualties. We are all "in our own caves" at home, alone, missing the lives we have once had only a few weeks ago. But, unlike Rashbi and Rabbi Akiva, we are not hiding from persecution—although we are worried about the rising anti-Semitism in the past few years and specifically amidst these COVID-19 times.

Unlike Rashbi and his son, we do not think that "you and I" really suffice for sustaining this world. We know that the only way to fight any trouble that might come—plagues, hatred or prosecution—is by addressing and countering it together, all of us cooperatively, Jews and non-Jews alike. Once we will be able to get out of our

physical "caves," we want to continue our tikkun olam efforts to build, replenish and nurture the world. We want to continue to transform suffering and persecution into care for others, for those in need and for the most vulnerable in our society. As we say in traditional Jewish prayer, "May this time be a time of mercy and acceptance." May we come out of this period stronger together.

Eliraz Shifman Berman is the Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council and Center for Jewish Life and Learning. Connect at [eshifmanberman@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:eshifmanberman@jewishnewhaven.org) or [jewishnewhaven.org/jewish-community-relations-council](http://jewishnewhaven.org/jewish-community-relations-council).

**Join Us! May 7, 2020 | 7 PM**

The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) will host a talk with Ellie Cohanim, U.S. Assistant Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, on the Global Rise of Anti-Semitism Amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic

**Register in advance for this meeting:**

[jewishnewhaven.org/rsvp](http://jewishnewhaven.org/rsvp)

## Preparing to Nosh on Shavuot

Creamy and cheesy are the major characteristics of Shavuot-related foods. Blintzes and cheesecakes are traditional go-tos for the menu, but try something new this holiday.

Here are some delicious ideas from My Jewish Learning's The Nosh ([myjewishlearning.com/the-nosh/27-shavuot-recipe-ideas](http://myjewishlearning.com/the-nosh/27-shavuot-recipe-ideas)) that take cheesy to a whole new level! If you make one of these recipes and "show off" your results to your friends on Facebook, make sure to tag @JewishFederationofGNH.



Image of mozzarella and tomato caprese blintzes made from My Jewish Learning's The Nosh recipe for Shavuot. Ready in only 30 minutes!

### SHAVUOT RECIPE IDEAS:

- Cheese and Herb Rugelach
- Pull-Apart Challah Stuffed with Cheese and Guava
- Challah Baked Brie
- Summer Pesto and Gruyere Stuffed Challah
- Savory Cheese Kugel
- Caramelized Onion and Feta Quiche
- Smoked Salmon and Goat Cheese Quiche
- Veggie and Cheese Burekas
- Chocolate Dipped Cheesecake on a Stick

# Tributes & Remembrances

## JEWISH FEDERATION

In memory of Alex Elkin  
*Bob & Sherri Kramerson*

In memory of Sidney White  
*Sydney Perry*

In honor of the birth of Dylan Henry Lang Diamondstein, the grandson of Judy Alperin  
*Julie, Sam, Miles & Zoe Katz*  
*Robyn & Jeffrey Teplitzky*  
*The Towers Board of Directors, Staff, Residents & Families*  
*Linda Cedarbaum*  
*Stacey & David Trachten and Family*  
*Mark, Amy & Sarah Holtz*

In memory of Perry Kalick  
*Friends at BRS Sunshine*

In memory of Karyn Ravski's father  
*Jeffrey & Robyn Teplitzky*  
*Josh & Linda Teplitzky*  
*Mark & Amy Holtz*  
*Lisa Stanger & Greg Colodner*

In memory of Sylvia Arovas  
*Mitch & Abby Goldblatt*  
*Emily Resnick Conn & Steven Conn*

In memory of Marcia Sabbath, mother of Kert Sabbath  
*Amy & Mark Holtz*

In memory of Marvin Gutkin  
*Larry & Sherry Shanbrom*

In honor of Matthew Nemerson, in appreciation for your kindness  
*Susan Jacobson*

In memory of Arthur Kleinberg  
*Stuart & Joan Margolis*

In honor of Sarah Goldstein's Bat Mitzvah to the Emissary Program  
*Maddy & Larry Tannenbaum*

In memory of Sylvia Portoff  
*Lisa Stanger & Greg Colodner*  
*Amy, Mark & Sarah Holtz*  
*Judie Brander*

In memory of Sylvia Portoff (continued)  
*Barbara Rubin*  
*Toby Ignal*

In memory of Jonathan Snyder's father  
*Amy & Mark Holtz*

In honor of Susan Jacobs Skowronek & Stephen Skowronek  
*Deborah Nadler Bloomfield & Michael Bloomfield*

## COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND

In appreciation of Eric Green & Jeffrey Sklarz for all that you do for the Accounting and Legal Profession  
*Richard Bernstein*

In honor of Judy Alperin, Scott Cohen & Lisa Stanger for keeping our community moving forward during challenging times  
*Leslie & Peter Zackin*

In honor of Bill & Shirley Lehman for continued good health  
*Paul DiCapua*

In honor of the birth of Dylan Henry Lang Diamondstein, the grandson of Judy Alperin  
*Lori Sunshine*

In honor of birthdays of Judy Alperin and Robyn Teplitzky  
*Jeffrey Orell & Barbara Green Orell*

In memory of Eric Loeb  
*Judy Kaplan*

In memory of Judy Andreas  
*Linda Tishler*

In celebration of Carleen Francis Celmer

In honor of Craig & Nanci Sklar  
*Joel & Eileen Geffin*

In memory of Judy Richheimer  
*Linda Tishler*

To purchase a tribute card:  
[jccnh.org](http://jccnh.org), [jewishnewhaven.org](http://jewishnewhaven.org), [newhavenjewishfoundation.org](http://newhavenjewishfoundation.org)

\*Tributes listed are up to April 28, 2020.

## JCARR

In honor of Roberta Friedman's birthday  
*Margo & Steven Wiener*

In honor of Sue Millen  
*Susan & Basil Anton*  
*The Epstein Family*  
*Gladys & Sidney Horowitz*

In honor of Lina Lawall  
*The Epstein Family*

In memory of Paul Caplan, father of Donna Hersh  
*Barbara & Jimmy Segaloff*

## JCC

In honor of the birth of Dylan Henry Lang Diamondstein, the grandson of Judy Alperin to Send-a-Kid to Camp Scholarship Fund  
*Lisa Kirshner*

## JEWISH FOUNDATION

**BECKERMAN FAMILY SUPPORTING FOUNDATION, INC. JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER ENDOWMENT FUND**  
In memory of Arthur "Red" Kleinberg & Marvin Gutkin  
*David & Ruthann Beckerman*

**LILYAN & MAURICE ULLMAN FUND**  
In honor of Joan K. Bailey  
*Nancy M. Cohen*

**LEONARD MARGOLIS ATHLETIC ENDOWMENT FUND**  
In memory of Elaine Dworkin, Arthur "Red" Kleinberg & Abe Rosenholtz  
*Stephen & Ronda Margolis*

## HARRY'S BIRTHDAY FUND

In honor of Harry Schwartz  
*Elanna Bernstein*

## ELAINE AND DR. JOSEPH DWORKIN FUND FOR ART EDUCATION

In memory of Elaine Dworkin  
*Lillian & John Resnik*  
*Roger Levine & Susan Stone*  
*Beth & Steven Jacober*  
*Sylvia Kreiger Frumer*  
*Lisa Stanger & Greg Colodner*  
*Marcia & John Gell*  
*Sylvia Horowitz*  
*Barbara & Bruce Lubov*  
*Diane Salow & Jeffrey Lustman*  
*Sandra & Elliott Kerzner*  
*Naomi & Joel Young*  
*Joan Glazer Margolis & Stuart Margolis*  
*Ken & Barbara Campbell*  
*The Sirad Family*  
*Jodi Goodman*  
*Steven M. Kreiger & Hinda Levin-Kreiger*  
*Joan & Robert Yudkin*

## COVID-19 RESPONSE-MAIMONIDES FUND

In honor of Eric Rubinstein  
*Avrom Kopelman*

## BETH MARGOLIS FUND FOR CAMP LAURELWOOD

In memory of Linda Baran, Elaine Dworkin, Dr. Samuel Goldberg, Lauren Laude, Murray Liefer, Stanley Scholsohn  
*Marilyn Margolis*

## ESTHER KREIVIT AND ANDREA KREIVIT ROSS FUND FOR THE BENEFIT OF SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN

In Memory of Douglas S. Ross  
*Hap & Stacey Perkins*  
*William R. Neumann, Jr.*  
*Deborah J. Schaefer*

## DAUGHTERS OF 1853 NURSING SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Peggy Ross, Sarah Hayden and Ruth Ross and in honor of Dylan Brubaker  
*Irma M. Ross*

## BEKI Hires Youth and Family Programming Director

Despite the economic consequences of the pandemic, Beth El-Keser Israel (BEKI) is expanding its professional staff. Anne Norman-Schiff, who is completing a Ph.D. in religious studies at Yale University, will be BEKI's first youth and family programming director. Although she met with BEKI families in April via Zoom, she starts her position on June 1.



