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### MEET CMI'S NEW RABBI

His Jewish summer camp experiences are what inspired Rabbi Brian Immerman to become a rabbi.

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### HONORABLE MENSCHEN

The JCC's Librarian Kati Baltimore has lovingly cared for the JCC's library for the last seven years.

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### TOUCH-A-TRUCK ROLLS IN JUNE 3

The JCC is gearing up for the Annual Family Fun Day featuring Touch-A-Truck.

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FROM THE DESK OF  
**JUDY ALPERIN**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER | jalperin@jewishnewhaven.org



## Collaborations Continue to Strengthen Bonds of Community, Extend Our Reach

One of the perks of my job is coming into a building teeming with activity and happy smiling faces from adorable infants through determined Silver Sneakers seniors. I know that we live in a very special community. But during this time of year when the Jewish Federation's Planning & Allocations committee has the honor of meeting with and learning from agencies and organizations charged with caring for, educating, and enhancing lives in the Greater New Haven area, I am reminded how blessed we are by so many wonderful volunteers and professionals working hard every day.

This year, the Federation received applications for funding from 19 organizations! Many of these programs and agencies are the unsung heroes of our community and we took great inspiration hearing story after story of how funding from your support of the Jewish Federation's Annual Campaign makes a significant impact. We cannot forget that in addition to those organizations, there are many more who are supported through partnerships with the Jewish Federation and JCC, grants and distributions from the Jewish Foundation and our overseas allocation which funds the Jewish Agency for

Israel, the Joint Distribution Committee, World Ort and Partnership2Gether sister community Afula/Gilboa in Israel as well as our wonderful young Israeli emissary program.

A main theme that echoed through each conversation was collaboration. How could the organization work in tandem with others to better deliver service, streamline efforts and reduce costs?

As the committee moves forward under the visionary leadership of Dr. David Hass, the Planning & Allocations committee hopes to evolve its process by creating a supplemental grant pool. This will foster collaboration and create pathways to strengthen the bonds of community and perhaps extend the reach of impact. Of course, all of this will only be possible with growth in the Jewish Federation's Annual Campaign. I encourage each of us to give generously. As our theme states, "everyone counts," and each donor who steps up to say hineni - I am here, and joins with others to leverage their support, is a hero.

We learned many powerful lessons as we experienced the fire and its aftermath. We learned that we are

resilient, that we come together in times of crisis, that we deeply care for one another, that we cherish what has come before and will honor that by investing in our future, and that there is more that unites us than divides us.

Perhaps it is that last lesson that rings loudest today as we experience unprecedented acts of hatred and anti-Semitism globally and right here in Connecticut. Let these challenging times serve as a reminder that hatred and bigotry must be called out in all their most noxious and stealthy forms. The Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation is our representative and our voice. It is working in close collaboration with partners at the Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut (JFACT) and the ADL (Anti-Defamation League) to educate, respond and speak truth to power. But we need your help. If you see something, say something.

Thank you for being counted and for counting on us.

*Judy*

## 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 25 for July/August issue
- July 27 for September/October issue
- Sept. 28 for November/December issue
- Nov. 23 for January/February 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.

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## HONORABLE MENSCHEN: JCC's Librarian Kati Baltimore

by Tikva Shapiro  
Special to Shalom New Haven



Long before the newly renovated JCC re-opened to the public after last year's fire, Kati Baltimore was already hard at work. The hundreds of books hastily packed away to storage needed to be unpacked and put back in place. Who else but Baltimore was going to do it?

The bulk of the books now stand neatly along the walls, their titles in plain sight. Baltimore said the new arrangement makes the library seem more spacious and inviting, but seven years ago, the small library wasn't even open to the public. That all changed when Baltimore began volunteering.

Why, did she decide to volunteer at the JCC's library? "The library's doors were always locked, the lights were off. I found out that there was no librarian anymore," Baltimore said. "It bothered me that a Jewish facility could have a library that was not open. At the same time, I really needed

something in my life to do and felt the need to give back."

Once Baltimore offered to volunteer, she became the librarian. With some help from Ruth Gross, who was working at the JCC at the time, she wound up cataloguing and doing everything else for the past seven years. Baltimore didn't realize just how much she would get back from volunteering. "For me, it was a wonderful blessing and I feel that by volunteering I am getting more than I am giving," she admitted. Baltimore praised the JCC's original

librarian, Liz Edelglass, who established an amazing collection. "I feel I inherited something of a very good quality," she added. "I think that the main reason we need a library like this at the Jewish community center is because it's a uniquely Jewish collection and it allows access to books that may no longer be found in a public library."

Many people discover the library when they go to the gym at the JCC. "If you don't find it here, I can find it," Baltimore said. "I love looking up information and finding it out for people."

Despite her enthusiasm for books, Baltimore didn't start her career as a librarian. After graduating with a biology degree, she worked in an infectious disease laboratory where she met her future husband. During the last two years of that job, Baltimore earned a masters' degree in counseling with a specialty in career counseling. After her marriage, she chose to stay home and raise her children. Baltimore also took care of dying family members and a neighbor.

Yet what she really had always wanted to be was a librarian. "I realized that that's what I loved more than anything else - the research, the hunt, the excitement of finding information," Baltimore explained.

In the early '90s, she began taking some library courses and finally threw herself into it in 2003. A year and a half later, Baltimore earned a library science degree, specializing in children's literature and reference.

"I love this job," she said. "Books have always been a big part of my life."

After obtaining her degree, Baltimore worked at the New Haven Free Public library for several years. When she became ill, the JCC library volunteer opportunity came along and helped her recover.

Since the renovation, Baltimore has seen even more people coming in to visit the library. The library is also used for different activities like study groups, which she said also helps to

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**PHOTO CREDIT:** In the Spring 2018 issue of Shalom New Haven, the photo of James Silk and family on page 23 was taken by photographer Harold Shapiro.



Jewish Federation



Jewish Foundation



## OUR ANNUAL MEETING

Come celebrate an eventful year with us!

The Jewish Federation, Foundation & JCC of Greater New Haven Annual Meeting

TUESDAY, JULY 17, 7-9 p.m.

BECKERMAN/LENDER COMMUNITY BUILDING  
360 AMITY ROAD, WOODBRIDGE, CT

For more info: contact Jeanette Yurman (203) 387-2424 x325 [jyurman@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:jyurman@jewishnewhaven.org)

# Family Fun Day

Sunday, June 3  
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.



## FEATURING: Touch-A-Truck

**FREE**  
[jccnh.org/rsvp](http://jccnh.org/rsvp)

Climb, explore and discover more than **20 different trucks!** Activities for the whole family!

JCC of Greater New Haven, 360 Amity Road, Woodbridge  
(\*some fee-based activities are offered, and food for purchase)

## JCC Free Family Fun Day: June 3 with Touch-A-Truck

The JCC is gearing up for the Annual Family Fun Day featuring Touch-A-Truck on Sunday, June 3, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the JCC of Greater New Haven, 360 Amity Road, Woodbridge. We are thrilled to have this special event at our recently renovated JCC campus home. Hundreds of families attend this popular event that features more than 20 trucks on display, train rides, pony rides, a DJ and dancing, food, bounce house, crafts and vendors. Free Touch-A-Truck and free parking at the JCC, with some fee-based activities. Come join the fun!

Vendor spaces, truck spaces and event sponsorships are still available. Please contact Eliana Sugarman, [elianas@jccnh.org](mailto:elianas@jccnh.org). This community event will be held rain or shine. For more information, go to [jccnh.org](http://jccnh.org).

# Trachten to Receive Kipnis-Wilson/Friedland Award

The Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven is pleased to announce that Stacey Trachten is the newest recipient of the prestigious Kipnis-Wilson/Friedland Award which will be presented at the International Lion of Judah Conference (ILOJC), January 13-15, 2019, in Florida.



Since 2004, the Kipnis-Wilson/Friedland Award has honored extraordinary women who have set a high standard for philanthropy and volunteerism. The prestigious, internationally recognized award is given to Lions of Judah who have demon-

strated the highest ideals of leadership and involvement. Winners are chosen by their communities as "women of valor" with a lifetime of commitment to the Jewish world. The award was established in recognition of Norma Kipnis-Wilson and Toby Friedland (z"l), co-founders of The Jewish Federation of North America's Lion of Judah program.

Trachten, a long time Lion of Judah, has been an invaluable and extraordinary philanthropist in the Greater New Haven community. Her leadership has spanned many years and organizations, including Ezra Academy Jewish Day School, the Jewish Com-

munity Center of Greater New Haven, and the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, both as a lay leader and staff member. Trachten's strategic direction in outreach and engagement and Women's Philanthropy has paved a path for others to follow in Greater New Haven. In her roles as Women's Philanthropy Chair and later as a young adult professional, Trachten has infused our community with her energy and wisdom, setting a wonderful example for all. She currently serves as Greater New Haven's Women's Philanthropy Lion of Judah Endowment Chair and is a member of the Jewish Federation's Planning & Allocations Committee. Trachten has been the recipient of the Harry Lender Young

Leadership Award, the Ezra Academy Community Service Award, and the Anti-Defamation League's Torch of Liberty Award, which was presented to the Trachten family. Trachten has been a proud Lion of Judah since 1998 and an endowed Lion since 2008. She is married to David and has three children, Samantha, Perry and Max. A delegation of Lions of Judah will travel together to participate in the conference and honor Trachten. Registration for the conference is now open. Register at [lionconference.org](http://lionconference.org). Questions? Contact Assistant Director of Development for the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven Jennifer Bayer at [jbayer@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:jbayer@jewishnewhaven.org).

## Barry Vine Send-A-Kid to Camp Fund Needs You



**The Barry Vine Send-A-Kid to Camp Scholarship Fund needs you. Please donate and help us help kids enjoy summer camp at the JCC.**

As you may know, my participation in JCC camp was one of the most formative experiences of my life and it only happened because of the generosity of donors like you. Your donations will help further our community's tradition of one generation helping the next to grow and succeed, and enable us to provide many young people with rewarding and enriching summer camp experiences.

Our children will treasure their summer camp experiences and memories forever, as I have, and you will treasure the part you played in helping these young children flourish and grow.

Go to [jccnh.org/donate](http://jccnh.org/donate) and select Send-A-Kid from the drop-down menu.

Thank you for your support,  
Barry Vine

## Jewish Historical Society Honoring Alperin, Stanger

The Jewish Historical Society of Greater New Haven will honor two community leaders: Judy Alperin, Chief Executive Officer of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, and Lisa Stanger, Executive Director of the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven, at its 42nd Annual Buffet Meeting on

Sunday, June 3, at 4 p.m. in the Vine Auditorium at the JCC. The event will be catered by Abel's Caterers. Alperin and Stanger are being honored in recognition for the outstanding job each has done in support of the dynamic and growing Jewish community. For information, call Patti at (203) 392-6125.

## Local HaZamir Chapter Performs at Lincoln Center



The New Haven Chapter of HaZamir International Teen Choir performed at David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center in NYC on March 18. The local teens performed with nearly 400 singers from around the U.S. and Israel.

New Haven Chapter Conductor Cantor Malachi Kanfer was honored with a solo when the local conductors sang a piece.

To find out how your teen can join, contact Cantor Malachi at [cantorkanfer@gmail.com](mailto:cantorkanfer@gmail.com).



Above from left, Arielle Lavi, Sophia Colodner, Malachi Kanfer, Gideon Reiter, and Rotem Linchevski, one of our young emissaries from Israel, performed.

## Getting to Know CMI's New Rabbi Rabbi Brian Immerman

By Jeannette Brodeur  
Shalom New Haven Editor



Recent studies conclude that the young people who attend Jewish summer camp are more Jewishly engaged as adults, and Rabbi Brian Immerman, Congregation Mishkan Israel's new rabbi, is living proof of this.

Rabbi Immerman grew up in Shaker Heights, Ohio, and spent many joyful summers at Goldman Union Camp Institute in Zionsville, Indiana. He also took a teen trip to Israel and worked as the program associate in the Youth Division of the Union for Reform Judaism. He said it was these experiences from the age of 12 on that truly helped cement and strengthen his Jewish faith and ultimately led him to become a rabbi.

Rabbi Immerman grew up in a Reform/secular type of household with his parents, Michael and Irene, and his brothers, Jason and Matt, and attended Temple Tifereth Israel in Shaker Heights.

He received his bachelor's degree in computer science from the University of Rochester and briefly worked in banking before deciding to pursue his calling to become a rabbi.

Immerman attended Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) and received his master's in Hebrew literature and rabbinical ordination at HUC-JIR's New York City campus. While at HUC-JIR, he was a Shusterman Rabbinic Fellow, a joint collaboration between HUC-JIR and the Jewish Theological Seminary intended to foster innovation and vision in **Continued on page 31**



**BEVERLY LEVY**  
Early Learning Center  
JCC OF GREATER NEW HAVEN

### Now Enrolling For KINDERGARTEN

**A unique developmental play-based curriculum addressing the individual needs of children within a stimulating environment.**

Laura Prestash, teacher of the kindergarten program, holds both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Early Childhood Education. She also has been honored as teacher of the year by the Connecticut Association for the Education of Young Children.



Beverly Levy Early Learning Center offers programs for Infants, Toddlers, Preschool & Kindergarten  
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# JCC Day Camps

For Ages 4 - 15

## Pick the Weeks You Want

- Swim Lessons
- Field Trips
- Creative Arts & Activities
- Sports & Outdoor Games
- MakerSpace & Rock Climbing Wall
- Before/After Camp Options
- Free Transportation  
From Branford, Cheshire, Bridgeport & all points in between.

