



Inspiring Hope During COVID and Tough Times

page 2



SAYING THANK YOU TO SHALOM BABY

Grateful New Haven area parents receive the first Shalom Baby bags
PAGE 4-5



THE TOWERS COMBATS FOOD INSECURITY

Co-Generator's energy savings will help The Towers provide more kosher meals to senior population
PAGE 21



FEDERATIONS HELP SECURE SECURITY UPGRADE FUNDING

\$5 million in funds released for houses of worship and other nonprofits
PAGE 3

Building a Bridge to the Future



כל העולם כולו
גשר צר מאוד
והעיקר, והעיקר
לא לפחד, לא לפחד כלל.

Just last year, I crossed the famed Brooklyn Bridge for the first time as I marched with thousands standing up against hate and anti-semitism. The Brooklyn Bridge will hold special meaning for me now.

Instead, we find ourselves knocked back on our heels with membership reductions at the JCC in excess of 50% and other revenue streams impacted due to COVID-19-era limitations.

And yet Rabbi Nachman of Bratzlav taught us that the whole world is a very narrow bridge (*gesher tzar me'od*). During these pandemic times, we feel that acutely as all that we knew before March 2020 has been disrupted with both people and places ripped from us. Our cherished institutions have been threatened like never before. So many have been left struggling through illness and loss of livelihoods.

But we are no strangers to adversity. We just marked the 4th anniversary of the fire that ripped through our community building. We overcame that challenge and executed on our bold vision to reimagine the community center as a vibrant centerpiece of Jewish life in Greater New Haven. We will do it again. The Jewish Federation's Board of Directors, upon the recommendation of the Task Force, is embarking on a Bridge to the Future campaign of \$1.45 million over the next three years to return the Jewish Federation/JCC to its pre-COVID-19 success. If anyone can achieve the goals of this plan, it's the staff team and volunteer leaders of this special organization that I am so honored to lead.

For the past several months, a special COVID-19 Financial Planning Task Force convened by Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven President Steven Fleischman has been working tirelessly to develop scenarios, financial models and a turnaround plan. As the committee delved deeply into the financial data, they discovered that had the pandemic not happened, the Jewish Federation/JCC would have been on its way to achieving record results never before seen in our community. Membership numbers were more than 6,000 members and 18,000 people visiting monthly; the budget was on target to exceed revenues by \$250,000. Unheard of. But we were unable to enjoy our success.

The world may be a narrow bridge, but we should not be afraid. We are together. United we will travel across this bridge to a bright sustainable future.

With all my best for a better and healthy 2021.

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:
• Jan. 25 for March/April issue
• March 25 for May/June issue
• May 24 for July/August issue
• July 24 for September/October issue
• Sept. 25 for November/December issue
• Nov. 25 for January/February issue

SUBMISSIONS
To submit an article or photo, please email 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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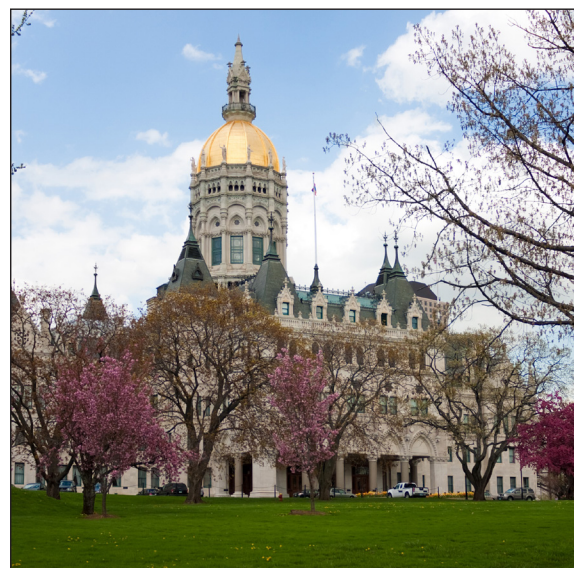
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NEWS FROM HARTFORD: Federations Help Secure Security Upgrade Funding



On December 18, 2020, the State Bond Commission released \$5 million in funds for much-needed security upgrades for houses of worship and other threatened nonprofits. The Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut (JFACT), which led this advocacy effort, welcomed the approval of this money because nonprofits are struggling to maintain services while investing in their security measures.

The number one priority for the Jewish community over the last few years is combating the rise in anti-Semitism. Incidents are on the rise in Connecticut, the country and the world. One of the manifestations of this rise in anti-Semitism has been an increase in attacks on Jewish communal institutions. The \$5 million will allow houses of worship across Connecticut to help secure their buildings against a possible future attack.

"On behalf of the Jewish communities across Connecticut, we thank the Governor and other members of the State Bond Commission for releasing these funds," said Michael Bloom, Executive Director of the JFACT.

Once the program is created by the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, organizations will be able to apply for up to \$50,000 which can be used for:

1. the reinforcement of entryways with ballistic glass, solid core doors, double door access, computer-controlled electronic locks, remote locks on all entrance and exits, and door buzzer systems;
2. the use of cameras throughout a building, and at all entrances and exits, including the use of closed-circuit television monitoring;
3. penetration-resistant vestibules; and
4. other security infrastructure improvements and devices as they become industry standards.

"We know that the Governor and other state leaders have many pressing issues to address. We are grateful that they continue to prioritize the need to help ensure that Jewish community institutions and other threatened organizations are in a better position to protect the people they serve," says JFACT President Gary Jones. Eligible nonprofit organizations will be able to apply for funds incurred on or after July 1, 2019.



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In Good Health,
Carrie Taylor, RDN, LDN, RYT
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Israel Welcomes Hundreds of New Olim from Ethiopia

On December 3 and 4, 2020, over 400 olim, or immigrants, landed in Israel from Ethiopia as part of the first wave of Operation Zur Israel.



The flight, coordinated by The Jewish Agency for Israel, the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration and the Ministry of Interior, landed at Ben Gurion Airport as part of an Ethiopian family reunification after more than a decade of separation. Image Source: The Jewish Agency for Israel

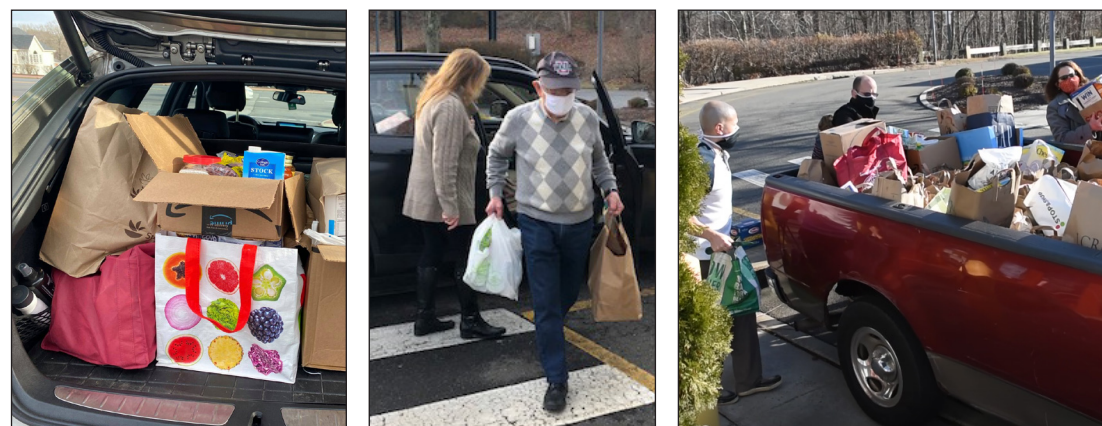
"Operation Zur Israel follows the Government of Israel's decision in October of this year [2020] to approve the Aliyah (immigration) of 2,000 members of the Ethiopian community, many of whom have been waiting for decades to move to Israel and reunite with their families," stated the Jewish Federations of North America in a December 6, 2020 press release. A poignant video of their landing in Israel can be found at vimeo.com/486986467. Find out more about the history of Ethiopian immigration to Israel at jewishagency.org/ethiopian-aliyah-explained.

The Jewish Agency is able to carry out the important work of bringing Ethiopian olim to Israel and reuniting them with their families with the support of its partners, the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) and Keren Hayesod, and with generous support from The Christian Embassy, the Crown Family Foundation, The International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, Jewish donors and foundations, and friends of Israel from around the world.

Source: jewishfederations.org/about-jfna/israel-overseas/i-o-today/israel-welcomes-hundreds-of-new-olim-from-ethiopia

Inspiring Hope During COVID and Tough Times

Many households are struggling to put food on the table and keep a roof over their heads. To support those affected by COVID-19, the Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven hosted a drop-off food drive on Sunday, December 13. The food donations were brought to Jewish Family Service of Greater New Haven that week, and they were overjoyed with the generosity shown. We sincerely thank everyone who participated in making this event a great success. Your contributions will make a difference this holiday season and beyond.





Left to right: Caitlin Steele (holding baby Jack), Baby Jack, son of Caitlin and Jeremy Steele, making good use of his new bib, and Brittany Branson receiving one of our great gift bags

Left to right: Julie Leviter's baby shows off the new Shalom Baby bib, and Emily Gerdner (mom of twins) receiving two gift bags.

Shalom Baby Has Launched!

We couldn't be more excited about this new outreach initiative from Women's Philanthropy of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven. Shalom Baby is designed to welcome Jewish babies and their families to the Jewish community in the Greater New Haven area. Through this collaborative effort, synagogues, vendors and agencies that cater to our community extend a hand of friendship to families who have recently experienced the birth or adoption of a child.

The first gift bag deliveries were to our program co-chairs Nicki Golos (Sergei Golos) and Shelley Kier (Josh Baum), who both recently welcomed babies.

We are grateful to Gayle and David Slossberg, the Premier Program Sponsors. Additional sponsors include: Sound Obstetrics and Gynecology (PJ Library Book Sponsor); Jonathan Perkins Injury Lawyers (My First Challah Sponsor); Barker Specialty (Bag Sponsor); and Big Smiles Pediatric Dentistry and The Milford Pediatric Group, P.C. (My 1st Shabbat Co-Sponsors). Other Shalom Baby sponsors include A Loving Touch Doula Care, Babywearing Connecticut, Inc., Edge of the Woods Market, JScreen, Women's Health Associates, LLC, and Yale New Haven Health Women's Services.

To learn more about Shalom Baby, visit linktr.ee/Shalom.Baby to find us on Instagram and our closed Facebook group.

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jewishnewhaven.org/shalom-baby

COVID-19 MAIMONIDES RESPONSE FUND

More than **\$428,500** Distributed in Emergency Grants for Critical Human Needs

People in our community are struggling to put food on the table and keep a roof over their heads. The COVID-19 Maimonides Response Fund has deployed over \$428,500 in emergency grants for critical human needs such as food, housing, and mental health services, and requests keep coming in. Please help those in need and make your gift today.

PLEASE HELP TODAY! jewishnewhaven.org/covid

CEO Judy Alperin Chosen for Jewish Nonprofit Leadership Program

Jewish Federation and JCC of Greater New Haven CEO Judith Alperin has been named as one of the 20 fellows in Cohort III of the Mandel Institute for Nonprofit Leadership's (MINL) Executive Leadership Program. The program provides an opportunity to frame community needs, and strategize for the future of the organization. The program will benefit the Jewish community and the community at large, as the organization touches the lives of thousands in our community and many more globally.