"BEKI is a thriving and growing community with many young families," says President Yaron Lew. "Our youngsters represent our synagogue's future. Even in these tough times, BEKI is committed to serving our congregants and enriching our children and young adults. We committed the funds to make it happen."

Norman-Schiff will coordinate and support the children's Shabbat and High Holiday programs, which are led by parent volunteers. She will also be the advisor to BEKI's Kadima and USY youth groups.

"She is passionate about Judaism, comfortable working with people at all levels of learning, and has seen in her own life what synagogues, youth groups and Hillels can do to foster Jewish engagement," states Mark Oppenheimer, a parent at BEKI. "As a dad, I am so excited that she will be working with my kids."

"BEKI is such a warm community with an incredible spirit of volunteerism and learning," Norman-Schiff says. "I love the idea of making meaningful Jewish experiences for kids of all ages, and teaching and supporting our parent volunteers. I am so excited to support BEKI's young people in building their communities into what they want them to be."

"We see Annie as a fountain of knowledge and energy that will help propel our younger generation into a future of great deeds for our synagogue and the Jewish community at large," adds Lew.

*Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel is located in New Haven. Connect at [beki.org](http://beki.org).*

## New Head of School: New England Jewish Academy

Naty Katz has been chosen as the new Head of School for New England Jewish Academy (NEJA) in West Hartford. He will lead NEJA toward an exciting future for Jewish day school education in the Western Massachusetts, and Connecticut's Greater Hartford and New Haven areas.



During his 10 years of leading Maimonides School in Brookline, Massachusetts, Katz oversaw a full curriculum review and overhaul, and transformed the process of hiring and developing teachers. During this past year, he has served as the interim Head of School of Hillel Day School of Detroit.

Katz impressed the search committee, board of directors and parents during the interview process. His energy, pursuit of institutional improvement, vision for elevating the role of the school in the community, and personable manner and his lifelong commitment to the ideals of Modern Orthodox Judaism were clear drivers of his past success and future motivations. "We believe that Natty is exactly the right person to lead us at this time," said Dr. Sid Ulreich, Chair of the Search Committee. "With his background as a successful businessman, an accomplished head of school and a day school veteran, he brings the kind of expertise that we need to take NEJA forward in this complicated period."

Prior to joining Maimonides in a professional capacity, Katz founded two successful startup companies, H2O Furnishings and Dana Lighting. He also became a member of the Maimonides School Board of Directors with a focus on school fundraising and marketing. Katz took on the role of executive director in 2008 before becoming the head of the school. He is a lifelong devotee of Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik, z"l, considered the founder and spiritual pillar of Modern Orthodox Judaism.

*Find out more about New England Jewish Academy at [neja.org](http://neja.org).*

The patient care here is second to none. My entire family are patients of this practice, including my son. I wholeheartedly recommend Brush & Floss Dental to anyone looking for a practice with a really hands-on, caring approach.

-Steve, Patient



### BRUSH & FLOSS

#### DENTAL CENTER

203.378.9500 | [BetterSmile.com](http://BetterSmile.com)

## HIGH-TECH FAMILY, COSMETIC AND IMPLANT DENTISTRY

We want your family to be a part of our family. We are dedicated to providing patients with the best dental care available. Our office staff is friendly and welcoming, and our facilities are comfortable, creating a relaxing experience during your visits.

4949 Main Street, Stratford  
P: 203.378.9500 | F: 203.386.9057

Mon-Thurs: 8am - 8pm | Fri: 8:30am - 5pm  
Sat: 8:30am - 4pm

All consultations are complimentary! Call today to schedule yours!



*Dr. Johna Zitnay, DMD*




*Dr. Gemma Kwolek, DDS*      *Dr. Julia Latham, DDS*



Greater  
New Haven's  
Jewish Federation

GIVE  
VOLUNTEER  
GET HELP  
FIND RESOURCES



Jewish Foundation



JCC

HOTLINE 475-800-8010



Jewish Federation  
OF GREATER NEW HAVEN

*Jewish Moments*

POWERED



YOU

# "Ensuring Continuity Through Crisis"

## YOU POWER JEWISH LIFE

Our Jewish Federation is optimally positioned to ensure a comprehensive and coordinated approach to tackling the greatest challenges facing our community. The importance of a strong and vibrant Jewish community has never been clearer than it is today. The Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven is proud to play a role in safeguarding the most vulnerable among us, and to help coordinate and communicate the efforts of our community partners. Make your gift today so we can come together as a community, tomorrow.

[www.jewishnewhaven.org/give](http://www.jewishnewhaven.org/give)



Jewish Federation  
OF GREATER NEW HAVEN