### REGISTER NOW!

[jccnh.org/camp](http://jccnh.org/camp)  
(203) 387-2424 x253



## Camp is just around the Corner

June 25 - August 24  
(Transportation included through 8/10)



**Jewish Federation**  
OF GREATER NEW HAVEN

# Mission to Poland & Israel

October 16-24, 2018




**ISRAEL**



## Join us!

- 6 days with a licensed Israeli guide in Poland and Israel
- Lot flight from Warsaw to Tel Aviv
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- Accommodations including portorage at highly rated hotels
- Breakfast daily and additional meals according to the itinerary (all included meals are kosher apart from hotel breakfasts in Poland)
- Entrance fees and programming costs per the itinerary
- Local medical insurance coverage in Poland and Israel (does not cover pre-existing conditions)
- Gratuities in restaurants, dining rooms and for portorage

RSVP to Jeanette Yurman  
jyurman@jewishnewhaven.org  
(203) 387-2424 x325

[jewishnewhaven.org/2018-mission](http://jewishnewhaven.org/2018-mission)

## JFNA Professionals Unite to Help in Houston

by Robyn Teplitzky  
Senior Director  
Mandel Center for  
Leadership Excellence  
The Jewish Federations of  
North America

No one expected that when the planning began for the 2018 JFNA Professional Institute to take place in Houston, that there would be a catastrophic hurricane that would have a lasting impact.

On Feb. 12, 280 Jewish Federation professionals from 90 communities across the country and Canada united in Houston for three days of learning, sharing, and networking with colleagues from across all disciplines. Professionals in the areas of campaign, marketing, young leadership and next gen engagement, Jewish education and engagement, along with the Small and Intermediate Federation Executives, participated in engaging and thoughtful conversation to enhance their professional roles.

The Mandel Center for Leadership Excellence is charged with providing learning opportunities for Federation professionals. The learning sessions, facilitated by experts in their respective fields, provide the platform to think, plan, and share ideas. This year, the conference included over 60 different presentations.

During the time together, participants had the opportunity to participate in a Repair the World hands-on experience at the Houston Food Bank, witness the devastation of Hurricane Harvey and the revitalization at the local JCC, and provide support to local Jewish families by hearing their stories and sharing a meal.



Each affinity department had a significant number of sessions, offering new and innovative ways of engagement. Marketing professionals heard about the branding and story of Chobani yogurt and young leadership professionals interacted with Rabbi Aaron Potek from GatherDC. Rabbi Daniel Smokler and Erica Frankel from Hillel International worked with the Jewish Education and Engagement professionals on new innovative ideas to bring home.

The Financial Resource Development professionals learned the most up-to date tax laws and consultants shared their fundraising knowledge.

The take-away for me from the Professional Institute is that, as a collective field, we are continuing to evolve and learn about all different aspects of our work from a variety of disciplines. The highlight for me is meeting new colleagues and reconnecting with those I have developed strong relationships with from missions and past conferences.

### WOMEN OF VISION SOCIETY GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE MAY 31

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.

**Applications are due May 31, 2018** and awards will be announced in June, 2018.

**To apply, please visit:**  
[www.jewishnewhaven.org/scholarships](http://www.jewishnewhaven.org/scholarships).

## More Than 1,000 Attend JCC Grand Re-Opening

More than 1,000 people filled the JCC of Greater New Haven's beautifully renovated building on Sunday, March 18, to celebrate the facility's grand re-opening at the Amity Road campus.

The event was combined with the Jewish Federation's Second Annual Mitzvah Day (a mitzvah is an act of kindness), a Mitzvah Fair, and the renaming and dedication of the Beverly Levy Early Learning Center. Formerly known as Yeladim, the early learning center was named in memory of Beverly Levy, a longtime leader in the Jewish community who died at the young age of 63 in 2014. Beverly's husband, Dr. John Levy, daughter, Perri, and her mother, Ann Eden, attended the dedication. The day's events marked the facility's official "coming home" just a little more than a year after a devastating fire broke out in a basement sauna at the JCC. The fire, which was ruled accidental, caused more than \$2.4 million in damage to the 106,000-square-foot building. Throughout the past year, the JCC continued its operations by relocating the fitness center, early learning center, all activities and corporate offices to other area facilities.



At the grand re-opening, JCC mascot Benny the Bagel danced and offered high-fives to visitors as they entered the main hallway, which was festooned with an arch of white and blue balloons. Visitors toured the renovated facility with its new fitness center and locker rooms, Rothberg Climbing Wall, MakerSpace, Hoos Family Art Gallery, Café 360 coffee shop and food

marketplace, and the co-working business center. The revitalized facility also boasts new fitness programs, updated equipment and furnishings, and expanded cultural classes and activities. "Every Sunday should be like today here at the J," remarked Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven President Dr. Norman Ravski at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the building. "This should be the heart of the community. This should be the place that all of us come for meeting people: for meeting old people that we know, for meeting new people that we want to know, and for having a good cup of coffee."

As part of Mitzvah Day, members of the Jewish Family Service of Greater New Haven's Shalom Group, teens from the Jewish Teen Education program and Camp Laurelwood volunteers assembled more than 300 lunches for Clinton and Old Saybrook social services. Students from Yahad, New Haven's community Hebrew school, and the Beverly Levy Early Childhood Learning Center crafted worry dolls for 50 girls at Alma Pre-Military Preparation Program in Israel. Community volunteers and Yahad students helped create more than 50 no-sew blankets for area pet shelters. The Federation's NextDor young professionals group prepared 35 lasagnas for resettled refugee families in the area. The Towers, along with local BBYO teens and Women's Philanthropy of the Federation, collected over 10,000 plastic bags to create weatherproof blankets and mats for the homeless. Volunteers also sorted more than 700 pairs of socks for Columbus House and Abraham's Tent and collected 176 boxes of cereal for Jewish Family Service and the Woodbridge Emergency Food Pantry.

A group of 25 volunteers raised more than \$87,000 with a Mitzvah Day two-hour phone-a-thon in support of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven's Annual Campaign. A Mitzvah Fair in the JCC's Vine Family Auditorium showcased area nonprofits and Jewish organizations. The fair boasted a carnival theme complete with a juggling clown, stilt-walker, popcorn and cotton candy, music, games and a face painting station provided by Ezra Academy.

"The JCC is far more than a building – it's a community," one member wrote poignantly to the staff after the fire. And on March 18, that community was reunited and strengthened as its members returned home again to the JCC.



Left to right: Woodbridge First Selectman Beth Heller, State Senator George Logan, Pastor Donald Morris, New Haven Mayor Toni Harp, and CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven Judy Alperin.



JCC Program Director Mara Balk helps children create worry dolls for girls at Alma Preparatory Academy in Israel.



Annual Campaign Chairman of the Jewish Federation Jeffrey Hoos and his wife, Betsy, who is a past president of the Federation, enjoy the festivities.

SAVE THE DATE

CHABAD OF MILFORD -  
HEBREW CONGREGATION OF WOODMONT

# Gala Evening

## Expanding

# HORIZONS

*Celebrating Kindness, Dedication, and Vision in our Community*

Honoring  
JOYCE SALTMAN & SOL HITZIG  
JOSEPH & PHYLLIS SATIN  
DR. ROBERT & DANIELLE KINSTLINGER

WEDNESDAY | 6 PM  
MAY 30, 2018

15 EDGEFIELD AVENUE, MILFORD

Paid for by a grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven

## Federation, Foundation Staff Visit UConn Hillel House



The Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven and the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven recently visited UConn Hillel House, meeting with students and learning more about our Federation dollars at work in this community.

## Shavuot Cooking Program Offered at Westville U

Westville University is an educational initiative by Westville Synagogue that offers dynamic, high level programming to the community reflecting a commitment to Jewish learning, history, culture, law and the State of Israel.

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 7:30 P.M.

Dr. Nadav Berman Shifman  
"The Challenge of the 'Caring G-d':  
A.J. Heschel's 'Theology of Pathos' in light of Eliezer Berkovits's Critique"

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 7:30 P.M.

Rabbi Daniel Cohen  
Congregation Agudath Sholom, Stamford  
"What Will They Say About You When You Are Gone?  
Creating a Life of Legacy"

### WEDNESDAY MAY 30, 7:30 P.M.

Rebecca Koenigsberg  
"Shavuot Cooking from Syria to Iraq"

### LOCATION OF CLASSES

Westville Synagogue  
74 West Prospect St.  
New Haven, (203)389-9513

For more information or to register for classes, go to [westvilleshul.org/](http://westvilleshul.org/).

## JHSC Remembers Parkland

As students around the country participated in organized school walkouts, in response to the recent events in Parkland, Florida, the Jewish High School of Connecticut provided students with options. They could participate in a student-led and programmed walkout, they could participate in a school programmed memorial service, or they could find their own space to be or not be involved. All programming was crafted to fit within a 17- minute window, allowing the memory of the students lost in Parkland to be the main focus. The walkout, included a recitation of the students' names. JHSC Junior, Celia Rosen, noted, "as I stood outside my school on March 14, I was not just protesting a country that continues to tune out the pleas of its people to reform, the cries of families who have lost loved ones far too soon; I was there standing with a Jewish community mourning the loss of their own."



## Jewish Foundation Offers Scholarship Opportunities

### COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

All scholarships are for high school seniors from Jewish households. All applications must be completed online by May 1. All applications are confidential and anonymously reviewed. Go to [jewishnewhaven.org/scholarships](http://jewishnewhaven.org/scholarships) for more information.

### Mary Taylor Friedler Memorial Scholarship Fund -

This scholarship is not needs-based and requires an essay on what peace, justice and righteousness mean to you and your Judaism. Awards range from \$500-\$2,000. Applicant must reside in Greater New Haven. Awards are based on the strength of the essay.

### Stuart J. Drell Scholarship Fund - Awards are

\$1,000 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 -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 (not Needs-Based)

The Jewish Foundation Israel Experience Scholarship Program enables local Jewish students ages 14-19 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 (minimum of three-week program) and long-term organized Israel educational programs. Greater New Haven youth ages 14-19 are eligible. For the 2018-2019 gap or academic year programs, applications are due by May 4, 2018. For 2019 summer trips, applications are due in March 2019.

An essay and two recommendations are required. Awards are based on the strength of the application and essay. All applications are confidential and anonymously reviewed by the Israel Experience Scholarship committee.

Go to [jewishnewhaven.org/scholarships](http://jewishnewhaven.org/scholarships) for more information, a list of qualifying programs, and application requirements.



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**Café 360**  
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Comfortable lounge & free WiFi  
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Open Sunday-Friday (closed Saturdays)

JCC of Greater New Haven, 360 Amity Rd., Woodbridge | [jccnh.org](http://jccnh.org)

**Want your kids to LOVE Hebrew school?**

Looking for a warm and welcoming community that will enrich your child's life and your life? Temple Emanuel is the place for your family! Our kids LOVE Hebrew school!

**Registration for pre-K through 7th grade opens in June!**

For more information: [www.TEGNH.org](http://www.TEGNH.org)  
or call Olga Markus ☎ 203-397-3000 ext. 3

**Check out our Shabbat Under the Stars on June 29!**

\* Free Temple Emanuel membership is offered for one year to families with oldest child enrolled in Hebrew school in pre-K through 4th grade!

Paid for by a grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven



**Jewish Federation** OF GREATER NEW HAVEN | Women's Philanthropy

Women's Philanthropy invites you to join us!

**TUESDAY, MAY 8 ..... 6-9:30 p.m.**  
Screening of *Wonder Woman*  
6-7 p.m. Women's Philanthropy Reception | SPONSORED BY THE SABRA SOCIETY  
7-9:30 p.m. Film Screening | Cinemark | 550 Universal Drive, North Haven  
\$18 for pre-show reception | IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PJ LIBRARY - MOM'S NIGHT OUT  
OPEN TO ALL WOMEN

**MONDAY, JUNE 4 ..... 7:30-9:30 p.m.**  
*Modern Jewish Baker*, Demo and Talk with Author and Blogger Shannon Sarna  
360 Amity Road, Woodbridge | \$36 Couvert | \$108 Event Sponsor | OPEN TO ALL WOMEN

**TUESDAY, JUNE 19 ..... 7:30-9 p.m.**  
National Jewish Book Award Winner, Dara Horn  
Private home in Milford | \$18 Couvert | \$54 Event Sponsor | OPEN TO WOMEN WHO GENEROUSLY SUPPORT THE JEWISH FEDERATION'S ANNUAL CAMPAIGN WITH A GIFT OF \$365+.  
SPACE LIMITED AND PRE-REGISTRATION REQUESTED

**TUESDAY, JUNE 26 ..... 6:30-9 p.m.**  
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Build a Tzedakah Program

The Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven Build a Tzedakah Fund invites you to help create positive change in your community by giving you an opportunity to make a life-long commitment to philanthropy. The Build a Tzedakah Fund allows you to take the responsibility of performing the mitzvah of Tzedakah by establishing your own charitable fund, forever.

The cost to establish a personalized Build a Tzedakah Fund is \$1,000. Your commitment of \$600 (payable over 3 years) is matched by \$400 from an anonymous donor.


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For more information, please contact Jennifer Bayer at (203) 387-2424, x320 or visit [www.newhavenjewishfoundation.org](http://www.newhavenjewishfoundation.org)







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Yale University  
*Distinguished Community Leadership Award*  
See article on page 14

# New J. New day.

NOT JUST A LUXURY ANYMORE...

## Massage Offers Many Health Benefits

By Susan Donovan  
Fitness Services Director  
JCC of Greater New Haven

It's time to start thinking of massage therapies as a research-backed tool that can improve your health instead of just a luxurious indulgence.

"The notion that massage is 'just an indulgence' is antiquated," says Brent A. Bauer, M.D., director of the complementary and integrative medicine program at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

A number of studies offer scientific evidence on the health benefits of massage therapy. Massage offers not only direct effects like changes that happen at the muscle level, pain pathways and a reduction in stress hormones, but indirectly, a comfortable setting designed for relaxation

can lead to profound effects on your emotional state. A few benefits worth better understanding include:

**1. Massage decreases stress, depression and anxiety.** When you're anxious and feeling under pressure, your body pumps out the stress hormone cortisol. Unfortunately, this just makes you feel even more stressed and anxious. The relaxation response, accompanied with a massage therapy session, can ease this hormone reaction resulting in less physical and emotional tension.