"I am honored to participate in this incredible opportunity. When I applied to the program pre-pandemic I had hoped to explore a broader thought universe and develop a more diverse network to help Greater New Haven as we confronted the challenges and opportunities to ensure a strong future for the Jewish New Haven community. Today, this access to incredible mentors and educators is even more critical and I intend to advantage every moment," says Alperin.

Alperin became the CEO of the Jewish Federation and JCC of Greater New Haven in January 2016. Prior to that, she served the Jewish Federation of Lehigh Valley in Pennsylvania for 11 years in different roles that culminated in the role of the Assistant Executive Director of that Jewish Federation. Her leadership achievements to date in New Haven include rebuilding the JCC after the catastrophic fire that happened in December 2016. She was selected to this prestigious fellowship out of a pool of hundreds. Cohort III of the Mandel Institute for Nonprofit Leadership will begin the two-year program in the beginning of 2021; it includes three seminars in Boston, a study tour in Israel, small-group work, nonprofit management workshops and mentoring opportunities.

"We are enormously grateful to all of the program's applicants. They demonstrate the depth of talent in the federation, JCC, Jewish Community Relations Councils (JCRC) and American Jewish Committee (AJC) networks," say MINL Director Ted Sasson and Assistant Director Liana Brodsky.

For more information about the MINL program, visit mandelinstitute.org/executive-leadership-program/about-the-program/.

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30 Female	114.00	130.00	270.00
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40 Female	146.00	198.00	520.00
50 Male	260.00	460.00	1,370.00
50 Female	222.00	383.00	1,130.00

20-Year Level Premium Policies*

Issue Age	\$100,000	\$250,000	\$1,000,000
30 Male	\$ 126.00	\$ 180.00	\$ 440.00
30 Female	118.00	158.00	360.00
40 Male	185.00	310.00	890.00
40 Female	163.00	255.00	760.00
50 Male	312.00	593.00	2,070.00
50 Female	258.00	525.00	1,580.00

30-Year Level Premium Policies*

Issue Age	\$100,000	\$250,000	\$1,000,000
30 Male	\$ 160.00	\$ 230.00	\$ 670.00
30 Female	134.00	198.00	540.00
40 Male	234.00	453.00	1,520.00
40 Female	196.00	380.00	1,240.00
50 Male	476.00	1,078.00	3,940.00
50 Female	411.00	888.00	3,210.00

*Annual premiums shown are for preferred plus nonsmoker class (preferred nonsmoker class for \$100,000 face amounts). Equivalent premiums are available for other underwriting classes, ages, face amounts and payment modes.

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Loving the Jewish Community

by Nurit Kohl

For Nancy Cohen, Chair of Women's Philanthropy at the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven and Chair of the Women of Vision Society at the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven, supporting the Jewish people is a mitzvah, never a question. "We have to take care of our own people," she says. Known to many in the Greater New Haven community, Cohen is a mother of two daughters and a grandmother of four. She grew up in Hamden, CT.

Cohen has been involved with many Jewish organizations in the Greater New Haven community, including Women's American ORT and Temple Emanuel of Greater New Haven. "New Haven is a good stomping ground and we need to help anyone we can," she says. "There is so much to do still in this community. The work is never done." Cohen sees a great value on the work of the Jewish Federation, especially because it casts a large safety net and supports everything that matters for the Jewish community and for the continuity of Jewish life. "From babies and elderly in Greater New Haven, to Israel and everything that's in between, there is no gift that goes further in the Jewish world than a gift to the Annual Campaign of the Jewish Federation."

Cohen was gracious enough to speak with *Shalom New Haven* on her 80th birthday, which was celebrated with a brunch with her two daughters. Her biggest birthday wish is for our community to come together and to take care of one another. To that end, for her birthday, she requested that her friends and family make a donation in her honor to the Covid-19 Maimonides Relief Fund and, to date, over \$1500 has been donated.

Please join Nancy Cohen at the International Lion of Judah conference (ILOJ) on January 24-25. LOJ is a giving society at Jewish Federations all over the world for women who are making an annual gift of \$5,000 or more in their own name to the Annual Campaign. This year, the conference will be conducted virtually, making it possible for even more women to participate. It promises to be "the premier gathering of dynamic, philanthropic Jewish women."

Learn more at jewishnewhaven.org.



Nancy Cohen

Jewish Family Service Offerings for January/February

JFS OFFERS VIRTUAL CAREGIVER AND BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUPS The Aging Adult Services program at JFS continues offering remote needs-assessments, case management, therapy, advocacy, family consultation, and supportive groups for clients and family members.

A virtual family caregivers' support group is offered twice a month on the second and fourth Wednesday at 11 AM. Upcoming dates: January 13 and the 27, and February 10 and the 24. If interested, contact Marcy Klein, LCSW at (203) 389-5599 x116 or via email at mklein@jfsnh.org for information and to receive a Zoom invitation.

If you are mourning the loss of a loved one and interested in participating in a bereavement support group, reach out to Andrea Joseph, LCSW at (203) 389-5599 x112 or via email at ajoseph@jfsnh.org.

The Aging Adults Program continues offering weekly check-in calls/supportive therapy to community members. Please contact Andrea Joseph, LCSW at (203) 389-5599 x112 or via email at ajoseph@jfsnh.org.

VIRTUAL COURT-MANDATED PARENT EDUCATION CLASSES JFS continues to offer Parent Education Classes (PEP) remotely in order to meet the health and safety COVID protocols. PEP is a court-mandated course for all parents with children under 18, who are involved in a divorce, civil union, annulment, separation or visitation case. The program is required within 60 days after a

family Ocase is filed in court. PEP is designed to provide parents with support concerning many issues that their families face during this transition. Some of the necessary information the class will provide will be on:

- Parenting through transitions
- Children's developmental stages and warning signs
- Cooperative parenting
- Conflict management and dispute resolution
- Parenting plans and schedules
- Stress reduction for children and parents

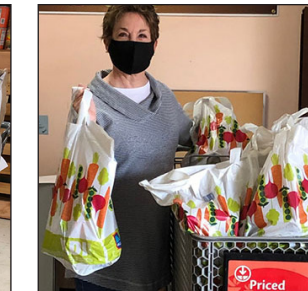
To find out more about our upcoming virtual dates, payment information and court vouchers, contact Barb O'Donnell at (203) 389-5599 x102 or bodonnell@jfsnh.org.

JFS WELCOMES KAREN MERKEL TO MENTAL HEALTH STAFF JFS is proud to announce the addition of Karen Merkel to their Mental Health program. She received her Ph.D. in clinical psychology and is licensed as a psychologist in Connecticut and Texas. Her graduate training involved psychological assessment and psychotherapy with adults and children in a variety of settings. She has vast experience in a community mental health setting and has a special interest in working with clients suffering from depression, anxiety and trauma-related difficulties.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES A PHONE CALL AWAY JFS is here for those in our community experiencing stress or depression, or needing help to sort out their feelings and



Top left and right: Thanksgiving food distribution to local families



Bottom right: Karen Merkel, Ph.D.

fears. For more information, contact Hannah Leiterman at (203) 389-5599 x114 or hleiterman@jfsnh.org.

JFS HELPS BRING NORMALCY TO LOCAL FAMILIES DURING THE HOLIDAYS The JFS Food Pantry continues to provide food and gift cards to local residents in need of food assistance. The Thanksgiving distribution was made possible thanks to the generous donations from our local community, synagogues and funders.

Jump Back into the J

Now is the time to come back and enjoy many of your favorite services and programs safely.

Stay Safe, Stay Fit, Stay Connected

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Congratulations to Jody Ellant



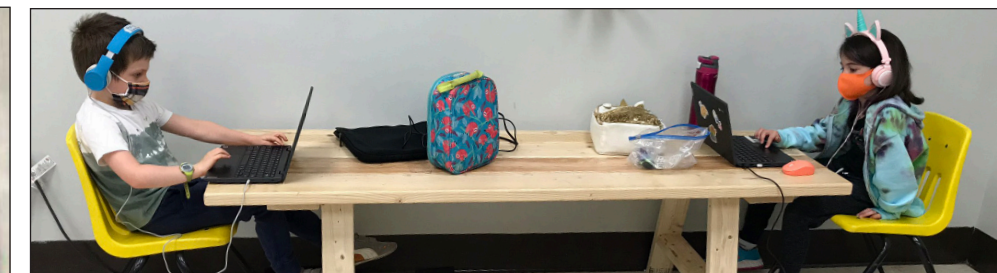
Jody Ellant

Mazel tov to Jody Ellant for her selection by *Managing IP Magazine* as one of the 50 most influential people in intellectual property in the world for 2020. She is the General Counsel at Romag Fasteners and also serves as the Co-Chair of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven's Annual Campaign.

"After 9 months in self-imposed pandemic sequester, mostly here at my home in Connecticut, I was surprised and delighted to have been selected by *Managing IP Magazine* as one of the 50 most influential people in intellectual property in 2020. As a reformed complex real estate transaction attorney, it is truly a hoot to be honored for work that I stumbled into defending our family business," Ellant commented on her Facebook page. As a result of her "stumbling" into the family business, she took action that would help defend those fighting for intellectual property rights and loss of profit as a result of infringement. Romag was founded in 1997 by Ms. Ellant and her husband, Howard Reiter, who is her Co-Chair of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven's Annual Campaign.

"As general counsel at Romag Fasteners, Jody Ellant led her company to its landmark win in Romag Fasteners v. Fossil this year, in which the Supreme Court of the United States decided that willfulness was not a requirement for profit disgorgement in trademark infringement cases," wrote *Managing IP Magazine*. "This case is expected to make it easier for lawyers to win funds for their clients by arguing for the disgorgement of profits [...] Thanks to Ellant and others who worked to secure this victory at the Supreme Court, trademark lawyers will have more predictability when they file suits and greater leverage against defendants to force settlements."

Argued in January in one of the last in person cases heard by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg, Romag was declared victor in the SCOTUS case with a unanimous 9-0 decision. Also on the Romag team, with ties to the New Haven Jewish Community, were David Schaefer of Brenner, Saltzman, Wallman, a former President of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven and of Congregation Mishkan Israel, Lisa Blatt of Williams & Connolly, whose in-laws were long time Congregation B'nai Jacob members Dr. Sydney and Ethel Blatt and Jonathan Freiman of Wiggin & Dana, a member of Congregation Beth-El Keser Israel.



Study and Play at JCC'S ALL DAY AT THE J

To address the needs of our community, we introduced All Day at the J, a supplemental school solution to help alleviate the stress caused by school closures and hybrid schedules.

Open to grades K-7, children receive high-quality academic support, socialization, and enrichment. It's your very own classroom, with the benefits of the JCC facilities, veteran staff, and diverse programming. Our dedicated classroom facilitators will support your child's individual online learning needs. With All Day at the J, your children get exposed to a variety of activities like rock climbing and arts & crafts, brain breaks, and academic support in a safe and supervised environment.