**2. Less pain.** Pain is the body's signal that something is wrong. Often times, many issues can be prevented with a routine massage program. Massage can help conditions such as osteoarthritis, muscle spasms or general soreness from physical activities. Improved circulation, fascia hydration

and a little assisted stretching result in improved mobility and range of motion in the joints.

**3. You'll sleep better.** Many of us have trouble falling asleep at night and nearly 10 percent of Americans suffer from chronic insomnia. A study in the Journal of Clinical Rheumatology compared the benefits of massage to those of only relaxation therapy on people with fibromyalgia. After five weeks of twice-weekly, 30-minute massages, those in the massage therapy group slept longer and more soundly than those who had relaxation therapy. Plus, people in the massage therapy group also found their pain level decreased and they had fewer tender spots on their bodies.

**4. Can help alleviate pain from carpal tunnel syndrome.** With more of us logging longer hours in front of

our computers, wrist pain is a problem many can relate to. In more serious situations, you may have carpal tunnel syndrome. A gentle hand massage may help.

One study reported in Rheumatology International divided carpal tunnel sufferers into two groups. One group got hand massages in addition to wearing wrist splints, while the other group just wore the wrist splints. At the end of the study, those in the massage group had better grip strength and less pain.

With specific information from the client or medical professional, a therapist can help rid the body of pain and discomfort, increase mobility and flexibility, while activating the lymphatic system; which improves general health and creates more energy, due to increased circulation.



## JCC, Federation Community Participating in "The Big Read"

For the second year running, the International Festival of Arts & Ideas has received funding from the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest to host a community-wide "Big Read." Running from April, through late June, this series of events centers on Claudia Rankine's book, "Citizen: An American Lyric."

**SUNDAY, MAY 6, AT 10:30 A.M.,** as part of the Beckerman Jewish Film Series, Citizen readers are invited to attend the screening of "Sammy Davis Jr.: I've Gotta Be Me" at Madison Art Cinemas. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased online at [jccnh.org/filmseries](http://jccnh.org/filmseries) or at the door.

**TUESDAY, MAY 15, AT 7 P.M.,** The JCC, in partnership with the Woodbridge Town Library, will host retired Quinnipiac University professors, Rachel Ranis (sociology) and Hedda Kopf (women's studies and English) to lead a community discussion on issues surrounding everyday racism in America. Both the JCC and Woodbridge libraries will have a small number of copies on loan. Digital access is available to all Connecticut residents through their public library's Hoopla or Overdrive service. The FREE event will be held in the Vine Family Auditorium at the Beckerman/Lender Jewish Community Building, 360 Amity Road, Woodbridge.

A consortium of community partners will present poetry slams, community talks, family programs, and more for audiences of all ages, based on the book's themes. Presenting partners include the New Haven Free Public Library, City Wide Youth Coalition; Gateway Community College; Institute Library; Baobab Tree Studios; and the Woodbridge Town Library. Although some events will take place in April, the Big Read's official launch will be held on Wednesday, May 3, from 6-8 p.m. at the Stetson Branch Library.

The JCC and Jewish Federation are excited to be hosting two Big Read events:



# WELCOME HOME JCC!

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Patricia Dillon  
[housedems.ct.gov/dillon](http://housedems.ct.gov/dillon)

# SHORELINE HAPPENINGS

## TBT Presents 'Rising of Song' Concert with Acclaimed Musician



The Silidker Family Music Fund presents a free concert for all ages at Temple Beth Tikvah, 196 Durham Road, Madison, on Sunday, May 6, at 1 p.m. - Shir Hama'alot, "Rising of Song" performance with internationally acclaimed musician Joey Weisen-

berg. Weisenberg is the creative director of Hadar's Rising Song Institute, and is the author of "Building Singing Communities" and "The Torah of Music," winner of a 2017 National Jewish Book Award.

He's a multi-instrumentalist musician, singer and composer who has performed and recorded internationally with dozens of bands in a wide variety of musical styles.

Lunch will be served at noon (immediately after religious school). The concert begins at 1 p.m. This program is sponsored by the Silidker Family Music Fund.

## Cluppin Spielers to Perform at CBSRZ Concert, Picnic

**Music & More** Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek's annual outdoor free concert and picnic will be held rain or shine, Sunday, June 24, at 5 p.m. at CBSRZ, 55 E. Kings Hwy., Chester. Bring blankets and chairs. This year, the new CBSRZ house band, The Cluppin Spielers, will perform. Grilled summer foods will be available for purchase with proceeds to local charities. For more information, call

(860) 526-8920.

**Art Gallery Opening** The CBSRZ Art Gallery welcomes back the CT Valley Camera Club through July.

**Books & Bagels**

On Sunday, June 3, at 9:30 a.m., Amy Bloom will discuss her book "White Houses." Copies available for purchase and signing. Refreshments will be served.

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**JCC OF GREATER NEW HAVEN** **New J. New day.**

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# BUILDING memories

You have built your family memories here. From the time your kids learned to swim to the time they were ready to lead, you raised them at the J. The first point scored on the basketball court, the radiant smiles after a day full of adventures, the fun times at the pool... they all happened here. Now it's time to build those same experiences for others.

Give to the Capital Campaign and help others BUILD their memories at the J.

[jccnh.org/build](http://jccnh.org/build)



## What will you help them build?



## BUILDING our community together

Our building means so much to so many. Here, our community leaders share what this building represents to them. They all believe that this building needs to be maintained, improved and cherished for generations to come. Become part of this effort. Building community. Building strength. Building momentum and building a future. Your gift to the Building Campaign will do all of these things.



### BUILDING Strength

**Norman Ravski, President of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven**  
The fire and the closure that followed reminded us what this building was all about. The significance of our community building was not in the four walls, it was in the activities that brought people together, all under the same roof. It was people of all ages doing what they love, learning new skills, smiling and greeting each other - that's the force of our community building.



### BUILDING Community

**Scott Hurwitz, President of the JCC of Greater New Haven**

The construction process at the Beckerman/Lender building following the fire provided an

opportunity to make several important modifications to the building, which will allow the JCC to better serve the community. We worked hard to strengthen and secure the future of this tremendous community resource.

Go to [www.jccnh.org/building-campaign](http://www.jccnh.org/building-campaign) for a complete list of our extensive improvements to the building.



### BUILDING Momentum

**Judy Alperin, CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven**

When a community pulls together extraordinary things happen. We saw this in the wake of the fire, when letters, phone calls, and contributions spontaneously flooded in. It reflected the level

of genuine care and support our community has for the building and what it represents: it stands for Jewish values and it's open and welcoming for all. It's a place where our most precious family memories, friendships, hopes, and sense of community come to life. Over the past several months, active fundraising has been underway to support the necessary building improvements which were not covered by insurance, but \$1.8 million is still needed to complete the effort. Join us in building momentum. Contribute today.



### BUILDING a Future

**Scott Cohen, Executive Director of the JCC of Greater New Haven**

My work here in the building for the last 20 years has given me a unique, front-row seat to experience

the positive impact our community building has. I see it in the sparkling eyes of the children attending afterschool activities and in the smiles of our seniors coming in for bridge. I see it in the high fives at the gym and in the tender moments as parents help their children learn a new skill. It is our duty to preserve these kinds of moments for the next generation. Join us in building a future for our community building.

Photos by Peter Olin

## Our Capital Campaign Honor Roll

### SPONSORS (Contributors of \$18,000+)

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- Laticrete International, Inc.
- Steven & Andrea Fleischman ..... Fleischman Family Center
- Scott & Jocelyn Hurwitz and Norman & Heidi Hurwitz
- David Rothberg & Nan Birdwhistell ..... Rothberg Climbing Wall
- David & Ruthann Beckerman
- Sam Bobrow & Paulette Bobrow
- Jeffrey & Betsy Hoos ..... Hoos Family Art Gallery
- Barry & Hyla Vine ..... Vine Family Auditorium Audio Visual Improvements
- Richard & Debbie Epstein
- Hap & Stacey Perkins
- Norman & Karyn Ravski
- Titan Energy New England/Michael & Sara Horton
- David & Stacey Trachten and Viking Kitchens
- Green & Sklarz, LLC ..... Digital Information Board in Main Lobby
- Lawrence & Sherry Shanbrom and Adam Wallace & Rachel Curry and Jessica Wallace & Kyle Moyher ..... Fitness Desk

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Jewish Foundation OF GREATER NEW HAVEN



JCC OF GREATER NEW HAVEN

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## What will you help them build?

You have built your family memories here. From the time they learned to swim to the time they were ready to lead, you raised them at the J. The first hoop in the gym, the radiant smiles after a day full of adventures, the fun times at the pool... it's been here for you. Now it's time to build it for others. Your gift to the Building Campaign will help sustain our community for years to come. Become part of this effort. Contribute today and know that you are helping others to build strength, friendships, and memories in our community building.

# David Slossberg Named ADL CT Regional Board Chair



The Anti-Defamation League is excited to announce Milford attorney David Slossberg as the Connecticut Regional Board Chair. Slossberg's entrée to ADL began many years ago as a member of ADL Connecticut's Civil Rights Committee. For the last decade, he has served on ADL's Regional Board, including as its immediate past Chairman of the Leadership Committee. He also serves as an ADL National Commissioner. Slossberg is a member of the Board of The Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven (2015-present) and a member of the Board of Directors of The United Way of Milford. He served as Chairman of Milford Progress, Inc. (2012), and has served on the Board of Directors of the Milford Chamber

of Commerce, twice named as Director of the Year, and was Chairman Emeritus in 2010. Slossberg is a past President of the Devon Rotary Club, serves on the Board of the Devon Rotary Foundation and is a Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary. Slossberg is a managing member of the law firm of Hurwitz Sagarin Slossberg and Knuff, LLC, in Milford, and serves on the Public Outreach Committee of the Federal Court, coaching high school students in mock trials held in the Federal District Court. Slossberg was appointed to the Connecticut Statewide Grievance Committee by the Executive Committee of Judges of the Superior Court. He served as Chairman of the Connecticut Committee of the Federal Bar Council, as Treasurer of the Board of Directors of the Federal Bar Foundation and serves as a Trustee of the Federal Bar Council. He is a contributing editor to the Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices, Business Torts and Anti-Trust Treatise.

# ADL Honors Fleischman & Higgins



Steven Fleischman



Ronnell Higgins

The Anti-Defamation League Connecticut Office (ADL) will honor Dr. Steven Fleischman and Yale Police Chief Ronnell Higgins at the 2018 Greater New Haven Torch of Liberty Award Dinner on Thursday, May 31, at 6 p.m. at Congregation B'nai Jacob.

Steven Fleischman is the Associate Chief of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Yale New Haven Hospital and has been in private practice with Obstetrics, Gynecology & Menopause Physicians, PC, for the last 18 years. Dr. Fleischman is an elected member of the Woodbridge Board of Education and current Chair of the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven and past president of B'nai Jacob.

Ronnell Higgins has served as Chief of Police at Yale University since 2011; he was named Director of Public Safety in 2015. Chief Higgins was appointed to serve on the Commission on Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Criminal Justice System. He serves on the executive board for the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives for Connecticut. "Both of our honorees this year speak to ADL's mission and values in such direct, thoughtful and community-minded ways," commented Steve Ginsburg, Director of ADL CT. All proceeds from the event benefit the ADL Connecticut office. For more information, call Lisa Ratcliff at (203) 780-0202 or email LRatcliff@adl.org. See ad on page 9.

# Emissaries Offer a Huge Toda

By Rotem Linchevski & Talya Machpood  
Our Young Emissaries from Israel

Our adventure is coming to an end. Can you believe that a year has gone by so fast? We definitely can't. It involved so many things: Rosh Hashanah, dressing up as Israeli food on Purim, participating in Shabbat services, mentioning Yom HaZikaron and Yom Hashoah, celebrating 70 years for Israel here in Connecticut, and so much more!

There are so many small and big moments that we will take with us for the rest of our lives. We're returning home more mature, more knowledgeable and more complete. We gained a stronger Israeli and Jewish identity and it's all because of you! By showing us your ways of living a Jewish life, you helped us find our own.

We met so many new and incredible people. It was the best year of our lives so far. The only thing we have to do is to say a huge "toda"- thank you!

Toda to the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven for being our home, for supporting us and caring about Israel.

Toda to all the institutions (synagogues, Hebrew schools, Ezra Academy, JTE, The Towers, public schools, and many more) for opening your doors to us, and opening your hearts for Israel. We hope you



Say goodbye to Talya Machpood & Rotem Linchevski at their farewell party on June 11 from 6:30-8 p.m. at the JCC!

learned something from us, and we hope you know how much we learned from you. Toda for our amazing host families: the Horwitz-Chirmomas, Delmoro-Stein, Dworkin and Sussman families. You taught us that it's not blood that makes people a family, but hearts. Thank you for sharing this adventure with us. You will be our family for life. This was such a life-changing experience to be a part of these special families.

Toda to Amalya Brownstein, Amalyush, for being the greatest coordinator we could ever ask for. You guided us with warmth, love and professionalism and pushed us to be the best we could be and

showed us how to enjoy our journey.

And most importantly, a big toda for you! Yes, you! Thank you for being a part of the Greater New Haven Jewish community. This community became our second home - our home away from home. You welcomed us so warmly, you cared, offered to help and really wanted to get to know us and be a part of our year here.

Come say a proper goodbye to us at our farewell party on June 11. We are not saying "Shalom" as goodbye, we're saying "Le'hitraot"- see you later!

To stay in touch, pick up the phone, send an email or a text!

If you are interested in hosting, contact Amalya Brownstein, amalyab@jccnh.org.

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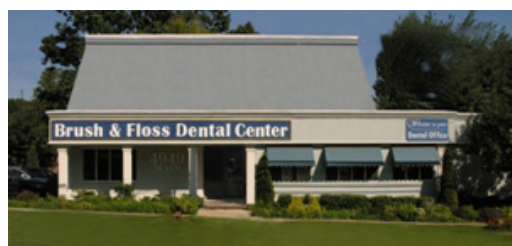
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# A TIMELINE OF ISRAEL

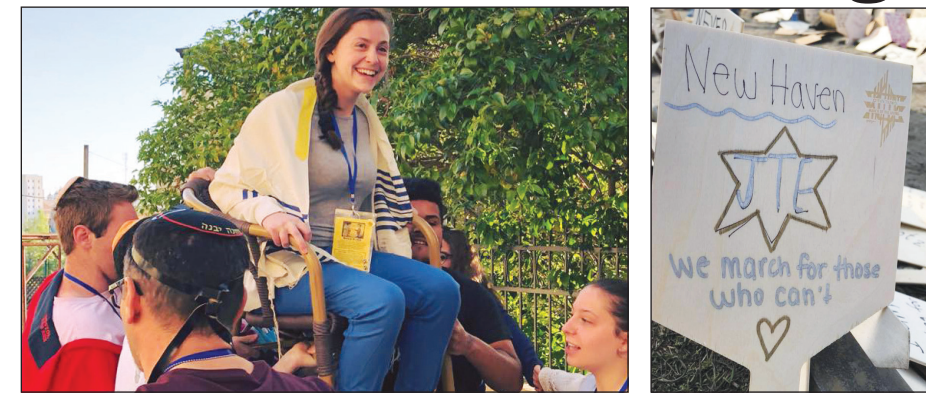
- 1948**
  - Israel is founded on May 14, 1948.
  - On May 15, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Syria invade Israel. The War of Independence lasts 13 months.
  - The Supreme Court of Israel is inaugurated, the Israeli lira replaces the Palestinian pound and the Israeli flag becomes the state's official flag.
  - El Al, Israel's new national airline, operates its maiden flight, bringing Israel's first president, Prof. Haim Weizmann, home from a diplomatic visit to Geneva.
- 1949**
  - Some 49,000 endangered Yemenite Jews, and some from countries including Saudi Arabia, are airlifted to Israel in a secret operation, Operation Magic Carpet.
- 1950**
  - Israel's Law of Return, approved by the Knesset on July 5, entitles anyone of Jewish matrilineal descent or a Jewish convert, to immigrate to Israel and obtain full citizenship.
- 1951**
  - The Egged bus company becomes a cross country public transportation network.
  - The Tel Aviv Stock Exchange opens.
- 1952**
  - Stef Wertheimer sets up a small metal shop and tool-making company in the backyard of his home in Nahariya. Today, his company, ISCAR, is one of the world's largest manufacturers of carbide industrial cutting tools used by carmakers like Ford and General Motors.
- 1953**
  - The Israel Prize is awarded for the first time.
  - The Conquest of the Desert world's fair opens in Jerusalem. Some 600,000 attend.
- 1954**
  - Maskit fashion house is founded by Ruth Dayan as a government-run company selling luxury women's wear made in Israel.
  - The first all-Israeli motion picture, "Hill 24 Does Not Answer," is produced in the Negev Desert.
- 1955**
  - Israeli physicist Dr. Harry Zvi Tabor develops a new type of solar heater (dud shemesh in Hebrew), to produce hot water for households.
- 1956**
  - Tel Aviv University opens.
- 1957**
  - MASHAV, Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation, is founded.
  - National telephone dialing is introduced.
  - Heichal HaTarbut, the main concert hall in Tel Aviv, opens.
- 1958**
  - The first supermarket opens in Tel Aviv.
  - Noa Eshkol and Abraham Wachman create the Eshkol-Wachman Movement Notation (EWMN) for recording movement. It is still being used in many fields including the early diagnosis of autism.
  - The first International Bible Contest is held in Jerusalem.
- 1959**
  - Haifa gets a subway.
- 1961**
  - El Al Israel Airlines begins flying nonstop between Tel Aviv and New York, setting a world record for the longest nonstop flight.
- 1963**
  - Israel takes its first major steps into cannabis research.
- 1964**
  - The National Water Carrier is completed, bringing water from Israel's north to the parched south.
  - Osem introduces Bamba, Israel's favorite peanut snack.
  - Batsheva Dance company, Israel's premiere dance troupe, is founded by Martha Graham and Baroness Batsheva de Rothschild.
  - Motorola becomes the first U.S. corporation to set up an R&D unit in Israel.
- 1965**
  - The Israel Museum is established in Jerusalem as Israel's national museum.



## Israel Celebrates 70 YEARS



# JTE March of the Living



In April, members of our local JTE group participated in the March of the Living, where they journeyed to Poland to explore the remnants of the Holocaust, visit concentration camp sites and then traveled to Israel for Israeli Independence Day. Above, JTE member Maya Barbieri celebrated her Bat Mitzvah in Jerusalem with her first Aliyah.



# Federation Marks Israel's Important Milestone

**As Israel celebrates 70 years of independence, here are just some of the events the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven has offered to commemorate this important milestone:**

### OCTOBER 2017

**Oct. 26, 2017, Philanthropic Impact.** See the Impact of your philanthropy in Israel. Donors were invited to a private home in Milford to hear how their philanthropic dollars are helping to provide a therapeutic home to children at risk or who have faced domestic violence and/or abuse in our sister city of Afula-Gilboa.

### NOVEMBER 2017

**Nov. 18, 2017, A Taste of Honey.** The Greater New Haven community's evening of Jewish Learning returned for its 22nd year on at Congregation Mishkan Israel in Hamden. Our Young Emissaries from Israel, Rotem Linchevski and Talya Machpood, presented "70 Years, 70 Facts" at the event.

**Nov. 30, 2017, Women of the Wall.** Donors were invited to Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel (BEKI) to learn about pluralism in Israel today. The event was offered by the Women's Philanthropy of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven and Women of Vision Society of the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven.

### JANUARY 2018

**Jan. 16, 2018, Michal Barkai Brody.** The Women of Vision Society held a Dessert Reception featuring Michal Barkai Brody, founder of Alma Pre-Military Academy for Female Leadership. She discussed the incredible impact she's having on disadvantaged women in Israel. Through her program, young women are gaining access to leadership skills and tools to help them succeed in the IDF and attain greater success in life following their service. Alma Pre-Military Academy for Female Leadership is a 2016 Women of Vision Society grant recipient.

**Jan. 19, 2018, Changing Realities of Bedouin Women in Israel's Negev: Leadership Towards a More Shared Society.** The Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven hosted a breakfast with Amal Elsana Alh'jooj, who shared her personal story at the JCC.

### MARCH 2018

**March 12, 2018, Israeli Café.** The Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, in partnership with the Southern New England Consortium (SNEC), presented an evening full of culture, scents and sounds. Hailing from our sister city, Afula-Gilboa, vibrant chefs and musicians invited participants to join them in the kitchen to cook, sing and dance.

### APRIL 2018

**April 8 - 21, 2018, JTE March of the Living trip.** In April, members of our local JTE (Jewish Teen Education) group participated in the March of the Living, a powerful annual educational program which brings students from around the world to Poland, where they explore the remnants of the Holocaust, visit concentration camp sites, and then travel to Israel for Independence Day.

**April 16, 2018, Hands on Drumming with Craig Norton.** PJ Library offered a musical journey for children and their parents at the JCC in honor of Israel's 70th Birthday. The group played traditional songs from around the globe, created their own rhythms and took turns leading and experiencing improvisation, creative movement and dance.

**April 19, 2018, Israel's 70th Birthday.** The JCC, families celebrated Israel's 70th birthday, Israeli style with lively Israeli dancing, music, games, and dinner.

**April 22, 2018, FILM: Heading Home: The Tale of Team Israel.** As part of the Third Annual Beckerman Jewish Film Series, the public enjoyed "Heading Home: The Tale of Team Israel." A stirring story of sports, patriotism and

personal growth, "Heading Home" charts the underdog journey of Israel's national baseball team competing for the first time in the World Baseball Classic.

### UPCOMING EVENTS: JUNE 2018

**June 3, 2018, Israel Day Parade.** The public is invited to join the Jewish community of Greater New Haven in New York City as they attend the Israel Day Parade, the largest event in the world which supports Israel. Go to: [jewishnewhaven.org/eventlist/israel-day-parade-70th-anniversary](http://jewishnewhaven.org/eventlist/israel-day-parade-70th-anniversary).

**June 10, 2018, Israel at 70 Celebration.** From 1-4 p.m., the community is invited to the "Israel at 70 Celebration" at Camp Laurelwood in Madison. Go to: [jewishnewhaven.org/eventlist/israel-at-70-celebration](http://jewishnewhaven.org/eventlist/israel-at-70-celebration).

**OCTOBER 2018**  
**Oct. 16-24, 2018, Mission to Israel and Poland.** The Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven is offering a six-day trip to Israel and Poland that includes trips to Warsaw, Old Town Krakow, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Go to: [jewishnewhaven.org/2018-mission](http://jewishnewhaven.org/2018-mission).

# TIMELINE, CONTINUED

- 1966**
  - Coca-Cola comes to Israel, defying the Arab boycott.
  - Writer Shai Agnon (in English, S.Y. Agnon) wins the Nobel Prize in Literature.
- 1967**
  - Ben-Gurion University of the Negev opens.
  - Israel successfully overcomes attacks by Egypt, Jordan and Syria in the Six-Day War.
- 1968**
  - Israeli TV shows its first-ever broadcast — the 20th Independence Day military parade.
- 1969**
  - Golda Meir becomes Israel's first female prime minister.
- 1972**
  - Eleven Israeli Olympic team members are taken hostage and eventually killed along with a police officer by the Palestinian terrorist group Black September.
  - IBM Israel opened its first R&D center in Haifa.
- 1973**
  - The Yom Kippur War breaks out. Fought by a coalition of Arab states led by Egypt and Syria against Israel, it lasts from Oct. 6 to 25.
- 1974**
  - Intel sets up a chip design center in Haifa, its first outside the US.
- 1975**
  - Israel unveils its first locally manufactured fighter jet, the Kfir, on Independence Day.
- 1976**
  - A team at Hebrew University creates the world's first automated library system.
  - Miss Israel Rina Mor wins the Miss Universe competition.
- 1977**
  - Maccabi Tel Aviv wins the European Basketball Championship.
  - Israeli director Moshé Mizrahi wins an Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film.
- 1978**
  - Israel wins the Eurovision Song Contest.
  - Israel sends its first medical team to respond to a foreign crisis in Cambodia.
- 1979**
  - Prof. Michel Revel discovers a novel way to treat multiple sclerosis by experimenting on foreskin. His research leads to the development of one of the leading drugs to treat MS.
  - Israel's favorite chocolate pudding, Milky, debuts on the market.
- 1980**
  - The lira is replaced by the shekel.
- 1983**
  - The Golan Heights Winery is founded, starting the "quality revolution" in Israeli wine.
  - Israel creates a national search-and-rescue unit to respond to domestic & foreign disasters.
- 1984**
  - Seven thousand Ethiopian Jews are flown to Israel from Sudan in a covert mission called Operation Moses to rescue them from famine and civil war.
- 1985**
  - Prof. Shlomo Navarro develops a large, hermetically sealed bag for crops that doesn't require pesticides.
- 1986**
  - The Jewish Agency launches Arava R&D to develop cutting-edge agri culture and aquaculture technologies in the Arava Desert.
- 1987**
  - Dr. Morris Levi performs the first heart transplant Israel at Beilinson Hospital.
- 1988**
  - The Israel Defense Forces sends 120 medics and rescue workers to Armenia to help find & treat survivors after a devastating earthquake.
- 1989**
  - Start of mass immigration of Jews from the former Soviet Union.
- 1990**
  - Former IDF medic Bernard Bar-Natan develops the Emergency Bandage.

# ISRAEL TIMELINE, CONTINUED

- 1991** ■ Haim Shtalryd develops the first modern baby breathing monitor that can detect and prevent Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.
- 1992** ■ Israel wins its first two Olympic medals.
- 1993** ■ The Oslo Peace Accord is signed. ■ Michael Jackson performs, becoming one of the first major performers to appear in Israel.
- 1994** ■ Israel and Jordan sign a peace treaty and open their borders, allowing people to travel freely between the two countries.
- 1995** ■ The non-profit organization Save a Child's Heart is founded, offering free heart surgery to children from developing countries.
- 1996** ■ Jerusalem celebrates its 3,000th anniversary of King David establishing it as his capital city.
- 1997** ■ Israel opens its first reverse osmosis desalination plant in Eilat.
- 1998** ■ Newsweek names Tel Aviv one of the 10 most technologically influential cities in the world. ■ Linor Abargil is the first Israeli to be crowned Miss World. ■ Transgender Sharon Cohen wins the Eurovision Song Contest with her song "Diva."
- 1999** ■ Mobileye, a system to prevent accidents by warning drivers of a dangerous situation, is developed at Hebrew University.
- 2000** ■ M-systems launches the world's first flash drive, the DiskOnKey.
- 2001** ■ NGO IsraAID is founded to provide lifesaving disaster relief and support across the world.
- 2002** ■ Psychologist Daniel Kahneman receives the Nobel Prize in Economics. ■ Dream Doctors is founded and revolutionizes the field of professional therapeutic clowning.
- 2003** ■ Israel celebrates and then mourns when Ilan Ramon, the nation's first Israeli astronaut for NASA, takes part in the Columbia space mission. Ramon and the other six crew members died when the shuttle blew up on re-entry to Earth.
- 2004** ■ Tel Aviv is declared a World Heritage Site for its cluster of Bauhaus buildings. ■ Aaron Ciechanover and Avram Hershko win the Nobel Prize in chemistry.
- 2005** ■ Prof. Robert Aumann wins the Nobel Prize in Economics. ■ Using ancient seeds found in Masada, Dr. Sarah Sallon and Dr. Elaine Solowey resurrect the Judean date palm.
- 2006** ■ The Lebanon War, a military conflict in Lebanon, Northern Israel and the Golan Heights, breaks out in July. ■ Israel's national emergency medical service, is inducted as an official member society of the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement. ■ Eli Beer starts United Hatzalah of Israel, a network of volunteer neighborhood EMTs who often travel on ambulances.
- 2007** ■ Good Deeds Day is launched by Israeli businesswoman and philanthropist Shari Arison.
- 2008** ■ Driver navigation app Waze is founded by Israeli programmers. ■ BriefCam launches its video synopsis and artificial intelligence platform, now used globally, including at the Statue of Liberty. ■ Leading wine critic Robert Parker declares 14 Israeli wines to be world-class vintages.