Our highly experienced camp staff has led the way in implementing this new program and they have done so safely, successfully, and with rave reviews: "The All Day at the J program has been a lifesaver for our family. While I work, my kindergartener and second grader get help with their remote learning and have the chance to play outside or in the gym during breaks and after school. Whether it's finding surprise art supplies, helping create space for a PE lesson, or troubleshooting a zoom malfunction, the All Day staff are always helpful and supportive."

Register anytime. No long-term commitments required. Contact summercamp@jccnh.org or call (203) 387-2424 x253 to learn more.



PJ Library Spreading PJ Library Cheer All Around Us!

POP-UP STORYWALKS

In honor of Thanksgiving 2020, families enjoyed a Pop-Up Story Walk over the long weekend featuring the PJ Library book, *Todah*. *Todah* means "Thank You" in Hebrew. What are you thankful for? Some responses from families that visited include being thankful for spending time with their family and their health. We're thankful for you!



Family of the Month
January Family of the Month
The Kantrow Family



Family of the Month
February Family of the Month
The Gerdner Family

LATKES & LIGHT COMMUNITY-WIDE HANUKKAH CELEBRATION

On December 13, 20 families gathered online for PJ Library's Latkes & Light Community-Wide Hanukkah Celebration. Thank you to Chef Benny from Ladle and Loaf, Rabbi Immerman and the Schwartz Family from Mishkan Israel, and Rabbi James Greene from Camp Laurelwood for such a lovely program.



Chef Benny from Ladle and Loaf and his daughter

Find out more about PJ Library at linktr.ee/PJLibraryGNH, including links to sign up for free books, upcoming events, PJ Library's Instagram and Facebook pages, the Closed PJ Grown Ups Group on Facebook, activities, and many other resources.

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SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT HEBREW ACADEMY Tradition of Gratitude with a Dash of Jewish Spice

by Sarah Lessing
Freelance Writer

Every year as Thanksgiving approaches, we turn our thoughts to the multitude of things we are grateful for while sharing great times and food with loved ones. This past year posed a few unique challenges to the celebration. Southern Connecticut Hebrew Academy (SCHA), eager to continue the tradition and excite students about gratitude, found multiple ways to teach them the importance of being thankful in their everyday lives.

A JEWISH PERSPECTIVE ON THANKSGIVING

Gratitude is a core value in Judaism, which is a central tenet in life throughout the year. The word “Jew” (“Yehudi” in Hebrew) comes directly from the Hebrew word “Yehuda,” which means “to show gratitude” and to “offer thanks.” Living in a state of constant gratitude to the Almighty for everything on a daily basis is inherently at the center of Judaism. As such, gratitude is naturally a pillar of the Jewish education SCHA provides its students from preschool to high school. SCHA Preschool Director Raizy Kaplan explains that, “every day we wake up in the morning and we say the prayer ‘Modeh Ani,’ which is thanking HaShem (the Creator) for giving us new life for another day. We carry gratitude throughout the entire year.”



SCHA's preschoolers participating in the Family Bake online event for Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is a great way to emphasize this attitude towards life and to celebrate with families, staff and community helpers.

THE GRATITUDE PROJECT: SHARING GRATITUDE WITH OTHERS

Thanksgiving is a joyful reason to explore thankfulness

and consider ways to express it. COVID-19 created a multitude of obstacles in 2020 but SCHA took the initiative to turn difficulties into opportunities. “In conjunction with learning about the first Thanksgiving, the preschool took the opportunity to participate in the Gratitude Project, which Chabad preschools all over the world took on especially for this year,” Kaplan explains.

This project offers students the chance to explore everything there is to be grateful for during the weeks leading up to Thanksgiving. To encourage children to notice the many things they could be thankful for, the school initiated multiple activities, such as engaging songs, special books, and creative activities like gratitude bracelets they would bring home and share with their families. With projects that were adapted to each class’ level, they also had the chance to explore the world of nature with its many elements to be thankful for—such as the sun to enjoy on their cheeks and the fresh air to breathe through their noses. Some of the classes worked on a gratitude journal; the teachers would document different things that the children would notice or were grateful for, says Kaplan.

The project was launched to allow children to develop a greater appreciation for many parts of life they are
(Continued on page 27)



EZRA ACADEMY

Excelling in Spite of Pandemic Challenges

by Julie Katz
Ezra Academy Board President

When we hear the “Hindsight is 2020” expression, we’ll look back and remember a year of resilience. In 2020, in the face of monumental burdens, Ezra Academy’s teachers and administrators kept the school running smoothly, and our community continued to thrive even as we adapted to a new style of interaction.

We continued favorite Ezra traditions, like our annual Bagel Breakfast, which raised \$2,000 for Jewish Family Service in 2020 thanks to parent Joanna Romberg and a great group of Ezra Academy alumni. All of the bagels, salmon and cream cheese bags were assembled outdoors and distributed throughout the community.

Our Hanukkah production debuted via live stream thanks to the creativity and editing talents of our eighth graders. They have written a Hanukkah spoof involving ancient Greeks who not only seek to conquer Judea but who bring the COVID virus to Jerusalem! Of course, the Maccabees win in the end.

This past strange year afforded Ezra the opportunity to launch new traditions, too. We hosted a drive-in movie night, an online discussion on child anxiety, a first-ever virtual open house and parent gatherings across multiple classes.

We discovered that lunch and class outdoors is a treat—and a break from wearing masks. Everyone in the school community has demonstrated incredible flexibility, creativity and patience.

Now, we layer another challenge to the mix of new learning environments, distanced events and ever-expanding technology opportunities. Ezra Academy is embarking on a search for a new Head of School, as Dr. Melanie Waynik is retiring after serving the school for nearly a decade.

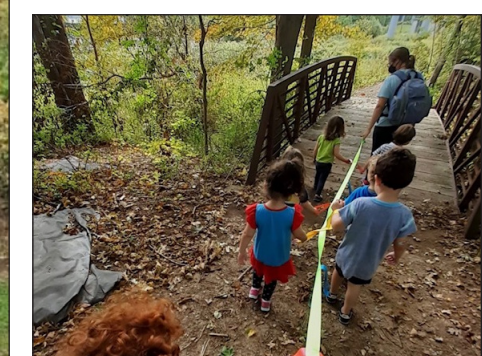
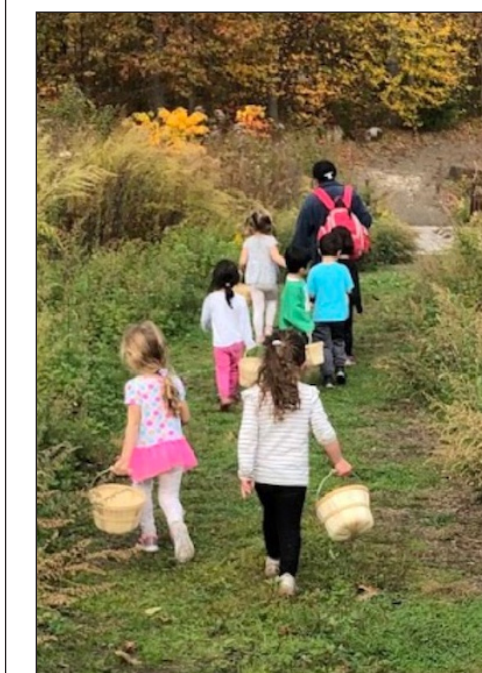
With optimism and perseverance, Ezra Academy will continue to incorporate all of the technology we have acclimated to, along with the traditions and heritage we have shared with students and the community for over 50 years. Whether you live in Hamden or Haifa, Milford or Milwaukee, it’s easier than ever to connect with Ezra. We encourage you to join us for an upcoming event or virtual tefillah.

Find out more about Ezra Academy at ezraacademyct.org.

JCC'S BEVERLY LEVY EARLY LEARNING CENTER

At Beverly Levy Early Learning Center, the children utilized the outdoor classrooms and spent as much time outside as possible this past fall, including for snacks and lunch. The program is also excited to incorporate a lot more nature into daily activities!

Find out more at jccnh.org/beverly.



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NEW ENGLAND JEWISH ACADEMY Inducting National Honor Society Members

New England Jewish Academy's (NEJA) chapter of the National Honor Society welcomed new members at an induction ceremony on November 19, 2020. During the candle-lighting ceremony, NEJA also honored its incredible central management staff, who each lit a candle representing an attribute of National Honor Society's core mission. The students and faculty wanted to acknowledge the service and hard work of Andrea Boyle, Rachel Thelin, Theresa Smith and Batsheva Oberstein.

Since 1921, the National Honor Society has been recognizing outstanding high school students who have demonstrated excellence in scholarship, leadership, service, and character. Membership is an honorable distinction providing a meaningful foundation for life.

Learn more about New England Jewish Academy at neja.org.



FITNESS & WELLNESS AT THE J

Getting the Most Out of Your Virtual Exercise Classes

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

Zoom, YouTube, Facebook Live and other virtual options have been a life saver to some people who get their workout "Rx" by taking classes or group training at fitness facilities during the pandemic. A great alternative to the exercise-minded person, but it can be a bit of a struggle for those who thrive in a group environment.

Since these virtual workouts may be sticking around for a while, we may need to get used to it. Here are a few tips to help make your virtual experience effective, energizing and fun while you're exercising at home.

1. Act like you're not at home. Pretend you're going to work out at your gym. Block off the appropriate time on your calendar and mentally prepare for class. Create a space in your home where you won't be interrupted, have your mat or props set up, and shut off your phone! If you were in a class setting, would you be checking your phone or emails? And stay the full class; don't leave early. Instead of rushing off to get back to your other responsibilities, try to really enjoy your class time as a break for yourself.

2. Get to class on time and adjust your device to chat with the instructor and other participants. In the JCC virtual Zoom classes, time is allowed before and after a workout to say hello, chat a bit and connect with others. We feel it's equally as important to stay socially con-



nected, even in a virtual platform. This also serves as an opportunity to share with the instructor any muscle or joint issues that may need modification.

3. Bring a friend! Whether it's a person in your household or a commitment to workout virtually with another, this is a great way to hold yourself accountable to showing up and perhaps pushing yourself a bit harder with a little friendly competition.

4. Document your workouts and your progress. Keep a log of your workout days, and health and wellness goals; wear a heart rate monitor; and note your progress. Give yourself a virtual pat on the back recognizing your efforts and how often you "showed up."

5. If you've been away from your exercise routine or are just starting a new one, begin slow. Being consistent with a slightly easier effort will yield better results than more sporadic, all-out efforts. Unless you are personal training in a virtual setting where the trainer is coaching you privately, keep movements on the conservative side until you build up your fitness level safely. Allow yourself to feel successful with every workout session that you are moving in a

direction of better health, a stronger body and managing your stress in a positive way!

Virtual workout classes are here to stay; they are an excellent option for anyone exercising from home. If you need help, guidance, or direction on where to start, contact susand@jccnh.org. Check out the variety of virtual programming our JCC offers via Zoom at jccnh.org.