- 2009** ■ Tel Aviv celebrates its 100th anniversary. ■ Israeli basketball player Omri Casspi is the first Israeli to play in the NBA. ■ Ada Yonath becomes the first Israeli woman to win the Nobel Prize, and the first woman in 45 years to win the Nobel Prize for Chemistry.
- 2010** ■ Israeli mathematician Elon Lindenstrauss is the first Israeli to be awarded the Fields Medal. ■ Israeli author Etgar Keret receives the Chevalier (Knight) Medallion of France's Order of Arts and Letters.
- 2011** ■ A test of the revolutionary Iron Dome missile defense system intercepts a short-range rocket for the first time in history. ■ Prof. Daniel Shechtman wins the Nobel Prize in Chemistry. ■ Israeli women's basketball team Elitzur Ramla wins the women's EuroCup final in France.
- 2012** ■ An international study finds Tel Aviv the best place for high-tech startup companies, second only to Silicon Valley.
- 2013** ■ In this record-breaking year for Israeli high-tech, 662 companies closed financing rounds, raising a cumulative \$2.3 billion. ■ A study in the American Journal of Ophthalmology shows that Israel leads the world in preventing and treating all four main causes of preventable blindness.
- 2014** ■ Israel becomes the 21st member state of the European Organization for Nuclear Research.
- 2015** ■ Israel ranks in the top 20 nations in the world on the UN's 2015 Human Development Index.
- 2016** ■ The IDF Medical Corps field hospital is rated the world's best by the World Health Organization (WHO). ■ The first International Summit for Accelerating Cannabis Innovation is held in Tel Aviv.
- 2017** ■ Former Miss Israel and IDF combat instructor Gal Gadot stars in "Wonder Woman," which becomes the highest-grossing film directed by a woman, the highest-grossing superhero origin film in the US and worldwide, and the largest opening for a female-led comic book film. ■ The population of Israel reaches 8.793 million.
- 2018** ■ U.S. News and World Report ranks Israel the eighth most powerful nation in the world.

Timeline credit: Israel 21c, israel21c.org

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**SUNDAY, JUNE 3**



Celebrate Israel's 70th Birthday by joining tens of thousands of Israel supporters from the tri-state area, as we walk up Fifth Avenue in New York City on a wave of Jewish pride and joy! We will march with the American Zionist Movement as the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven and Ezra Academy.  
**MANDATORY T-SHIRTS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED PARADE: 11 a.m.**  
RSVP: Meetup location & additional details will be given at time of RSVP. Please RSVP by May 25.  
**QUESTIONS?** Call Deb Gaudette (203) 215-7368 debweb0312@sbcglobal.net

**CELEBRATE ISRAEL PARADE**

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

## Heart to Heart Mission Inspires Merit



Sami Merit and Jessica Lerner Halprin recently returned from a unique and special trip to Israel made possible by Jewish Federation's National Women's Philanthropy.

Heart to Heart is an incredible mission that connects and inspires women.

During this five-day mission, women experienced the inspiring work Federation makes possible in Israel.

Jennifer Bayer, Assistant Director of Development for the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, spoke recently with Sami Merit about her experience.

**JB:** What did you find unique about traveling to Israel through Jewish Federation's National Women's Philanthropy?

**SM:** The itinerary showcased the works of our Federations in Israel. The mission tangi-

bly demonstrates how we are supporting all facets of life in Israel from at-risk youth to our aging Holocaust survivors.

Since the site visits were selected to appeal to women, we learned a bit about the roles of our Israeli counterparts.

**JB:** What were some highlights of this trip?

**SM:** I loved meeting the "changemakers!" We met an Arab woman from Lod working with Arab and Ethiopian at-risk youth in a single community center. A Haredi woman from Jerusalem told us how the JDC (American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee) supports her work to enhance job opportunities for ultra-orthodox women.

**JB:** How would you describe being with other communities from around the country?

**SM:** So inspiring! I met women from comparably-sized communities. We face the same challenges of maintaining engagement, changing demographics and "branding" Jewish social experiences positively. The mission was its own "big tent" in that we were 25-85, unaffiliated to frum, third generation Lions of Judah to just gave to the Annual Campaign to come on this mission.

## Happy 100th Birthday, Gladys!



Gladys Lipkin, of Woodbridge, recently celebrated her 100th birthday with four generations of her family. A resident of Coachman Square, she also received a certificate from the community for her five years of perfect attendance at Shabbat services. She was a first grade teacher and also worked at JC Penney, earning 30 cents an hour to help her brother, Samuel, attend medical school. Gladys and her late husband, Phillip, owned Gem Specialty, a wholesale costume jewelry company in New Haven.

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## Sklars Created Family Fund with Jewish Foundation

In 1983, when Dr. Craig Sklar first moved to New Haven to begin an ophthalmology residency at Yale, he couldn't have foreseen that 30 years into the future, the following things would occur: he would remain in the area and settle in Woodbridge with his wife Nanci, raise a family, build a successful ophthalmic medicine practice (The Eye Care Group) and, in 2018, be poised to become the next in line for chairmanship of the local Jewish Foundation.

It comes as no surprise to learn that the Sklars' connections to community, giving back and Jewish values have deep roots. "Philanthropy has always been important to us," he shares. "My father was the only member of his family to survive the Holocaust (he left before the war as his mother recognized the growing anti-Semitism in Europe). He always stressed the importance of giving as long as one had something to give."

Longstanding members of B'nai Jacob in Woodbridge, the Sklars were initially introduced to the Greater New Haven Jewish community through participation in the Jewish Federation's Young Leadership program. Nanci has served as Vice President and on the Board of Jewish Family Service and is an active member of B'nai Jacob's newly formed Sweet Singers choir. Craig has served on both the board and investment committee of the Jewish Foundation and is currently the Foundation's vice chair. He looks forward to collaborating with his fellow board and staff members, who "provide a seamless conduit to both establishing a fund and completing the donations to qualified charities." Sklar feels, "very fortunate to be in a position to give back to the community" and encourages other like-minded families do the same. By doing this, he also hopes, "to create a contin-



ued legacy to encourage charitable contributions by our children who can continue our family traditions."

To find out how to create your fund at the Jewish Foundation, contact Lisa Stanger, Executive Director, (203) 387-2424, x382, lstanger@jewishnewhaven.org or go to newhavenjewishfoundation.org.

## SCSU Hillel Pitches in at Project H.O.P.E.



Southern CT State University Hillel members participated in the recent Project H.O.P.E. (Help Our People Everywhere) program at Tower One/Tower East. The event involves volunteers of all ages who assemble and package kosher Passover food for needy families.

## Troop 41 Performs a Mitzvah



For the first time, Troop 41 held its Merit Badge Boot Camp at the JCC in March. Also in March, four scouts from Troop 41 continued the troop's long history of community service by assisting Project H.O.P.E. (Help Our People Everywhere) in preparing over 250 Passover Seder bags for the needy throughout Connecticut. Upcoming Troop 41 activities include Sam Martin's Eagle Project and ConnJam in Orange, May 11-13. Troop 41 meets at Congregation B'nai Jacob. Boys of any faith, from all surrounding towns are encouraged to join. For more information, go to woodbridge41.mytroop.us.



## MAKE YOUR CHILD ONE HAPPY CAMPER.

Summers at overnight camps are packed with a wide range of fun activities—aquatics, arts and crafts, basketball and soccer, dance, music, cooking, archery, drama, outdoor adventure and hiking, and much more! Campers are encouraged to discover new skills and interests they never knew they had.

**Up to \$1,000 need-blind incentive grant for overnight Jewish camp.**

The Jewish Foundation, in partnership with the One Happy Camper program of the

Foundation for Jewish Camp, as well as an anonymous donor, is thrilled to offer needs blind grants of \$375-\$1,000 for first time campers from Greater New Haven to attend any one of over 195 traditional and specialty Jewish overnight camps nationwide.

**Need-based aid for overnight Jewish camp.** The Jewish Foundation, in partnership with an anonymous donor, is thrilled to begin offering needs-based financial assistance for campers from Greater New Haven to attend Jewish overnight camps nationwide.

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

## Charitable Giving Opportunity Available for Those 70 ½ and Older

The IRA Charitable Rollover creates an opportunity for donors to establish an endowment or make an outright charitable gift to a charitable organization. Your rollover can be directed for a capital campaign gift, current needs, or restricted for endowment purposes. Your gift can be earmarked for your synagogue, a local Jewish agency, Jewish education, or any program or organization that is important to you.

**EXAMPLE:** Mr. Cohn distributes \$18,000 from his IRA to his synagogue and/or to establish an endowment fund for his synagogue (Mr. Cohn names the fund after his grandchildren).

**WITHOUT THE IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER:** Mr. Cohn would be subject to federal and Connecticut income tax on the amount of the distribution (even if it went straight to charity) – although he could claim a charitable income tax deduction on his federal return for the donation, he would not be able to do that on a Connecticut income tax return and would have Connecticut income tax liability for the distribution—even if it was given directly to charity.

**WITH THE IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER:** The \$18,000 distribution is not taxable income for federal and Connecticut income tax purposes (even if it is being used toward his required minimum

distribution)—it is tax neutral. Mr. Cohn has created a wonderful Jewish legacy for his family and community, reduced his Connecticut income tax liability, and reduced his taxable estate!

**WHAT IS THE ADVANTAGE?** If you already have enough income and your IRA minimum distribution requirement only increases your tax liability, this allows you to donate your distribution directly to charity without realizing federal or Connecticut income tax liability on the amount of the distribution (you will not have to pay Connecticut or Federal income tax on that amount). In addition, if you have a taxable estate, your IRA, will be subject to income and estate taxes (once both spouses are deceased and the IRA is left to your children, grandchildren or other individuals). In fact, in a taxable estate, your non-spouse beneficiaries could end up with 25 cents on the dollar for your IRA assets! The rollover allows you to remove some of those tax-plagued assets from your estate while also providing you with the opportunity to make a significant charitable gift. In addition, if you have a secondary smaller IRA, which is not a necessary income source, this is an opportunity to donate that IRA to our community and make a significant and much needed impact. Contact Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven Executive Director Lisa Stanger at [lstanger@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:lstanger@jewishnewhaven.org).

### TEN THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER:



1. The distribution from your IRA must be made directly to the charitable organization.
  2. You must be 70 ½ or older at the time that the distribution is made (note, this differs from the required minimum distribution where you only need to turn 70 ½ during the year).
  3. The IRA Charitable Rollover is permanent; you can do it this year and every year.
  4. The maximum amount that can qualify is \$100,000.
  5. The IRA Charitable Rollover will satisfy your required minimum distribution.
  6. You can rollover more than your required minimum distribution and in addition to your required minimum distribution (up to \$100,000 to charity).
  7. The amount of the IRA Charitable Rollover does not need to be reported as income on your federal or Connecticut income tax return.
  8. Only distributions from traditional and Roth IRAs qualify.
  9. To qualify, the distribution can only be for charitable purposes and cannot be designated for a donor advised fund, supporting organization, private foundation or life-income gift (charitable trust or annuity).
  10. No goods or services can be received in exchange for the distribution (i.e. tickets or dinner). In most cases, you will need to contact your IRA plan administrator/financial institution.
- Please consult your professional advisor concerning your tax plans.

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Mark your calendar: Sunday, Sept. 16, 2018



Details & sign-up to come soon

## May is Mental Health Month – Let JFS Help

Do you feel sad or depressed, overwhelmed or anxious? Many times, just having an impartial person to listen to your feelings can make a world of difference. According to the National Alliance on Mental Health, approximately one in five adults in the U.S. experiences mental health issues in a given year.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month – a time to shed light on the impor-

ance of emotional, psychological, and social well-being – and Jewish Family Service of Greater New Haven is ready to help. JFS offers professional counseling services for individuals from all religions and backgrounds and at every life stage—from young children to seniors.

Contact Amy Rashba, LCSW, at (203) 389-5599, x113, or [arashba@jfsn.org](mailto:arashba@jfsn.org).

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# Utopia Program Is Tikkun Olam in Action

Jewish Community Alliance for Refugee Resettlement (JCARR) Coordinator Jean Silk recently visited Colombia to participate in La Salle University's Utopia program, a "peace laboratory" that offers educational and productive opportunities for young people from Colombia's rural areas, with limited economic resources, and who have been affected by violence.

## HERE SILK SHARES HER FIRST-PERSON EXPERIENCES WITH UTOPIA FOR SHALOM NEW HAVEN...

I take the concept of Tikkun Olam, Repair of the World, to mean literally the WORLD. The world extends far and wide, and we might choose to support projects in Israel or elsewhere. Recently, I've had the profoundly moving opportunity to engage with a program in Colombia called Utopia. Colombia has suffered from devastating civil wars over the last 60 years. The complex issue of violence, fueled by drug trafficking, guerrilla and paramilitary groups, augmented the already difficult reality of rural farmers who were dealing with challenges such as the vicissitudes of nature, inequitable land tenure systems, lack of technology, lack of infrastructure, and underdeveloped domestic markets. Peace accords were signed in 2016 to finally put an end to war in Colombia. People in all aspects of Colombian society are beginning to imagine and to create a new life in a culture of peace. Colleagues at La Salle University are reflecting on the role of the university - what do the young people of today need to know, what skills should they have, to rebuild their country? La Salle created a new rural campus and the project of Utopia. Utopia offers young people from rural areas affected by violence and poverty the opportunity to become agricultural engineers. Using a methodology defined as "learning by doing and teaching by showing," students are trained to become leaders for social and political transformation. Upon graduation, they receive funding to return to their community to implement their senior project.



Jean tries her hand at watering crops as part of the Utopia Project in Colombia.

In 2015, I led a group of Yale students to Colombia, and we spent time working alongside the students at Utopia.

From the start, we emphasized that our program was to be reciprocal - a shared experience that would benefit the Colombian students as well as the Yale students. One student's reflections express the outcome beautifully - "When I first learned the name and ideas behind Utopia, I wasn't too sure of what to think. I didn't know if the La Salle efforts were too optimistic or if the ideas presented to us were unrealistic. All of these feelings were utterly destroyed by the experiences I had at Utopia and by seeing the hope and determination in the face of every Utopia student I met. Now, when I describe

the campus to someone else, I will describe it as a true Utopia. It is a model project that deserves all of the attention and support it is receiving (and even more)."

Few, if any, students at La Salle University are likely to be familiar with the words Tikkun Olam, but they exemplify the commitment to repairing the world. In a time when we are often filled with despair, young people like these are an inspiration and we share their hope for a world at peace.

If you have any questions about JCARR or would like to get more involved, please contact Jean Silk at [jsilk@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:jsilk@jewishnewhaven.org).

# Foster Parents Can Help Youth Blossom, Thanks to JFS Program

By Amy Pressman  
Director of Marketing  
Jewish Family Service of Greater New Haven

The Jewish Family Service of Greater New Haven's foster care program serves youth (mostly teens) who have had challenges in life; often times, abuse and/or neglect from birth.

Due to these early challenges, the youth now need a higher level of foster care (TFC) with families who receive intense training to meeting the needs of youth with intense behavioral challenges. They need loving families who are willing to see them through into adulthood - through thick and thin. JFS's foster care team helps match foster children with foster parents and counsels both through the duration of the placement to make sure the situation is beneficial for both parties.

Being a foster parent can be extremely rewarding, but also emotionally trying. Sharon, a JFS foster parent, has fostered several children over the years. Many of the children she fostered



The JFS foster care team, from left to right, Patrice Brown, Lexy Doyle and Elaine Benevides. Doyle (center) is the new, Therapeutic Foster Care/Medically Complex Care Manager for the team. She will be working with JFS's foster care families to counsel both the youth and the families who take in these youth in need. She is a recent graduate of Saint Michael's College with a double major in psychology and English. Prior to joining JFS, she worked for Community Residence Inc.

have moved out of her house and now enjoy positive, fulfilling lives of their own. Patrice Brown, who has worked at JFS for eight years, said one of the most rewarding things is seeing the growth in the children. "They blossom into these individuals with goals who gain confidence and want to do well."

The JFS foster care team works closely with the CT Department of Children and Families (DCF). Because many

residential and group home settings have closed, the youth who were once placed there are now being placed with families.

The JFS team is looking for families who are open to the challenge. They offer families on-going support at all hours of the day. People and families from all different types of compositions are welcome as foster parents. Some basic eligibility requirements

are: you must be at least 21, able to provide a youth with a private bedroom, you must make enough income to sustain yourself and your dependents (there is a government stipend that accompanies the youth, but it must be used only for the needs of the youth) and you must have a clean police, DMV and DCF record.

Elaine Benevides, who has worked at JFS for more than 20 years, said the most important attributes of a foster parent are empathy, understanding and a sense of humor.

JFS is also able to place foster children in the Medically Complex Foster Care program, which provides foster care for children with intense health conditions. To foster a child in this program, an adult must be a stay-at-home parent with another adult living with them or close by who is also willing to be trained to help when needed.

May is National Foster Care Month. Check the JFS Facebook page and website for foster care events in May. For more information, contact Elaine Benevides at (203) 389-5599 x115.

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## Chabad of Milford Celebrates Shavuot



### Lag B'Omer Community BBQ

Thursday, May 3, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Trubee Doolittle Park in Woodmont. BBQ dinner, salads and sides, Music, moonbounce and outdoor games - \$8/person. Fun for all ages. For more info, visit [www.JewishMilford.com](http://www.JewishMilford.com).

### Celebrate Shavuot

Sunday, May 20, at 9:30 a.m. - Join us for holiday morning services, reading of the 10 Commandments at 11:30 a.m., followed by a dairy lunch and ice cream party. No charge.

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## Victory Day Also Represents Great Sadness for Soviet Jews

By Yelena Gerovich  
New American Acculturation Coordinator

May 9 marks the most important holiday for people from the former Soviet Union - Victory Day over Nazi Germany. Every family from the former Soviet Union knows about the war, and not just from other people's books and stories. World War II intimately affected everyone in the Soviet Union, whose collective casualties during the war exceeded 25 million.

It is well known that approximately 6 million Jewish women, men, and children were killed in the Holocaust during WWII. However, it is somewhat less known that about one-third of all Jews who died in the Holocaust were Soviet citizens living in the Soviet territories before 1941. The statistics vary to a great extent, however, according to most estimates between 1.5 million and 2.5 million of Soviet Jews were murdered in the Holocaust and about 200,000 more died in combat. It was about 10 percent of all Soviet deaths at a time when Jews were only 2.5 percent of the population. Even though Jews suffered the heaviest losses, it was discouraged to emphasize the Jewish origin of many victims. For people from the former Soviet Union, May 9 is a touching and sad holiday that brings tears to the eyes of many. All Jewish families from the former Soviet Union lost relatives, friends or loved ones in the war, many killed just for being Jews. We should remember them even as we celebrate the holiday.

In March and April, the New American Acculturation Program offered lectures on 2018 tax updates as well as scholarships for first-time campers. Irina Polyakova, Svetlana Kriger and Nathan Belotserkovsky also led programs on American and Jewish history. Family and friends gathered for area Purim and Passover celebrations, which helped them learn more about Jewish traditions and strengthen their Jewish identity. Thanks to Rabbi Levitin and his family for providing free services, and to the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven for providing free transportation for low-income families. The New American Acculturation Program is planning Lag B'Omer, Shavuot, and Independence Day celebrations as well as more educational programs and lectures. Join us on Sunday, June 10, at noon at the JCC Auditorium to celebrate Israel's 70th Birthday.

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

## JCL Honoring Volunteer Reading Partners

The Jewish Coalition for Literacy (JCL) will honor its volunteer reading partners on Wednesday, May 16, at 9:30 a.m., in the JCC's auditorium in Woodbridge. The event is free and open to the community. Refreshments will be donated by Abel Caterers. Educators from JCL's seven partner New Haven public schools and other local children's literacy advocates are invited to attend the event. Melissa Hickey, Connecticut's statewide reading director, will thank the volunteers for sharing the love of reading, learning and conversation with their elementary New Haven public school students. The Storycrafters of Hudson, NY, will



entertain and enlighten participants with their unique musical duo-style of storytelling. With about 175 reading partners, JCL's diverse group spans different faiths, educational backgrounds and experiences. Each volunteer commits one hour a week to read one-on-one with assigned students, sharing the pleasures of reading, learning and conversation with each other to form nurturing relationships.

JCL is an award winning project of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven. For more information, contact Brenda Brenner at bbrenner@jewishnewhaven.org or (203) 387-2424 x308.

Welcome to America

## День Победы – это праздник со слезами на глазах

9 мая - самый важный праздник для людей из бывшего Советского Союза - День Победы над нацистской Германией. Все семьи из бывшего Советского Союза знают о войне не только из книг и рассказов других людей. Вторая мировая война глубоко затронула всех в Советском Союзе, погибли более чем 25 миллионов человек.

Хорошо известно, что около шести миллионов еврейских женщин, мужчин и детей были убиты во время Холокоста во время Второй мировой войны. Однако гораздо меньше известно, что около трети всех евреев, погибших в Холокосте, были советскими гражданами, проживавшими на советских территориях до 1941 года. Статистические данные в значительной степени варьируются, однако по большинству оценок от 1,5 до 2,5 миллионов советских евреев были убиты в Холокосте, а еще около 200 тысяч погибли в бою. Это было около 10 процентов всех смертей в Советском Союзе в то время, когда евреи составляли всего 2,5 процента населения. Несмотря на то, что евреи потерпели самые тяжелые потери, в Советском Союзе было запрещено подчеркивать еврейское происхождение многих жертв.

Для людей из бывшего Советского Союза 9 мая - это праздник со слезами на глазах. Все еврейские семьи из бывшего Советского Союза потеряли родственников, друзей или близких на войне, многих убили только за то, что они евреи. Мы помним их. Благодаря образовательным программам для эмигрантов из бывшего Советского Союза мы собираемся вместе на праздники, обмениваемся компьютерными новинками, изучаем английский. Интересные программы провели для нас Ирина Полякова, Светлана Кригер и Натан Белоцерковский. Мы благодарны раввину Левитину и его семье, еврейской федерации за помощь в праздновании Пурима и Пасхи, за бесплатный транспорт для малообеспеченных семей.

Мы планируем отпраздновать Лаг ба-Омер, Шавуот, День Независимости. Присоединяйтесь к нам в воскресенье 10 июня, в полдень, в JCC отпраздновать 70 ление государства Израиль.

Давайте чаще собираться вместе летом! С вопросами и предложениями обращайтесь к координатору культурно-образовательных программ Елене Герович по тел. (203) 387-2424 доб.321 ygerovich@jewishnewhaven.org

## Sen. Slossberg Championed Jewish Causes During Her Tenure

After serving 14 years in the State Senate, Gayle Slossberg (D-14), the only Jewish state senator for the last several years, has announced that she will not seek reelection in November. Her district encompasses Milford, Orange, West Haven and Woodbridge.

Slossberg said she has always listened to her constituents, done her homework and voted for what she believed was in the best interests of the community and the state.

Both Judy Alperin, Chief Executive Officer of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, and Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut (JFACT) Executive Director Michael Bloom praised Slossberg's tireless efforts on behalf of the Jewish community.

"During her tenure as a state senator, she has championed legislation that sent millions of dollars to Jewish day schools and the New Haven Jewish Community Center in order to increase their security," Bloom noted. "In addition, Gayle has been a strong advocate for including Holocaust education in Connecticut schools."

Bloom said that Slossberg was also a leader in getting last year's hate crimes bill passed, which he said makes Connecticut the state with the "toughest hate crimes laws on the books." He said Slossberg championed a bill passed in 2006 which concerned the divestment of state funds invested in companies doing business in Sudan, in response to the atrocities which occurred in that country.

"She's always on the front line, speaking up against injustice and hate," Alperin said of Slossberg, who is also a Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven Woman of Vision. "Sen. Slossberg has been an active proponent advancing causes important to the

Jewish community as well as supporting opportunities to build business relationships with Israeli companies," Alperin added.

"She will be dearly missed by me and the Jewish community," Bloom said. "She has been a legislative leader for over a decade."

Sen. Slossberg led Connecticut's first Select Committee on Veteran's Affairs where she championed the most comprehensive package of benefits for veterans since WWII and developed the Connecticut Wartime Service Medal.

Slossberg also chaired the Government, Administration and Election Committee for six years where she passed significant government reforms. As the vice chair of Public Health for a decade, she overhauled the state's lead poisoning laws and ensured that lifesaving AEDs are in every school and that breast self examination is taught in schools.

As chair of the Human Services Committee, Slossberg argued for a fair system for nonprofit providers and led the charge to improve the auditing process. She developed the state's mental health clearinghouse. She created the state's first job creation tax credit program. Slossberg was also chosen to lead the Commission on Enhancing Agency Outcomes.

As co-chair of the Education Committee, Slossberg was the moving force to make Connecticut the first state to provide a state-sponsored SAT for every high school student. She also championed the reform of the state's high school graduation requirements, dyslexia legislation and access to full-day kindergarten.

During her tenure, Slossberg proudly cast one of the deciding votes to repeal the death penalty. She has supported civil unions, gay marriage, increas-



ing the minimum wage, hate crimes legislation and sensible gun safety legislation. Slossberg also successfully secured funding for many local projects.

Most recently, she was named the Legislator of the Year by the Conference of Connecticut Municipalities for her advocacy on behalf of her constituents and all 169 municipalities.

From reviewing bills with seniors, to attending PPTs with parents of students with disabilities, to fighting red tape at the VA for veterans, these are the moments Slossberg said she will cherish, "but it is time for me to seek new ways to serve the public and I am ready for that challenge."