The U.S. Elections from an Israeli's Eyes



by Tal Azizi
Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven's
Young Emissary 2019-2020

The last U.S. election campaign was a tumultuous one. Many of my friends in the United States described the recent election campaign as the most important election campaign the country had ever had. Throughout this election campaign the whole world had raised its eyes, in anticipation or concern (depending on who you ask), to the results of the U.S. presidential election. Like other countries, we in Israel have followed with devotion what is happening in the American political arena. Coverage of the various events and debates appeared in the news in prime time even before Joe Biden was elected as the Democratic presidential candidate. Near election time, you could not visit a news site or open a newspaper without finding an article about the newest updates discussing the election.

Why have we, the people in Israel, followed this election campaign so religiously? This is because in our eyes, just like my friends who live in the United States have claimed, this election was considered one of the most important elections in history.

It is important to note that Trump is considered a particularly beloved president in Israel. Why, you ask? Trump has taken a different approach from President Obama when it comes to Israel. Trump has promoted an approach according to which the United States should support the Israeli side of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and its status and supremacy in the Middle East.

This approach was reflected in various decisions Trump promoted. Among these decisions stand out: the recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and the transfer of the American embassy to Jerusalem, the recognition of Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights, withdrawal from the nuclear agreement with Iran (an agreement that many Israelis consider as a dangerous and failed agreement) and the imposition of severe sanctions against Iran. Trump also promoted the normalization with Israel among Arab countries as a condition for various agreements between those countries and the United States (such as the agreement with Sudan in which Sudan undertook to

normalize with Israel as a condition for its removal from the American list of pro-terrorism countries).

All of those decisions have led to Trump's positive image among many of the Israeli public, most of whom belong to the right wing of the political map. This great appreciation was also expressed in demonstrations and various support events of some Israelis who hoped that Trump would get another term as president.

On the other side of the political barricade was Joe Biden, who some in Israel hoped would be elected and some hoped he would not. On one hand, Biden is considered a politician with pro-Israel views who supports economic and military aid to the State of Israel. During his many years as a statesman, he knew and was exposed to many Israeli leaders (from Golda Meir to Benjamin Netanyahu) and is very knowledgeable about the history of Israel.

Joe Biden, on the other hand, was Barack Obama's deputy who promoted certain decisions during his tenure that were not always in Israel's favor (such as the nuclear deal with Iran). He also stated that he was interested in returning to the agreement with Iran and that he would try to promote the peace dialogue between Israel and the Palestinians and the two-state solution as the solution to this conflict.

In addition, it is important to note the progressive movement that is gaining power within the Democratic Party, which Biden represents, a movement that does not hesitate to criticize Israel—both among Americans and in the international arena.

Biden's election as President of the United States will certainly change the face of the Middle East, just as Trump's term as President changed the Middle East. We here in Israel are looking to the future in the hope of seeing how the election results will affect the Middle East, Israel and its relations with the United States.

On a personal note, as I write this, I am getting ready for my IDF service. I expect and believe that President-elect Biden will maintain and develop the relationship between Israel and the United States. I believe that during his time as President, the close relations between Israel and the United States will be preserved. I will continue to follow the news from the United State with the hope for a healthy and democratic future.

Turning to Laughter



Hon. Max L. Rosenberg

January 24 is actually Belly Laugh Day. We have a rich history of Jewish comedy in this country. What better way to mark this day than turning to Hon. Max L. Rosenberg, a local attorney who performed stand-up comedy in the Borsht Belt, Catskills and New York City clubs.

I recently suffered from strange and unsettling dreams. An angry, green furry man was trying to stride toward me, but was hip-deep in candles. "What am I going to do with all these fakachte candles?" he muttered. "Who are you?" I said. He looked at me and snarled, "I'm the Grinch who stole Hanukkah!" I said, "2020 has been hard on all of us," and gave him a pair of socks.

It's never been easy to be a Jew in society. We are always a minority and often a scapegoat. This is why we developed our unique brand of humor. Take me, for instance. Seriously, take me. You're doing my wife a favor. But seriously,

folks, I'm a glasses-wearing, gefilte fish-eating, dark-haired, dark-eyed lawyer. I might as well be stamped across the forehead. Notwithstanding this fact and the fact that my last name is Rosenberg, I recently found myself sitting in a consultation with a woman who seemed oblivious to my heritage. She said to me, "The Jews are the source of all the problems in our society!" I said, "No, it's the bicyclists." She replied, "Why the bicyclists?" And I said, "Why the Jews?!"

So what do we do in this miserable year that has brought us so much pain, shame and embarrassment? Where our 401Ks have magically turned to 201Ks? Where toilet paper is a rarity? Where our children have to distance learn? I just heard my kid recite that old rhyme: 30 days has September, April, June and November; all the rest have 31...except March, which has 8,000 and, in case you lost track, today is March 200th something.

Well, we find a way to laugh. Regarding the toilet paper thing, wouldn't now be time for everyone to invest in matzoh? That's what should be flying off the shelves. It lasts forever. It keeps you full. It even slides easily under a door. And it causes such constipation so who needs toilet paper? In any event, do you know what the number one food item that I've stocked up on for COVID is? Anxiety. And don't worry, when this pandemic is all over, you'll look back on this time and laugh...well maybe not all of you...

In closing, I am reminded of the words of my zaide, "If you can't say something nice, say it in Yiddish."

Max L. Rosenberg, a Stratford-based attorney, started his career as an actor in films, educational videos and commercials as well as a stand-up comedian. He is the Probate Judge of Stratford, Connecticut. In addition to many published legal decisions, Rosenberg writes a column for the Stratford Crier.

Camp Laurelwood to Pilot Family Camp Program Initiative

Camp Laurelwood, a Connecticut overnight Jewish camp located in Madison, has been selected to participate in the inaugural cohort of JFAM, the Foundation for Jewish Camp's (FJC) new family camp initiative. This groundbreaking new program, funded by the Foundation for Jewish Camp, provides overnight camps with financial and programmatic support to launch or expand their family camp offerings to provide meaningful and exciting Jewish experiences for families with young children.

As a participant in the JFAM program, Camp Laurelwood will offer three different family camp weekends each year for five years, beginning in 2022. FJC will provide important resources to pilot these programs at camp, including training, as well as a grant covering capital funding, staff capacity funding and subsidies for participating families. FJC designed this pilot program to help camps reach new families and engage them in the magic of Jewish camp. Camp Laurelwood will work with partner organizations throughout this process that will lead recruitment efforts with support from the camp.

After being forced to close last summer due to COVID-19, Camp Laurelwood quickly realized the need to safely invite the community to visit camp in some capacity. To meet this need, Laurelwood offered three weeks of family camp over the summer. This was the first time Laurelwood had ever explored family camp offerings; the response from the community was overwhelming. FJC's JFAM program will allow Camp Laurelwood to expand on the programs offered this past summer and build on a vision of year-round vibrant programming rooted in Jewish values and traditions that sustains our community.

Rabbi James Greene, Camp Laurelwood's Executive Director, noted the importance of this grant in terms of the camp's vision. "Camp is a technology that we use to build Jewish identity, and we know that it works. It is what Laurelwood has been doing for more than 80 years. We are so excited to partner with Foundation for Jewish Camp to bring the magic of camp to families across the region and to build the JFAM program in the years ahead."



With the success of last summer's inaugural family camp program, Camp Laurelwood is confident the investment from FJC will provide the necessary resources to offer an even more robust and meaningful experience to families over the coming years.

Founded in 1937 on 140 wooded acres, Camp Laurelwood is an agency of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven. It is accredited by the American Camping Association and the State of Connecticut.

Learn more at camplaulwood.org.

JCC Day Camps: With Crisis Comes Opportunity



PHOTOS BY TYLER BROWN ORTIZ

Last year, unprecedented challenges ushered in by a global pandemic transformed the very fabric of daily life. Nevertheless, JCC Day Camps persevered. Not only were we able to safely meet the needs of our community's families, but we also provided children with much-needed structure and community. This past summer was the most challenging, but it was also the most rewarding. Our resilient staff and campers proved that, even in uncertain times, love will always triumph.



Jewish Foundation OF GREATER NEW HAVEN

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

FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CAMP
one happy camper

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

To learn more or apply, please visit: jewishnewhaven.org/one-happy-camper

JCC DAY CAMPS

JUNE 21 - AUGUST 13

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For more information contact Camp Director, Debra Kirschner, summercamp@jccnh.org

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Trailblazing in Science Education

Congratulations to Dr. Heidi Gold-Dworkin for receiving the Million Women Mentors STEM Trailblazer Award. Recipients of this national award have made notable contributions to their respective peers and community and demonstrated excellence in the field of mentoring and STEM.

Dr. Gold-Dworkin is the founder of Little Scientists, an international leader in early childhood, elementary and middle school hands-on science education. What most people



might not know is that the program had piloted at the JCC of Greater New Haven when it first started and has been a success there ever since. "I would do one a month and it would take me a month to design the class," she said in an interview with Sandra Diamond Fox for *The Hour*. "The following year, I offered the program as a weekly enrichment class and people were coming from different parts of the state to take this class."

Dr. Gold-Dworkin, who had taught college-level science classes at Yale, found a special challenge in building a program for toddlers and young children. The idea first came to her when her daughter Aviva, a toddler at the time, asked her curious questions about the world she was discovering. Motivated by the desire to help children explore the natural phenomena around them, she started Little Scientists; the rest is history.

She lives in Milford with her husband, Jay. They have three children, Aviva, Olivia and Robert. All five family members are valued supporters of the Jewish Federation and Israel.

Time for Kosher Noshing

by Ariana Fine
Shalom New Haven Editor

Kosher eating and shopping in the Greater New Haven area took a hit in the last two years with the closing of Westville Kosher Market and, recently, Abel Caterers after their combined decades of serving the local community. We are grateful to them for so many years of providing kosher fare to the Jewish community. While local supermarkets see the opportunity to expand their kosher offerings, we are also excited to see new kosher eating establishments open up in the area alongside other long-standing restaurants. The two newest additions are Ladle & Loaf and Fin and Scale.

"For over 45 years, one Abel family member or another has been providing kosher catering services in the tri-state area...This decision comes with much sadness but also with many wonderful memories of sharing in your simchas and your lives. It has been an honor and a privilege to work with and for the Jewish community," Meredith Abel-Berei, owner of Abel Caterers, said in a public announcement about the business closing on December 11, 2020.

"Abel's Caterers has been part of our family of families for decades and it's hard to imagine a future without them. We are incredibly grateful for the partnership, creativity,

kindness, philanthropy and imagination that Abel's has provided through the years," says Judy Alperin, CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven.

With over 150 families in the Greater New Haven area seeking higher kosher certifications, Ephrat and Benny Lieblich saw an opportunity to launch Ladle & Loaf (ladle-loaf.square.site), which offers Middle Eastern fusion food. The chef and owners of The Gusto Kitchen, they will offer staples at Ladle & Loaf such as shawarma, sabich and falafel. The menu will include soups—such as shorba (Moroccan) and marak temani (Yemenite)—harira, gluten-free options, salads and many vegetarian items, Ephrat says. There is definitely a need as at least 100 families would not eat anything but Lubavitcher shechita, she explains.