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# Tributes & Remembrances

## JEWISH FEDERATION

*In celebration of* NORMAN & KARYN RAVSKI  
*Judith Alperin*

*In celebration of* STANLEY HERSH'S BIRTHDAY  
*Carol Charkow*

*In honor of* JEANNETTE BRODEUR  
*Nurit Kohl*

*In memory of* STUART JACKSON  
*Judith Alperin*  
*David & Stacey Trachten*  
*Mark & Amy Holtz*

*In memory of* ROBERT LINSKY  
*Romy Figueroa*

*In honor of* HAROLD MILLER  
*Mark Harrison*

*In celebration of* NOAH & MARNIE DIAMONDSTEIN'S WEDDING  
*Amy & Mark Holtz*  
*Gregory M. Colodner & Lisa A. Stanger*  
*The Teplitzky Family*  
*David & Stacey Trachten*

*In celebration of* DAVID & CAROL ROBBINS' SIMCHA  
*The Teplitzky Family*

*In celebration of* DAVID & CAROL ROBBINS' GRANDSON'S BAR MITZVAH  
*Judith Alperin*

*In memory of* THOMAS ULLMANN  
*Judith Alperin*

## JEWISH FOUNDATION

**FRIENDS OF THE JEWISH COALITION FOR LITERACY**  
*In honor of* STAN HERSH'S 75TH BIRTHDAY  
*Nancy & Marc Olins*  
*Arleen Winters & Jack Galeman*

*In memory of* SHERMAN KREVOLIN  
*Evelyn Krevolin*

## ANA SIROTA TZEDAKAH FUND

*In honor of* OLIVER STEVENS  
*Ana Sirota*  
*In honor of* ANA'S BAT MITZVAH  
*Margaret & Lester Milch*

## DAUGHTERS OF 1853 NURSING SCHOLARSHIP FUND

*In memory of* PEGGY & PAUL ROSS, SARAH HAYDEN, & GERTRUDE COOPER and  
*In honor of* SPENCER BRUBAKER'S 2ND BIRTHDAY  
*Deborah R. Schaller*

*In memory of* REGINA WEIL BAUMANN, DELIA ZUNDER WEIL, RUTH BAUMANN LEICHTER & CLAIRE BAUMANN GINSBURGH  
*Pamela E. Dunn*

*In memory of* PEGGY ROSS, PAUL ROSS, SARAH HAYDEN, RUTH ROSS & GEORGE ROSS  
*Irma M. Ross*

*In memory of* WILLIAM M. COHEN, FANNIE R. ULLMAN, JOSEPH H. ULLMAN, MAURICE B. ULLMAN, LILYAN J. ULLMAN, FLORENCE U. BRESLAV, WALTER BRESLAV, WALTER BRESLAV JR., JONATHAN BRESLAV, & DOROTHY MARGOLIES  
*Nancy Cohen*

## ZOE PAIGE FLEISCHMAN TZEDAKAH FUND

*In honor of* BARBARA  
*David R. Schaefer & Janet Hall*  
*Stacey & David Trachten*

## BARBARA GREENBERG PHILANTHROPIC FUND

*In memory of* ZOE'S BAT MITZVAH  
*Lisa Stanger and Gregory Colodner*

## HOOS FAMILY FUND

*In honor of* JONATHAN & ANDREA RAVSKI'S MARRIAGE, IMO JACQUELINE GREENBERG, JAMES LICHTMAN, MICHAEL VLOCK, ANN NOWITZ, BARBARA GREENBERG AND IN HONOR OF JONATHAN & ANDREA RAVSKI'S MARRIAGE  
*Betsy & Jeffrey Hoos*

## JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY ENDOWMENT FUND

*In honor of* LISA STANGER  
*Hyla and Barry Vine*

## To purchase a tribute card:

jccnh.org, jewishnewhaven.org, newhavenjewishfoundation.org

\*Tributes listed are up to April 25, 2018.

## SYDNEY A. PERRY FUND FOR JEWISH LEARNING & LEADERSHIP

*In honor of* SYDNEY PERRY  
*Drs. Stephanie Wain & Ruben Kier*

*In honor of* MICHAEL J. SUSSMAN'S BIRTHDAY  
*Brenda & Robert Brenner*

*In honor of* JUDY ALPERIN'S BIRTHDAY  
*Brenda & Robert Brenner*

## HEBREW BURIAL AND FREE LOAN ASSOCIATION OF GREATER NEW HAVEN

*In memory of* IAN WINNICK  
*Barry & Hyla Vine*

## ALAYNE & MARTIN S. BURGER PHILANTHROPIC FUND

*In memory of* COS CAPPELLINO  
*Alayne & Martin Burger*

## JULIE KOVAR FUND

*In honor of* JULIE KOVAR  
*Pamela & Jeffrey Bryer*

## RAVSKI FAMILY FUND

*In memory of* RUTH AND PHILIP RAVSKI, PERLA RAVSKI & JERRY RAVSKI for the benefit of March of the Living & Holocaust Education and  
*In honor of* RAVSKI GRANDSON  
*Lisa A. Stanger & Gregory M. Colodner*

## JENNA LEIGH GOLDBERG TZEDAKAH FUND

*In honor of* THE MARRIAGE OF MEREDITH ABEL & CATHY BEREI  
*Brenda J. Coleman*

## HAHN SLIBERBERG FAMILY FUND FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE JEWISH FOUNDATION

*In honor of* JUDI HAHN'S NEW GRANDCHILDREN  
*Lisa A. Stanger & Gregory M. Colodner*

## JCC TRIBUTES

*In celebration of* OLIVIA MILLER'S BAT MITZVAH  
*Jim & Terri Polacheck*  
*Judith Alperin*

# Community Calendar

Event details subject to change. Please visit [jewishnewhaven.org/events](http://jewishnewhaven.org/events) or [jccnh.org/events](http://jccnh.org/events).

# may

**Clay Date at the J**, May 1, 7-9 p.m., every week until May 29, Series Price (5 Classes): \$150 JCC Members / \$185 General Public, JCC of Greater New Haven, 360 Amity Road, Woodbridge. Contact Grace Koo, (203) 387-2424 x228, gracek@jccnh.org

**Wednesday Craftroom**, May 2, through May 30, 4-5 p.m. Suggested ages: 2nd-5th grade, Member: \$75 Community: \$85, JCC of Greater New Haven, 360 Amity Rd., Woodbridge, contact Eliana Sugarman, elianas@jccnh.org.

**Beckerman Film Series- Rabbi Wolff: Gentleman Before G-d**, May 2, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Adults, FREE, New Haven Free Public Library, Ives Branch, 133 Elm Street, New Haven, contact Mara Balk, (203) 387-2424 x300, marab@jccnh.org

**Wood Projects for the Home**, Wednesdays beginning May 2, every week until May 30, 7-8:30 p.m. Sign up for a single class or the entire series, JCC Members: \$65/class, \$300/series, general Public: \$85/class, \$400/series, JCC of Greater New Haven, MakerSpace, 360 Amity Road, Woodbridge, Contact Grace Koo, (203) 387-2424 x228, gracek@jccnh.org.

**Springtime Fun at Massaro Farms**, May 6, 10 a.m. to noon, Massaro Community Farm, 41 Ford Rd., Woodbridge, contact Eliana Sugarman, elianas@jccnh.org, members: \$12/\$24 family max, community: \$15/\$30 family max, recommended ages: 6+.

**Next Dor: Coffee & Nosh @ the JCC**, May 6, 10 -11:30 a.m., JCC, 360 Amity Road, Woodbridge. RSVP online, contact Brian Levy, blevy@jewishnewhaven.org.

**Sticky Fingers**, May 11, 10-11 a.m., JCC, 360 Amity Rd., Woodbridge. Contact Eliana Sugarman, elianas@jccnh.org.

**Beckerman Film Series- Sammy Davis Jr.: I've Gotta Be Me**, May 6, 10:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m., \$10, Madison Art Cinema, 61 Boston Post Road, Madison. Contact Mara Balk, (203) 387-2424 x300, marab@jccnh.org.

**Beckerman Film Series: Wonder Woman**, May 8, 7-9 p.m., \$10, advance purchase required, Cinemark North Haven, 550 Universal Drive, North Haven, Contact Mara Balk, (203)387-2424 x300, marab@jccnh.org.

**Bake Like Bubbe Baking Series**, begins May 10, every Thursday until May 31, 7-9 p.m., JCC Members: \$50 / General Public: \$60, JCC of Greater New Haven Kitchen, 360 Amity Road, Woodbridge, contact Grace Koo, (203) 387-2424 x228, gracek@jccnh.org.

**Next Dor: Challah Baking at the JCC**, every Thursday until May 31, 7-9 p.m., JCC Members: \$50 / General Public: \$60, JCC of Greater New Haven Kitchen, 360 Amity Road, Woodbridge, contact Brian Levy, (203) 387-2424 x375, blevy@jewishnewhaven.org

**The Big Read: Book Discussion, "Citizen: An American Lyric,"** May 15, 7-8:30 p.m., JCC, 360 Amity Rd., Woodbridge, contact Mara Balk, marab@jccnh.org.

**Brush & Bordeaux**, May 17, 7-9 p.m., JCC & Temple Beth David Members: \$35, General Public: \$40, Temple Beth David, 3 Main St., Cheshire, contact Grace Koo, (203) 387-2424 x228, gracek@jccnh.org. Registration includes painting materials, wine, and light hors d'oeuvres.

**Kabbalat Shabbat in honor of Israel**, May 18, 3:30-4:30 p.m., ages 3+, Congregation B'nai Jacob Youth Lounge, 75 Rimmon Rd., Woodbridge, contact Stacey Battat, pjlibrary@jewishnewhaven.org. Join Cantor Malachi Kanfer and PJ Library for Israeli singing, dancing and fun as we welcome Shabbat Israel style in honor of Israel's 70th year! In collaboration with Ezra Academy at Congregation B'nai Jacob.

**A Whole New World: Preparing Your clients for the 2018 Tax Year**, May 24 7:45 a.m. JCC Terrace Room, 360 Amity Road, Woodbridge, Free

program for professional advisors. Contact Lisa Stanger (203) 387-2424 x382.

**Anti-Zionism on Campus: The University, Free Speech, and BDS**, May 29, 7:30-9 p.m., JCC, 360 Amity Road, Woodbridge, contact Jennifer Bayer, jbayer@jewishnewhaven.org.

**JCRC & Women's Philanthropy: Book Signing with Professor Doron Ben Atar & Andrew Pessin**, May 29, 7-9 p.m., JCC, 360 Amity Road, Woodbridge, contact Jen Bayer, (203)387-2424 x320, jbayer@jewishnewhaven.org.

**ADL Greater New Haven Torch of Liberty Event**, May 31, 5:30-9 p.m., \$275, Congregation B'nai Jacob, 75 Rimmon Road, Woodbridge, contact Lisa Ratcliff, (203) 780-0202, lratcliff@adl.org. Building 2C, Guilford, Contact: Brian Levy, (203) 387-2424 x375, blevy@jewishnewhaven.org

# june

**Touch-A-Truck, JCC Annual Family Fun Day**, June 3, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., JCC, 360 Amity Rd., Woodbridge, free admission for Touch-A-Truck and free and fee-based activities available. Food for purchase. Contact Eliana Sugarman, elianas@jccnh.org.

**Israel Day Parade - 70th Anniversary**, June 3, 11 .am. to 4 p.m., Meetup at 10 a.m., Fifth Avenue, New York, NY. Come out to NYC with your Jewish community of Greater New Haven and join the largest event in the world which supports Israel. Contact: Deb Gaudette, (203) 215-7368, debweb0312@sbcglobal.net

**Modern Jewish Baking Demo with Shannon Sarna**, June 4, 7:30-9:30 p.m., \$36, JCC, 360 Amity Road, Woodbridge, contact Jennifer Bayer, jbayer@jewishnewhaven.org. Join Women's Philanthropy and NextDor for an evening of desserts, drinks and demos with blogger and author, Shannon Sarna. Attendees will receive a copy of Sarna's book.

**Sticky Fingers**, June 8, 10-11 a.m., JCC, 360 Amity Rd., Woodbridge. Contact Eliana Sugarman, elianas@jccnh.org.

**Next Dor: Hike @ Meig's Point & Lunch at Israel @ 70**, June 10, 9-11:30 a.m., Meig's Point Nature Center, 1288 Boston Post Rd., Madison. Contact Brian Levy, blevy@jewishnewhaven.org. After the Nature walk,

Next Dor will head to Camp Laurelwood to join our community for Israel @ 70 at Camp Laurelwood. RSVP.

**Israel at 70 Celebration**, June 10, 1-4 p.m., Food, fun & activities for all ages. Camp Laurelwood, 463 Summer Hill Rd., Madison, (203) 421-3736.

**Farewell Party to Young Emissaries**, June 11, 6:30-8:30 p.m., JCC, 360 Amity Road, Woodbridge. Contact Amalya Brownstein, (203)640-4532, amalyab@jccnh.org.

**Mediterranean Meals Cooking Series**, every Tuesday beginning June 11 until July 2, 7-9 p.m., JCC Kitchen, 360 Amity Road, Woodbridge. JCC Members: \$25/class, \$90/series. General Public: \$30/class, \$100/series. Contact Grace Koo, (203) 387-2424 x228, gracek@jccnh.org. Register: [jccnh.org/programguide](http://jccnh.org/programguide).

**Opening night Merchant of Venice**, June 19, 8-10 p.m., Yale Law School Courtyard. For details, go to International Festival of Arts & Ideas at [artidea.org](http://artidea.org), or call (888) ART-IDEA.

**Grill n' Chill**, Wednesdays, June 13, June 27, 7/11 & 7/25, 5-8 p.m., Live music and kosher BBQ for purchase from Abel's Catering. BYOB. JCC, 360 Amity Rd., Woodbridge. Contact Grace Koo, (203) 387-2424 x228, gracek@jccnh.org.

**Author talk with Dara Horn**, June 19, 7:30-9:30 p.m., private home. Contact Jennifer Bayer jbayer@jewishnewhaven.org. Cost\$ 18. Hear from leading Jewish author and National Jewish Book Award winner, Dara Horn.

**Cool Reads with Roxanne Coady**, June 26, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Beckerman/Lender Building, 360 Amity Road, Woodbridge. Contact Jennifer Bayer, jbayer@jewishnewhaven.org. Dinner and drinks served.

**Dancing at the JCC: Salsa Night**, June 28, 7-9 p.m., JCC, 360 Amity Road Woodbridge. \$30 JCC Members, \$35 General Public, RSVP Requested: [jccnh.org/rsvp](http://jccnh.org/rsvp). Contact Grace Koo, (203) 387-2424 x228, gracek@jccnh.org. All are welcome, with or without a partner. Admission includes instruction, food and beverages.