Offering more local kosher dining options runs in the family. Ephrat Lieblich's cousin is Choni Grunblatt, the owner of the new kosher sushi restaurant. In addition to inside dining on Whalley Avenue, Fin & Scale ([instagram.com/finandscalect](https://www.instagram.com/finandscalect)) will offer takeout and delivery, Esther Grunblatt says. The menu, which will stay true to the Japanese method of sushi, will include salmon, tuna, yellowtail and other staples at the beginning with the menu set to expand to other exciting options. In addition to soups and salads, the restaurant will offer a full liquor bar

Ladle & Loaf

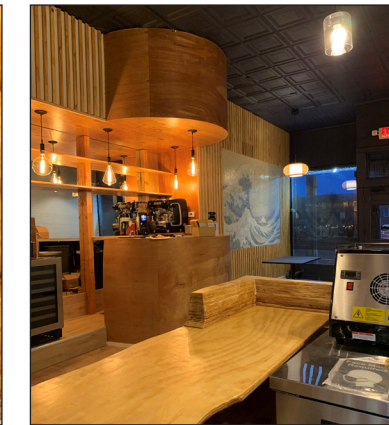


in Greater New Haven

Claire's Corner Copia



Fin & Scale



Claire's Corner Copia (clairescornercopia.com), located in downtown New Haven, is certified dairy kosher by the Vaad Hakashrus of Fairfield County. Every item in the 35-year-old vegetarian establishment is kosher, explains Claire Criscuolo, RN. She and her late husband, Frank Criscuolo, opened the restaurant on September 17, 1975. They have fun with their food, like offering a different kind of latke for each day of Hanukkah, she says. Since the pandemic began, Claire's has invested thousands of dollars in safety

and Italian coffee to complement the dining experience. "I believe we will appeal to the greater public in general; the fact that we will accomplish that and be kosher is phenomenal. It is really exciting for us to be doing it," says Choni.

for customers, including adding HEPA filter air purifiers, upgrading HVAC filters, and installing ION generators on HVAC compressors and fans.

Edge of the Woods on Whalley Avenue in New Haven offers a number of kosher items that can be found at eotwm.com/specialty/kosher. They continue to offer kosher, all-vegetarian pizza (Cholov Isroel) on Thursdays and Sundays afternoons. All food and drink prepared "inside the arches" are certified through the Vaad Hakashrus of Fairfield County, including the salad bar, hot bar, sandwiches and deli case. The dairy is certified Cholov Yisroel. All bakery items behind the counter are certified kosher Pareve and Pas Yisroel.

One of the supermarkets that has been quite responsive is ShopRite in Hamden. The location carries close to 1,000 different kosher food SKUs, including fresh chicken, seafood and meat; dairy items; and frozen food. Beigels kosher bread and cake items, and even kosher baby formula, are some of the dry grocery products available. They work with the Greater New Haven community to meet their kosher needs. Employees travel to Brooklyn every Thursday to truck in kosher items with higher certifications to the centrally located Hamden store, says **(Continued on page 25)**



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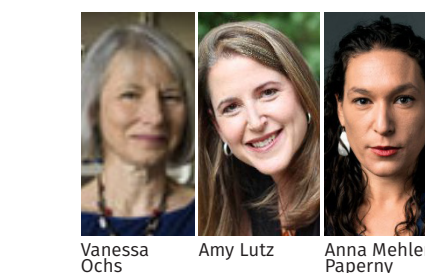
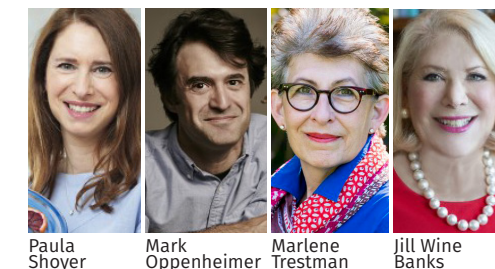
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Marlene Trestman Jill Wine Banks	Fair Labor Lawyer The Watergate Girl	3/4	1 p.m.
Vanessa Ochs	The Passover Hagaddah: A Biography	3/14	2 p.m.
Amy Lutz	Each Day I Like It Better: Autism, ECT, and the Treatment of Our Most Impaired Children	4/11	2 p.m.
Anna Mehler Paperny	Hello I Want to Die Please Fix Me: Depression in the First Person	5/6	7 p.m.

To sign up, visit jccnh.org/cultural-arts, or email lbarger@jewishnewhaven.org for more information

Winter Adult Learning with Congregation B'nai Jacob

Congregation B'nai Jacob (CBJ) is hosting its first-ever live Zoom transatlantic interview on January 10 at 1:30 PM between journalists Cindy Papish Gerber (Connecticut) and Rosie Whitehouse (United Kingdom), author of the critically acclaimed *The People on the Beach — Journeys to Freedom After the Holocaust* book (hurstpublishers.com/book/the-people-on-the-beach).

One summer's night in 1946, over 1,000 European Jews waited silently on an Italian beach to board a secret ship. They had survived Auschwitz, hidden and fought in forests, and endured death marches—now they were taking on the Royal Navy, running the British blockade of Palestine. From Eastern Europe to Israel via Germany and Italy, Whitehouse follows in the footsteps of those secret passengers, uncovering their extraordinary stories.

To commemorate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, CBJ presents Michael P. Lawlor, J.D., a professor of criminal justice at University of New Haven, former prosecutor, legislator and Governor's Criminal Justice advisor. The A Year of a Criminal Justice Reform? The Top 10 Trends Driving Change presentation will be held on January 17 at 10 AM.

Lawlor's discussion will explore central themes found in two award-winning films, 13th and Just Mercy. Viewing of both films (available on Netflix) is recommended prior to attendance. The former (youtube.com/watch?v=krfcq5pF8u8) combines archival footage with testimony from activists and scholars. Director Ava DuVernay's examination of the U.S. prison system looks at how the country's history of racial inequality drives the high rate of incarceration in America. Based on the life work of civil rights attorney Bryan Stevenson, Just Mercy (justmercyfilm.com) tells the true story of Walter McMillian, who, with the help of Stevenson, appeals his murder conviction. The film is based on the memoir of the same name, written by Stevenson.

For more info and Zoom links, contact Congregation B'nai Jacob at bnaijacob.org or (203) 389-2111.

Congregation Mishkan Israel Celebrates Community

FAMILIES CELEBRATE TOT SHABBAT AND TU B'SHEVAT
Congregation Mishkan Israel (CMI) invites families with children 6 years and under to a Virtual Tot Shabbat on January 1 and February 5 at 5:30 PM. On January 29 at 9:30 AM, families are invited to a Virtual Tot Tu B'Shevav Program. The Shabbat and holiday celebrations are a wonderful opportunity for families with preschool-aged children to get to know each other while enjoying a morning of blessings, stories, food and fun.

VIRTUAL INTERFAITH SERVICE TO HONOR DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
CMI's annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Service will be on January 15 at 7 PM. CMI has celebrated Dr. King's legacy and his ties to the congregation since the 1970s. Rabbi Robert Goldberg invited his friend, Dr. King, to speak at Mishkan Israel on October 20, 1961 in celebration of his work and the congregation's commitment to social justice. The congregation wanted to preserve this historic moment following Dr. King's assassination, and thus began the annual service. Since 2009, Rabbi Brockman has invited other local interfaith clergy to make this service a true community celebration. Faith leaders from the Jewish, Catholic, Christian, Muslim, Bahai and Unitarian Universalist traditions will join Rabbi Immerman in leading services. The event is free and open to the community.

Congregation Mishkan Israel is a reform synagogue located at 785 Ridge Road in Hamden. For more information, visit cmihamden.org.

Who Wrote the Torah and Why Does it Matter?



Professor Joel Baden

A Mini-course with Prof. Joel Baden
Wednesday, January 13, 20 and 27 | 7-8:30 PM

Jewish tradition holds that Moses wrote the Torah. But as scholars have long recognized, neither Moses nor any other single author is responsible for Judaism's central text. In these discussions, close reading of the text will reveal the

presence of multiple authors in the Torah. We will think about how and why (and when!) the Torah was composed and created. And we will try to understand how knowledge of the Torah's origins influences our reading of it today. What does it mean to read a text that doesn't provide a clear story, or consistent laws, or even a coherent concept of G-d?

Joel Baden is a professor of Hebrew Bible at Yale Divinity School. He is the author, most recently, of *The Book of Exodus: A Biography* (Princeton University Press, 2019). His other books include *J, E, and the Redaction of the Pentateuch* (Mohr Siebeck, 2009); *The Composition of the Pentateuch: Renewing the Documentary Hypothesis* (Yale University Press, 2012); *The Promise to the Patriarchs* (Oxford University Press, 2013); *The Historical David: The Real Life of an Invented Hero* (HarperOne, 2013); *Reconceiving Infertility: Biblical Perspectives on Procreation and Childlessness* (with Candida Moss; Princeton University Press, 2015); and *Bible Nation: The United States of Hobby Lobby* (with Candida Moss; Princeton University Press, 2017).

For more information and to register, contact Temple Emanuel of Greater New Haven at office@tegnh.org.

BEKI Recognized with Community Service Award

Beth El-Keser Israel (BEKI) has been awarded the John S. Martinez Community Service Award given by Columbus House, an organization that provides shelter for women, men and families. The award is presented annually in recognition of those who have exemplified community leadership and outstanding support for its programs. "Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel and its members have demonstrated a tenacious willingness to help those in need," Columbus House noted in the award letter.

BEKI is a host of the annual Abraham's Tent program, a week-long stay at churches and synagogues for a group of men, under the auspices of Columbus House. After the pandemic cut short the program last winter, BEKI's Social Action Tikun Olam volunteers provided food assistance as the men were moved into hotels.

Months later, when some of the men found housing, BEKI volunteers delivered furniture, televisions, small refrigerators, cleaning supplies and groceries. "As they have found new homes and some of them jobs, we have stayed in touch, sharing stories of our lives during these strange times," BEKI's Tikun Olam Co-chair Darryl Kuperstock explained.

Prior to the pandemic, BEKI volunteers cooked and served a monthly dinner at Columbus House's main shelter. More recently, with no volunteers allowed at the shelter and no non-commercially prepared food permitted, BEKI shifted to monthly deliveries of bulk food, face masks, gloves and hand sanitizer.

BEKI provided a catered Thanksgiving dinner for the men's overflow shelter this year and collaborated with other local synagogues to cater a Christmas dinner for the main shelter, medical respite unit and overflow shelter.



Darryl Kuperstock and other BEKI volunteers prepare a kosher BBQ dinner to share with Abraham's Tent guests in February 2020.

"BEKI's partnership over the years has been invaluable to our bottom line and to our neighbors who transition from homeless to housed," the award letter said. "BEKI's commitment to Abraham's Tent and ongoing devotion to the men who participate, monthly meal service, in-kind support, volunteer activities, along with countless other selfless acts make BEKI the perfect candidate for this award!"

Other local organizations that BEKI's Tikun Olam committee has been assisting during this pandemic include Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen, Chapel on the Green, FISH of Greater New Haven, American Red Cross, Jewish Family Service Food Pantry and JCARR (Jewish Community Alliance for Refugee Resettlement).

Find out more about Beth El-Keser Israel at beki.org.

TEMPLE BETH DAVID

Temple Beth David of Cheshire took advantage of the beautiful fall 2020 weather with several outdoor events.

Top left and middle, bottom left: The congregation's religious school Rosh Hashanah drive-through event included different stations to listen to a story, hear music, receive an apple and say Tashlich.

Bottom middle: Students participated in Sukkot activities in the sukkah.

Top and bottom right: Attendees enjoyed an outdoor women's Rosh Chodesh event.



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Retirement Plans and Charitable Giving

Retirement plans can present tax-smart charitable giving opportunities both during a donor's lifetime and in the donor's estate plans.

1. Charitable Giving Opportunity with an IRA During a Donor's Lifetime - Available for Those 70½ and Older

The Charitable IRA Rollover is a way for donors, age 70½ and older, to pay less tax while supporting their favorite charities. A Charitable IRA Rollover allows donors to direct up to \$100,000 (or less if they choose), from their traditional IRA, to charity, tax-free.

The Charitable IRA 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. Donor-advised funds do not qualify for the IRA Charitable Rollover.

This strategy may be right for you if you:

- want to make a qualified charitable gift from your IRA to reduce the value of future distributions you will be required to take;
- do not itemize your deductions and would like to realize an increased tax benefit for your giving;
- wish to make an impactful gift to benefit the community;

- already contribute to charity at your deduction limit, and you want to donate more;
- do not need your Required Minimum Distribution (all it does is raise your tax liability);
- have a secondary smaller IRA you do not need; and/or
- wish to reduce your IRA and remove from your taxable estate.

Please consult your professional advisor concerning your tax plans.

2. Retirement Plans as Part of Your Estate Plan

Retirement plans, such as IRAS/401ks/403bs, are tax-plagued assets when they are left to a non-spouse beneficiary

Under the Secure Act, a non-spouse beneficiary of an IRA/401K/403B must withdraw the entire amount of the inherited retirement within 10 years; non-spouse beneficiaries are no longer permitted to "stretch" the withdrawals over their lifetime. For example, Mr. Cohen passes away (assume Mrs. Cohen predeceased him) and his 2 sons are the named beneficiaries of his \$150,000 IRA. The sons will need to withdraw the entire \$150,000 within 10 years, which means paying about \$50,000 in income tax. That \$150,000 asset, when left to the Cohen sons, will only be worth about \$100,000. For a \$1,500,000 IRA, the sons will need to withdraw it within 10 years and pay about \$500,000 in taxes.

A TAX-SMART SOLUTION:

If Mr. Cohen had named a charity as the beneficiary of the IRA, at Mr. Cohen's passing, the charity would have received the entire IRA, tax-free. Mr. Cohen could then leave his other, tax-free assets to his sons.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN RETIREMENT PLAN GIFTS TO CHARITY DURING LIFETIME VS. IN DONOR'S ESTATE PLAN

DURING LIFETIME	IN ESTATE PLAN
IRA Only (Not from 401K/403B)*	IRA/401K/403B okay
Maximum \$100,000 per year	No maximum
Any US-based public charity (but not to donor-advised fund)	Any US-based public charity (including donor-advised fund)
Not subject to income tax	Not subject to income or estate tax
Accomplished via rollover/distribution from IRA directly to charity	Accomplished by naming charity as designated beneficiary for all or part of the retirement plan
Contact plan administrator for rollover paperwork	Contact plan administrator for proper beneficiary designation form
Must be 70½ or older	Can designate at any time but charity will only benefit at your passing

*Want to take advantage of the charitable IRA rollover but only have a 401K/403B rather than an IRA? See if you can roll your 401K/403B into a qualified IRA.

Please consult your professional advisor concerning your tax plans.

For more information, visit newhavenjewishfoundation.org/retirement-plans-and-charitable-giving.

Energy Savings to Support The Towers' Efforts to Combat Food Insecurity

by Gustave Keach-Longo
President, The Towers

Well before the pandemic, The Towers was tackling food insecurity among the Greater New Haven community's senior population. They identified many seniors in their care who needed access to on-site nutritious meals; reasons stemmed from being unable to physically cook for themselves, manage the planning and traveling to and from the grocery, or afford the meals. The arrival of the pandemic only made needs around food more pronounced.

The Towers' goal was to find a long-term solution to this chronic problem. They found a way to make significant strides toward helping seniors afford meals through The Towers' own kosher kitchen.

"We are delighted to announce that The Towers Foundation purchased a 'Co-Generator' that will provide approximately 40% of the energy (heat and electricity) needed to run the Tower One side of our building. This one-time investment will provide 25 years of energy savings that will then enable us to subsidize our residents' out-of-pocket costs for the meals provided through our kitchen. This project also is a green initia-

tive that will be good for our environment and our neighborhood," Gustave Keach-Longo, President/CEO.

When the pandemic hit in March, The Towers began feeding all residents three nutritious meals daily through their contactless delivery process, regardless of the residents' ability to pay. The Towers used the resources at hand to help residents while reducing risk, exposure and transmission. Immediately, 198 residents took advantage of the subsidized meals. The meal subsidy program will continue through September 2021, when The Towers will begin seeing the benefits and savings from the Co-Generator. The funds are predicted to subsidize approximately 67 residents to start and as many as 92 residents in the future. The effort brings them



Gustave Keach-Longo,
President/CEO

closer to their initial goal of offering subsidies to the 120 residents they identified as having the need for on-site meals and lacking the funds to cover the costs.

The Towers is grateful to the Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation's COVID-19 Maimonides Response Fund for their support. They also give thanks to the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven/United Way Fund, The Yale University Community Fund and The William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund.

The Towers thanks community leaders Barry Vine and Joel Karp for their help with the Co-Generator purchase. Thank you also to the SWF Foundation for their matching dollars to help reach the \$175,000 initial goal. The Towers is still raising the final dollars needed for the Co-Generator and could use the community's help to fill the remaining gap. To help, contact Jennifer Bayer at jennifer@towerlane.org or (203) 772-1816, x290.

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From New Haven to the White House

by Burton Levine
President, The Jewish Historical Society of Greater New Haven

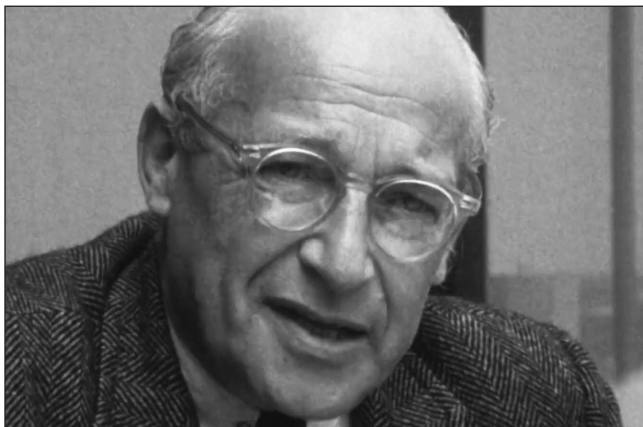
The Jewish Historical Society (JHS) spotlights a pair of Jewish brothers with New Haven origins who were quite involved in foreign policy.

At the height of their renown in the 1960s, the Rostow brothers Walt and Eugene were foreign policy stars.

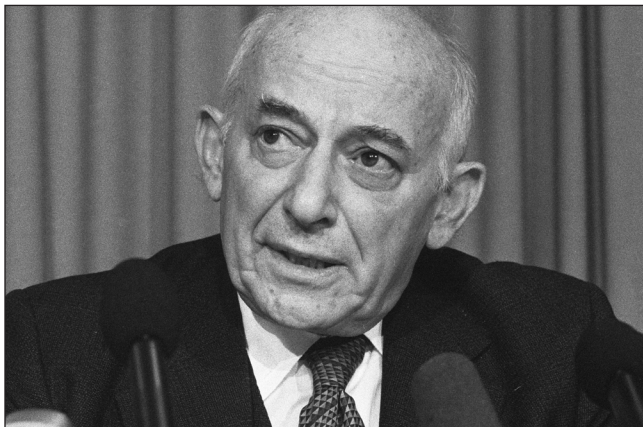
They had been overachieving stars since their youth in New Haven. Both went to Yale where Eugene won more than a fair share of awards and accolades. After Yale University, Eugene went to Cambridge University in England and then graduated from Yale Law School. Walt, three years younger, went from Yale to Oxford on a Rhodes scholarship; he then earned a Ph.D. in economics at Yale.

During WWII, Eugene worked in the U.S. State Department and other federal agencies while Walt was a Major in the OSS helping to determine targets to bomb in Germany.

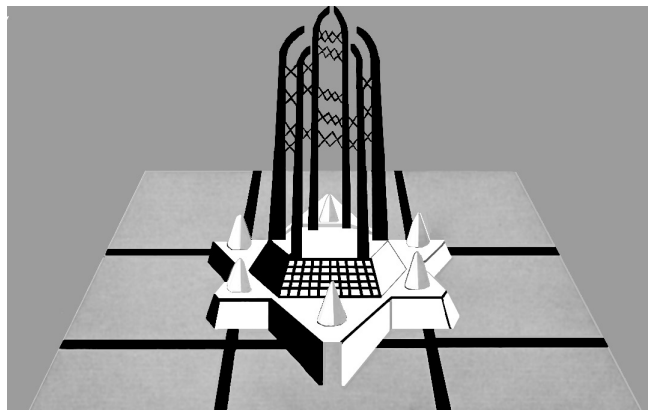
After the war, Eugene became a popular law professor and then the dean of Yale Law School. He was an early



Walt Rostow in the Hearts and Minds documentary (1974)



Eugene V. Rostow gives his position on Vietnam as he testifies before Senate Foreign Relations Committee on his nominations to be Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs. (The New York Times, Oct. 5, 1966)



JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY of Greater New Haven

advocate of restitution for victims of the internment of Japanese Americans. Walt was establishing himself at MIT as one of the leading American economists. During the 1950s, Eugene and Walt each spent a year at Cambridge University as a Pitt Professor of History.

The Rostows were sons of immigrant Jewish socialists. Their parents named Walt after Walt Whitman and Eugene after Eugene V. Debs. Their parents' socialism led them both to love America and to hate communism.

In 1960, Walt was a speech writer and foreign policy advisor to John Kennedy. He coined the campaign slogan, "Let's Get This Country Moving Again." Walt left MIT in 1961 to serve in the U.S. State Department and as an aide to President Kennedy. Kennedy tired of what he considered Walt's obsession with Vietnam, and exiled Walt from the White House to the State Department. Walt was one of the earliest proponents of bombing North Vietnam.

After Kennedy's assassination, Lyndon Johnson fired his national security advisor MacGeorge Bundy and promoted Walt to the job. Walt became the face of the Vietnam War and a spokesman for an aggressive prosecution of the war.

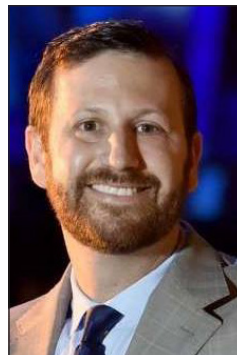
At the same time, Johnson appointed Eugene as the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, where he supported his brother's policies.

After Johnson retired, Walt was unable to return to his job at MIT. He was a pariah in elite circles for his support of the war. He eventually became a professor at the Johnson School at the University of Texas. Eugene, who was less public in his support of the war, returned to Yale. He spent the 1970s opposing détente with the USSR. In 1981, he was briefly President Reagan's disarmament negotiator, but was fired for insufficient hawkishness.