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# The Towers Planning Project Aids the Homeless



The Towers Life Enrichment Coordinator Susan Skalka learned about planning several years ago, but the idea of using plarn for bedding for homeless families came last year when she toured the Bethel AME Church in New Haven. Administrators there hoped to set up a warming center for homeless families. The Towers received a grant for supplies from the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven's Women of Vision Society. A Towers aide, who is an ace crocheter, taught

at the newly-reopened JCC of Greater New Haven and at several area venues, including The Towers, which became Planning Central. Residents and volunteers prepared and cut bags and crocheted the strips. Many left armed with bags to cut or strips to crochet at home.

Towers resident Esther Brochin found her fingers weren't strong enough to work with the plastic so she helped cut the bags into strips. Fellow resident Eva Cooper straightened the bags for cutting.

Each sleeping mat, which measures around 3' x 6,' requires 500 to 600 bags and about a month to complete. Skalka estimates that 2,000 to 3,000 people are working on the project. "It's absolutely addicting!" said Hyla Chasnoff, a Hamden resident who volunteers at The Towers as a member of Temple Beth Shalom and is crocheting her sixth sleeping mat. Fellow Hamden residents and Beth Shalom members Amy and Dan Sparks began volunteering regularly at The Towers over the winter with

their children – Garrett, 12, and Maya, 10. Skalka taught Amy how to plarn and two months later, she is close to completing her first mat. On Mitzvah Day, the whole family worked at the various planning stations.

In addition to launching resident and community planning groups, The Towers' project has inspired participants as far away as Georgia and California, adult children of Towers residents, to join the effort. So far, 18 mats have been created, with more in the works. In the end, Bethel AME Church did not receive funding to set up a warming center, but Skalka is working with the New Haven Police Department to see if they will distribute the mats to the city's homeless. Skalka hopes to continue growing the project throughout the area. "I consider it a win-win-win project," she says. "We're helping the planet, we're helping the homeless, and we're building community."

For information, contact Skalka at susan@towerone.org (203) 772-1816, x150.

By Cynthia Mindell  
Special to Shalom New Haven

There are those who wring their hands over the amount of plastic finding its way into landfills and oceans, and there are others who use their hands as part of the solution. In the act of "plarning." A fusion of plastic and yarn, "plarn" refers to the strips cut from single-use plastic shopping bags that can then be crocheted into items such as baskets and even backpacks.

# Federation, Foundation, JCC Sponsor 'Merchant of Venice'

The Jewish Federation, Foundation, and JCC will sponsor the New England premiere of "The Merchant of Venice" at the 2018 International Festival of Arts & Ideas.

In an utterly unique theatrical event, New Haven's 2018 International Festival of Arts & Ideas brings one of Shakespeare's most well-known and controversial plays, "The Merchant of Venice," to the Yale Law School Courtyard. The festival will feature five performances, with opening night set for Tuesday, June 19.

First staged in Venice to commemorate the establishment of the Jewish Ghetto 500 years ago, the Compagnia de' Colombari's new production, directed by Karin Coonrod, features a cast of five multi-ethnic actors to explore Shylock's complex humanity as a father and merchant, villain and victim.



"Festival 2018 promises an unforgettable lineup of thrilling theatre, music, and dance performances, enhanced by in-depth discussions that help illuminate the connections between the art on our stages and in our own lives as citizens of New Haven, of the United States, and of the global community," said Chad Herzog, Co-Executive Director of the International Festival of Arts & Ideas.

Tickets for all performances can be purchased at [www.artidea.org](http://www.artidea.org) or by calling the box office (888) ART-IDEA.



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# The Merchant of Venice

Compagnia de' Colombari

JUNE 19-23 | Yale Law School Courtyard  
127 Wall St. New Haven, CT

For more information: [ARTIDEA.ORG/Merchant](http://ARTIDEA.ORG/Merchant)

In a completely unique theatrical event, the International Festival of Arts & Ideas brings one of Shakespeare's most well-known and controversial plays *The Merchant of Venice* to the Yale Law School Courtyard. First staged in Venice to commemorate the establishment of the Jewish Ghetto 500 years ago, the **Compagnia de' Colombari's** production, directed by Karin Coonrod, features a multi-ethnic cast and aims to accentuate Shylock's humanity as a father and merchant, villain and victim.





## BEKI Ushers in Spring with Inspired Art

Artist Joel Silverstein works, entitled “The Hebrew Bible: Real and Imagined,” will be exhibited at Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel, 85 Harrison St., New Haven, from June 10 to Aug. 18, with a Shabbat artist’s talk on June 23 at 12:45 p.m.

In his paintings dripping with color and rich textures, Silverstein explores the complexities of American Jewish identity through the lens of his observations, blended with Biblical stories and popular culture.

Fiber artist Wendy Rabinowitz’s exhibit “Let There Be Light and There Was Light, Yahi ohr v’yahi ohr,” a series of dynamic weavings inspired by Jewish prayer, story, and tradition, will remain on exhibition at BEKI until June 9. Rabinowitz describes her artwork as “weaving/mixed media assemblages that are deeply rooted in the power of Judaism, nature, and the sacred responses of the spirit.”

## Outdoor Experiences Offer New Traditions

By Stacey Battat  
PJ Library Professional



Spring and summer give us the chance to plant seeds in areas we want to improve and nurture the beauty in our lives, whether it’s a garden, a chance to become more involved in community, new rituals and learning, or physical activity. Breathing fresh air and using our five senses when we walk, stroll, hike or bike offer us new perspective and teachable moments of quiet. Gather your family together for an outdoor experience or activity and allow your own family tree to take root, celebrating the value of Dor L’ Dor. This summer, PJ Library offers you and your family a chance to experience all of the above. The PJ Family Playgroup meets outdoors on Sunday afternoons and several PJ families will host PJ Shabbat in the Neighborhood. Shabbats on the Beach hosted in collaboration with PJ Library are open to all:

**FRIDAY, JULY 13, 6 P.M.**, Cedar Lake, Chester , Kabbalat Shabbat - CBSRZ

**FRIDAY, JULY 27, 6 P.M.**, Walnut Beach, Milford –

Kabbalat Shabbat - Congregation Or Shalom

**FRIDAY, AUG 3, 6 P.M.**, Gulf Beach, Milford – Kabbalat Shabbat - Temple Emanuel

### OTHER PROGRAMS:

**Sticky Fingers** at the JCC, Fridays, May 13, June 8, 10-11 a.m.

**Senior Health Fair Day**, Wednesday, May 16, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. **Intergenerational Story Hour**, 11:30 a.m.-noon.

**Ice Cream Social for Shavuot**, Tuesday, May 17, 5-6 p.m. at the JCC. All ages.

**JCC Annual Touch-A-Truck**, Sunday, June 3, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., sand art.

**Israel’s 70th Birthday** Sunday, June 10, 1-4 p.m., Camp Laurelwood, hikes, games, Israeli music and food.

*E-mail Stacey at [pjlibrary@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:pjlibrary@jewishnewhaven.org) for more details.*

## Now Showing: Cinema Comes to BEKI

People at BEKI are talking about movies. No, not about new releases this spring, but instead about how the downstairs social hall has been outfitted as a cinema. There’s now a 14-foot- wide motorized screen and a projector mounted from the ceiling as well as a 450-watt, 2.1 sound system. Board members Eric Dunsker and Jonathan Gordon directed the project. Films can be shown from Blu-ray,

DVD, and many online streaming services.

The first BEKI cinema presentation was the 1979 comedy “The Frisco Kid,” starring Gene Wilder and Harrison Ford, for BEKI’s USY and Kadima youth groups. Adults are looking forward to more serious films on Saturday nights in the winter, as well as weekday evening screenings with visiting American or Israeli directors.

## BEKI Offers Mother’s Day Plants, Kabbalah Classes

Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel’s annual Mother’s Day Plant Sale will be held on Sunday, May 14, from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Stop by early to get the best selection of beautiful hanging baskets. There also will be an assortment of flats and herbs.

CMI is offering a free adult education series on Kabbalah that is open to the community. Presented by Dr. Stan Friedman, classes will be held May 28 and June 16. For more information, call (203) 288-3877 or visit [cmihamden.org](http://cmihamden.org).

## Shavuot Services at BEKI

- Saturday, May 19, Tiqun Leil Shavuot Night of Study, 8:15 p.m., first study session 8:30 p.m.
- Sunday, May 20, 9:15 a.m. & 5:45 p.m.
- Monday, May 21, 9:15 a.m. (including Yizkor) & 5:45 p.m.

Services are listed at [beki.org/worship/daily-services-and-other-holidays](http://beki.org/worship/daily-services-and-other-holidays).

# Temple Beth David Celebrates 50th

Temple Beth David, located at 3 Main Street in Cheshire, is thrilled to announce their 50th anniversary year when they will honor the past and celebrate the future. All are welcome to participate.

A Shavuot-themed family picnic kicks off the celebration on Sunday, May 20, at Mixville Park in Cheshire. A special, commemorative Shabbat service will be held on October 19 as part of their annual Scholar-in-Residence weekend. Other celebratory events are planned throughout the year. The celebration culminates on Dec. 1 with a gala featuring music, dancing, and treats at the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History. Visit [tbdcheshire.org/about-us/tbd-50th-anniversary](http://tbdcheshire.org/about-us/tbd-50th-anniversary) for more information.

Temple Beth David began in 1956 with the Cheshire Jewish Community Club. Between 1956 and 1968, a small group of friends gathered in their homes to celebrate the Jewish holidays and dreamed of one day starting a temple in town. That dream became a reality with the purchase of the building owned by the Methodist church on Main Street. The building, which dates to 1834, is one of the last remaining examples in the United States of a chapel designed by the founder of the Methodist faith, John Wesley, and is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places. On August 9, 1968, 18 families led by Temple President Richard Fiske, observed the first Shabbat service in their new spiritual home with the presentation of a Torah gifted by Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel of New Haven. Temple Beth David is now about 200 families strong and growing.

“Our 50th anniversary gives us the opportunity to reflect on our past, rejoice in our present, and look forward to our future,” said Temple Beth David’s spiritual leader, Rabbi Micah Ellenson.

## Getting to Know CMI’s New Rabbi

Continued from page 5

congregational rabbis.

In 2012, Rabbi Immerman joined Temple Emanuel, a Reform congregation in Denver, first as the assistant rabbi and then as associate rabbi.

Immerman’s strong commitment to social justice is what first drew him to apply to Congregation Mishkan Israel. “That is the core of my rabbinate calling,” Immerman said.

In Denver, Rabbi Immerman was actively involved in the community, serving on the board of the Denver Jewish Community Center as well as Hazon’s Denver Advisory board. He was also active in Together Colorado’s Interfaith Clergy Network.

He is stepping in as spiritual leader of Congregation Mishkan Israel after Rabbi Herbert N. Brockman, who is retiring after three decades of service.

Congregation Mishkan Israel, which is the oldest Jewish congregation in Connecticut, the 14th oldest continuous operating synagogue in America and the oldest continuing synagogue in New England, has a long history of social justice and advocacy.

Immerman said he is humbled by the enormous legacy that Brockman leaves as well as the vibrant rich 175-year-old history of the congregation itself. One of the phrases he keeps repeating to himself is, “The old will become new again and the new

will become holy.”

“It’s important not to look at this as me stepping into his (Brockman’s) shoes,” Immerman said. “We’re taking his shoes and bronzing them and I’m bringing my own.”

“Everyone has their own path, their own journey,” he added. “I’m a different person.” Immerman brings a different style and personality, but he wants to ensure that the important touchstones of the congregation are kept. His most important goal is to listen to CMI’s members.

“It’s going to take time to get to know people,” Immerman admitted, but he stressed that his time at CMI is not short-term. “I am looking to be all in,” he said. Immerman has been overwhelmed by the warm welcome he has received. At his first meet and greet with the congregation, it took him 20 minutes to just get in the door. “Everyone is so warm,” he said. “They take such pride in their synagogue.”

While Temple Emanuel in Denver was much larger, Immerman said it was a blessing to get to know so many families and he is looking forward to getting to know CMI’s families.

Immerman, his wife, Jenny, and their daughter, Maggie, who is six months old, will be living in Hamden.

## Honorable Menschen

Continued from page 3

raise awareness of the JCC’s collection.

In addition to a large collection of Holocaust literature and documentaries, as well as books with Jewish themes or by Jewish authors, the library boasts a wonderful Yiddish story collection on CD, and movies on the Jewish experience.

The library has a public computer which anyone can use and a reading machine that enlarges printed material to assist people with reading impairment. Her future plans include conducting workshops to train people to use the reading machine. Baltimore also hopes to host special events, possibly something with Yiddish movies and CDs, and she would also love to participate in some children’s programming.

Baltimore’s volunteering doesn’t end at the JCC library’s doors. She is the chair of the Case Memorial Library Commission, a member of the Orange Foundation and the Connecticut Emergency Response Team (CERT) in Orange. But most of her time is dedicated to the JCC library.

“Until the fire, I was here three days a week for a total of about 18 hours,” Baltimore said. “I am now planning to be here four days a week.” She admitted she could definitely use more volunteers to cover the times she is away and to help cover books and work with the database. Another project Baltimore would like to start is selling the more valuable book donations online, “I need someone to set it all up and maintain it.”

Baltimore’s passion for Jewish history and literature came a bit later in life. She admitted that she didn’t even know she was Jewish until age nine.

Born in Hungary, Baltimore was eight years old when her family escaped to Austria after the 1956 revolution. Even in the U.S., she barely knew anything about Judaism as she was growing up.

After her son started preschool at Gan Hayaed, Baltimore realized how little she knew and how much she needed to learn. She took a class at the JCC for women who wanted to learn about Judaism. “The more I learned, the more I appreciated being part of the Jewish people and recognized the tremendous values of our tradition and the humor that we have,” Baltimore said. “Maybe I am like somebody who is a convert and is much more enthusiastic than people who grow up with it. I am very proud to be a Jew and to be able to share it with other people.”

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