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

Learning to Truly Love

The Legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



by Rabbi Brian Immerman

During the era of Jim Crow, Jews knew the pain of our black and brown brothers, sisters, neighbors and fellow Jews. We too were excluded from purchasing certain homes, from joining country clubs and from engaging in sectors of public life. This shared experience and deep

sense of Jewish empathy motivated some of our great teachers marching with Dr. King, including Rabbi Goldberg, z"l, from Mishkan Israel. Rabbi Goldberg marched with and was arrested with Dr. King. Reflecting on his experience during a Rosh Hashanah sermon, Rabbi Goldberg wrote that the struggle to end racism "is clearly and obviously the basic moral issue in this land, and that our response to it...will determine the character of our country for generations to come."

Sixty years later, racial justice is clearly still a basic moral issue of our day. Racism was addressed during the civil rights movement, through the Civil Rights Act and Voting Rights Act, but it was not solved. The character of our country in the generations since have still allowed racism to exist and oppress people of color. We must continue to fight for justice and equity for all. One of Dr. King's greatest assets was his ability to transform a story into a call to action, so that white people of all religions would know the pain that systemic racism was causing. Dr. King helped us understand how to fulfill the mitzvot of loving our neighbors and strangers.

An old Chassidic tale tells of two men sitting in an inn. One was silent for a long time while his drunken companion talked and talked. Finally, the quiet one spoke up, "Tell me, do you love me or don't you love me?" "Of course I love you," his friend replied. The other retorted, "You say that you love me, but you don't know what I need, or what causes me pain. If you loved me, you'd know." We cannot truly love others unless we both acknowledge their pain, and dedicate ourselves to bringing about relief. As we celebrate Dr. King's birthday, may we commit ourselves to this task.

Rabbi Brian Immerman is the rabbi of Congregation Mishkan Israel, which will host its 54th annual interfaith Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Service on January 15 at 6 PM with State Representative Robyn Porter as the featured speaker. To register and join, visit cmihamden.org.

EDUCATING AND INQUIRING: What's More Jewish than THAT?

by Sarah Lessing
Freelance Writer

Many local Jewish children have grown into strong, devoted adults before leaving Greater New Haven to start careers across the country. Dr. Michal Raucher is one of them; she grew up in Hamden and is currently an assistant professor of Jewish studies at Rutgers University in New Jersey. She reflects on her childhood as a young Jewish kid in Connecticut and how her experiences here have helped shape her journey and career.

"I was born in New Haven at Yale Hospital; my first baby was born at Yale too, so it's actually full circle!" Dr. Raucher says. She lived in Hamden until the age of 18 before leaving to attend school in New York City. After graduating from the Joint Program with The Jewish Theological Seminary and Columbia University, earning a B.A. in Hebrew Bible and a B.A. in religion, she continued relocating to pursue a Ph.D. and then her new career. This path took her to Philadelphia, Chicago and Israel before she returned to Hamden for a short year and then moved back to New York City. She relocated to New Jersey two years ago.

EDUCATION AS A VOCATION

Today she is happy in New Jersey. Her position at Rutgers is very meaningful to her. She tries to adapt her academic role as it has been affected by Covid-19.

"We had to transfer all of our courses in the middle of the semester to distance learning. I made a lot of changes to my syllabus to enable independent learning," she mentions. The end of the semester came with a lot of challenges, but the assistant professor found creative and smart ways to help students find the time and methods to get themselves through it. "I served them as a guide and I gave them the opportunity to choose their final project," she explains.

She considers that her job does not stop in the classroom. "I am always concerned about my student's well-being. For example, I have first-generation college students or students working full-time jobs. I found myself prioritizing my compassion towards them and being supportive," Dr. Raucher tells.

When asked if her Jewish identity plays a role in her academic position, her answer is unequivocal. "In a lot of ways, my Jewish values and the way I was raised influence the way I behave and interact with students as a professor."

She explains that she has been surrounded by educators her entire life as both her parents were teachers. "I take it into my own teaching, but also in my research as that is the other part of my job as an assistant professor. I spend my time questioning, especially because my research is about human beings and understanding other people's lives; it's coming from the way I was raised as a Jew."

Dr. Raucher's childhood in the New Haven area molded her journey. "We were going as a family to Temple Beth Shalom every week. My mom worked at the shul for decades. It was

a second home and everybody knew me. Older people in the community were extended grandparents. The rabbi's kids are like siblings because I feel we grew up together," she recalls.

She continues to feel very connected to the local community. "My parents still live in Hamden so when we come back to visit them, it's like a reunion at shul," she says.

RESEARCHING JEWISH THEMES IN ACADEMIA

"Education is important. The way that the Jewish Federation supports Jewish education is crucial. All of the support the Jewish Federation gave in the New Haven area has been particularly meaningful in my life," she recognizes.

Dr. Raucher's early experiences played a big part in her choice to pursue Jewish themes in academia.

As an undergraduate, she had many interests—from journalism to medicine—and then decided on the study of religion

from an academic perspective. Dr. Raucher wanted to understand how religious people see the world and act in the world, she says. Her masters in bioethics offered classes with formal philosophy and principles; but when she took a class focusing on the sociological element of bioethics and how people make decisions, she found her true passion. She combined it with her interest in religion.

A student at the time, she set a goal to work on Jewish bioethics and the perspective of Jewish people. The topic for her dissertation focused on if it was just what the rabbis state or if there were other ways to make medical decisions about pregnancies, including about birth control, abortion and prenatal testing.

This study led her to Jerusalem for two years, where she conducted ethnographic research on reproductive ethics of Haredi women in Israel.

She now teaches and conducts research at Rutgers University, which is home to an estimated 6,400 Jewish undergraduate students and became the largest Jewish undergraduate population in the country. Her regular courses include Israeli Culture, Jews and Medicine, and Jerusalem Contested; they are open to everyone. "We have a lot of non-Jewish students, which is what it should be. You don't need to be a woman to be taking a women's study class. You don't need to be Middle Eastern to take a class about the Middle East. And you don't need to be Jewish to take a Jewish studies class," Dr. Raucher states.

Her team works on attracting Jewish and non-Jewish students to classes about Jewish history or texts. As going to university is a way for students to get out of their comfort zone and enrich their knowledge, the assistant professor continues to honor this spirit with her open mind and rich Jewish values.

Dr. Michal Raucher's book, *Conceiving Agency: Reproductive Authority among Haredi Women*, was published by Indiana University Press in November 2020. It can be purchased at amazon.com/Conceiving-Agency-Reproductive-Authority-Haredi/dp/0253050022.



Dr. Michal Raucher



Plant Trees and Connect the Past with the Future

by Yelena Gerovich
New American Acculturation Program Coordinator

Someone who plants trees, or is involved in education, knows that it is about connecting the past to the future. Even when you do not see the fruit, you believe that it is burgeoning and is already on its way. The Jewish Federation has not stopped its educational programs despite the coronavirus pandemic. The New American Acculturation Program virtually gathered people and provided numerous individual consultations helping members of our community to enjoy the learning process and to celebrate Jewish and American holidays.

Israel is one of the few nations that entered the 21st century with more trees than it had 100 years ago. Early Zionists planted trees in Israel to help restore Israel's land, and as a symbol of the growth of the Jewish people. The Jewish custom was to plant a cypress for a girl and a cedar for a boy. Then when the child got married, branches from each tree were used to make the chuppah.

Tu B'Shevat is the day that marks the beginning of the "New Year of the Trees." It is the period when the earliest-blooming trees in Israel emerge from their winter sleep and begin a new fruit-bearing cycle. Tu B'Shevat begins at sundown on Wednesday, January 27, 2021, and ends at nightfall on Thursday, January 28. In Russia and many other parts of the former Soviet Union, Tu B'Shevat comes at a time when snow and ice still abound, and the sprouting of tree buds that the holiday celebrates are nowhere to be seen. The only fruit that was available at wintertime in Russia was apples. If you were lucky, you could find a food market with oranges or tangerines in stock. After standing in line for a couple of hours, you could buy up to two pounds (it was limited for shoppers). Some people brought their children to stand in line with them because more people were allowed to purchase more pounds. Not many Jews knew and celebrated Tu B'Shevat in Russia.

In keeping with the idea of Tu B'Shevat marking the revival of nature, many of Israel's major institutions have chosen this day for their inauguration, including the cornerstone laying of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 1918, the Technion in Haifa in 1925 and the Knesset in 1949.

Let's celebrate Tu B'Shevat and connect the past to the future. We are blessed in Connecticut to be able to openly celebrate Jewish holidays. We have the opportunity to celebrate Tu B'Shevat with a variety of fruits despite the cold weather and the pandemic. The elderly and Holocaust survivors receive tremendous support from the organizations that deliver free food in our community.

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

Trees Sustain Us

by Cantor Jenn Boyle
Temple Beth Tikvah of Madison.

We might normally consider Tu B'Shevat a minor Jewish holiday. It falls this year on January 28, corresponding to the 15 of Shvat. Tu B'Shevat celebrates the new year of the trees, a day when we eat different fruits from around the world and plant trees in Israel, as their spring is just beginning.

This past year, I have come to appreciate just how much the trees sustain us. Our Torah is referred to as Eitz Chayim, a Tree of Life, because its teachings have sustained our people through the centuries. In the Torah, trees were an important source of sustenance.

We read about this in the book of Deuteronomy. "When in your war against a city you have to besiege it a long time in order to capture it, you must not destroy its trees, wielding the ax against them. You may eat of them, but you must not cut them down" (Deut. 20:19). Even as the city around them was destroyed, the trees were to be left unharmed, so that they might continue to provide food for the city.

As our own country continues battling disease, the winding paths and trails throughout the Connecticut forest provide much-needed relief from the pandemic. In the woods, we reach a place where we can return to almost normal, a chance to find some

Welcome to America

Посадить дерево - значит соединить прошлое и будущее

Посадить дерево - значит соединить прошлое и будущее. Тот, кто сажает деревья или занимается образованием, знает, что речь идет о соединении прошлого с будущим. Даже когда вы не видите созревание плода, вы знаете, что он прорастает и уже в пути. Мы не прекращали наше общение несмотря на пандемию коронавируса, предоставляли индивидуальные консультации, помогая членам нашей общины получать радость от процесса обучения и отмечать еврейские и американские праздники.

Израиль – единственная в мире страна, в которой сегодня больше лесов, чем сто лет назад. Количество деревьев в Израиле с 1948 года выросло с 4,5 миллионов до 240 миллионов. Ранние сионисты сажали деревья в Израиле, чтобы помочь восстановить землю Израиля и как символ роста еврейского народа.

В древности в честь новорожденных детей высаживали дерево: в честь мальчика – кедр, в честь девочки – кипарис. Кедр символизировал высоту и праведность, а кипарис – красоту и благоухание. Затем, когда ребенок женился, ветви каждого дерева были использованы для изготовления хупы. Ту би-Шват- день, знаменующий начало Нового Года Деревьев.

Это период, когда самые ранние фруктовые деревья в Израиле выходят из зимнего сна и начинают новый цикл плодоношения. Ту би-Шват начинается с заходом солнца в среду, 27 января 2021 г., и заканчивается с наступлением темноты в четверг, 28 января. В России и многих других частях бывшего Советского Союза Ту би-Шват наступает в то время, когда вокруг зима, снег и лед, и нигде не видно набухания и прорастания почек и плодов. Единственным фруктом, который продавался зимой в России, были яблоки. Если везло, то, можно было найти магазин с апельсинами или мандаринами в наличии. Простояв в очереди пару часов, можно было купить два килограмма на человека. Многие люди привозили своих детей, чтобы купить больше фруктов на большее количество людей. Не многие евреи праздновали Ту би-Шват в России.

В соответствии с идеей Ту би-Шват, знаменующего возрождение природы, многие крупные учреждения Израиля выбрали этот день для своего открытия, включая закладку краеугольного камня Еврейского университета в Иерусалиме в 1918 году, Техниона в Хайфе в 1925 году и Кнессета в 1949 году. Существует традиция в этот день есть больше фруктов, чем в иные дни. Давайте отметим Ту би-Шват и соединим наше прошлое с будущим. Сейчас в Коннектикуте у нас есть возможность отпраздновать Ту би-Шват открыто, с разнообразными фруктами на столе, несмотря на холодную погоду и пандемию. Приятно осознавать, что пожилые люди пережившие Холокост получают поддержку от различных организаций, им доставляют бесплатную еду, помогают с доставкой продуктов, и им не надо стоять в очередях. С Новым годом!

Для получения дополнительной информации о New American Acculturation Program, с вопросами и предложениями звоните Елене Герович по телефону (203) 387-2424 x321 или ygerovich@jewishnewhaven.org.

solace and escape from the stresses of the world. This past year, we turned from our physical indoor places of worship to the sanctuaries that nature provides. No longer able to gather in great numbers in our temples, we find ourselves experiencing the Divine in nature.

How can we ever repay the trees the great debt that we owe, for the fruit they provide and the spiritual sustenance for our souls? Other than appreciating their beauty, we can commit to fighting climate change and donating to organizations that protect our planet. For the trees to sustain us, we must in turn sustain them this Tu B'Shevat and beyond.

Kosher Noshing in New Haven

(Continued from page 17)

ShopRite in Hamden



Harry Garafalo, owner of Garafalo Markets, which owns seven stores in Connecticut. The Hamden store's list of kosher brands includes Shor Habor, Meal Mart, Aaron's Gourmet Emporium,

Empire, Jack's Gourmet and OF-TOV, states Ronald Lano, the Hamden location's assistant store manager. Fresh kosher seafood offerings include salmon, steel head trout, cod, flounder and tilapia. As the store continues to expand their offerings, Lano asks the community to reach out to him with additional product requests.

For those shopping for OU and OK kosher labels, they can shop ShopRite's many kosher items, which includes some on company's private label. Other area supermarkets with these kosher labels include Big Y and Stop & Shop, among other markets.

Community members such as Justin Lazarus, a junior at Southern Connecticut State University, are also approaching other shopping locations to such as Costco push for more affordable kosher food. Lazarus says there are three important things needed in order to have sustainable local kosher establishments: make sure the kosher level is high enough so everyone can eat it, make it affordable with bulk buying and weekly deals, and include really good customer service.

"We must work together. It is not just Orthodox/Chabad and Conservative/Reform; we are a Jewish community no matter what level of religion or kosher observance you are," Lazarus implores. "So we must build it."

And that is what is happening in the Greater New Haven area as more kosher options become available at local restaurants and markets.

Farewell to our Friends...

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JCC OF GREATER NEW HAVEN

Tuesday, January 19 | 7:30 pm
Elementary School/Pre-Phone Age

Tuesday, January 26 | 7:30 pm
Middle/High School Ages

\$10 for one session / \$15 for both

Lisa Good
Host and Co-Author

jccnh.org/rsvp

Tributes & Remembrances

JEWISH FEDERATION

In honor of the wedding anniversary of Stan & Ellen Schulman
Glenn, Betsy, Zachary, Zoe, Zevi, Jackson & Jasper Schulman

In honor of the anniversary of Stuart & Velma Grodd
Gillie Lender

In memory of Sydell Sheinbaum
Gerry & Debbi Barker and Family

In honor of the birth of Sally Jane Fishman
Stephany Cousins

In celebration of the Bar Mitzvah of Zackery Anderson
Jane & Doug Tendler

In honor of the birth of Whitney Rose Perkins, granddaughter of Stacey & Hap Perkins
Judy Alperin
Amy & Mark Holtz

In memory of Bonnie Karp Schwartz
Carol & David Robbins
Judy & Mark Sklarz
Eileen & David Swirsky
Joan & Stuart Margolis

In celebration of Al Rose's 75th birthday
Carol & David Robbins

In honor of the birth of the grandson of Stephanie Wain & Ruben Kier
Judy Alperin

In memory of Marion Bixon
Joan & Stuart Margolis

In memory of Sylvia Arovas
Brenda Arovas

In memory of Joseph Schwartz
Judy Alperin
Amy, Mark & Sarah Holtz

In honor of the engagement of Jacob Wyner and Noa, son of Evan & Stacey Wyner
Judy Alperin

In honor of and appreciation to Jeffrey Hoos
Rabbi Rona Shapiro & David Franklin

In memory of Rose & Sol Sadek
William Sadek

In memory of Bill Shlensky, brother of Carol Robbins
Judy Alperin
Amy, Mark & Sarah Holtz
The Teplitzky Family

JCC

In memory of Elliot Stone
Gloria Duhl & Family
Arleen Winters
The Greenberg Family – Paul, Audrey, Jeffrey and Lauren and Todd and Family
David & Lori Seidman
Joan & Stuart Margolis

In memory of Elliot Stone to the Barry Vine Send-a-Kid to Camp Fund
Maura & Doug Milles

In honor of Glenna Vine's wedding to the Barry Vine Send-a-Kid to Camp Fund
Barbara & Steven Zalesch

In celebration of Loren Levy
Chelsea Harry

In honor of Helen Cooper
Sheila Cooper

JCARR

In appreciation of Kate Ezra and her work with JCARR families
Barry & Hyla Vine

COVID-19 MAIMONIDES RESPONSE FUND

In honor of Sarah Holtz's graduation from the Phillips School of Nursing at Mt. Sinai Beth Israel
Lisa Stanger

In memory of Michael Suesserman
Ellen Suesserman

In memory of Herbert Suesserman
Ellen Suesserman

In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Ethan Max Roberts
Linda Tishler

In memory of Paul Kaplan
Linda Tishler

In memory of Robert Stern
Linda Tishler

In honor of Doris & Edward Zelinsky
Joshua & Eve Zelinsky

In honor of Nancy Cohen's special birthday
Judith Hahn
Emily Sandberg
Sami Merit
Stacey Trachten
Judy Skolnick
Dana Schwartz
Ana White
Betsy Hoos
Robyn Teplitzky
Judy Alperin

Amy, Mark & Sarah Holtz
Linda, Mike, Jill & Danielle Epstein
Jen Bayer
Barbara Berkowitz
Ellen Landowne
Gail Cookson
Merle Silver
Doreen Testa
Lesli Greenberg
Mary Pat & Peter Healey
Judy Cooper
Joan, David & Oscar O'Brasky
Brian Keigan
Paddy & Eddie Schwartz
Eli Shrayar
Muriel & Midge Rozen
Stacey, Mike, Dillon & Samara Rozen
Marcia & Marv Jamron
Lisa Stanger & Greg Colodner
Jodi Seidner

In memory of our son, Moshe Usadi's wedding
Betty & Arthur Levy

In honor of the hard work and dedication of the Total Financial Resource Development Team
Sarah Holtz

JEWISH FOUNDATION

BECKERMAN FAMILY CAMPING EXPERIENCE FUND FOR CAMP LAURELWOOD, JCC DAY CAMP & NH REG. FRESH AIR FUND

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David & Ruthann Beckerman

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In loving memory of my mother, Elizabeth H. Goldstein
Judith G. Naden

DAUGHTERS OF 1853 NURSING SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Bessie B. Kraft, Jeanne K. Alterman & Sally H. Kraft
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In memory of Regina Weil Baumann, Ruth Baumann Leichter & Claire Baumann Ginsburgh
Warren & Mary Ann Flagg

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David & Norma Berger
Robert Perelman
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THE Nanci & Craig Sklar Family Fund

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Craig & Nanci Sklar

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In memory of Elliot Alderman
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SOPHIE MERVINE-SCHIFF TZEDAKAH FUND

In honor of Sophie's Bat Mitzvah
Aunt Leah Merritt Mervine
Grandparents, Larry & Barbara Mervine

Tradition of Gratitude (Continued from page 10)

grateful for on a daily basis; there is a strong focus on people and the value that sharing their gratitude with others can have. This past year has taught us—perhaps more than ever—that the people in our lives are what is most important. With this in mind, the little artists created hand-made thank you cards that they distributed to the school staff and sent to Emergency Medical Service professionals. They were very appreciative of that, Kaplan proudly shares.



Emergency Medical Service professionals receiving handmade card from SCHA preschoolers

ZOOM FAMILY BAKE KEEPS SENSE OF WARMTH AND COMMUNITY

For years on Thanksgiving, SCHA has been organizing a community event where students and their families participate together.

"Every single year, it is a beautiful morning where the kids prepare different performances they do for parents, and make decorations and several dishes that we serve at the Thanksgiving Feast," mentions Kaplan. This year, COVID didn't stop her team; they worked to maintain a sense of warmth and community. Strictly following protocols for health and safety, they created a Thanksgiving Family Bake that would allow the whole family to participate in the celebration. Each family received pre-packaged and measured ingredients for a delicious blueberry cake and over 40 families interacted on Zoom to bake together. They then had a heart-warming surprise of viewing a video of their children performing songs and pictures of what they had been learning in school.

Leah Sandman, who has been sending her children to SCHA for over 16 years, joined the joyous online event and reports. "I was wondering how the preschool would celebrate Thanksgiving this year instead of the usual festive feast. All I can say is that Raizy and the teachers put together the most interactive fun activity for both my daughter Sara to enjoy with her siblings as well as her classmates and teachers! My daughter was so proud of her cake, she felt very independent pouring in each individually labeled and measured ingredient," says Sandman. The parents were grateful for the experience and the opportunity to share a special activity together, just like any other year.

SCHA does not know yet how the celebration of Thanksgiving will be organized next year, but it will definitely continue to be an uplifting experience for all families involved. Let's all jump on the bandwagon of gratitude and joy, and maintain this beautiful outlook all year.

Learn more about Southern Connecticut Hebrew Academy at schacademy.org.



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We are living in a unique and difficult moment in our history. When the pandemic hit we came together to care for the vulnerable, providing kosher meals and delivery services to seniors and others in need, emergency aid to struggling families, vocational training for growing numbers of job seekers and protective gear for frontline workers and schools. We mobilized an army of staff and volunteers to reach out to 10,000 community households and offer a kind word and check on their well-being.

We accomplished great things, but nothing out of the ordinary. For more than 100 years the Jewish Federation has been taking care of our community, Israel, and Jews around the world. With the support of generous donors, we helped make the desert bloom, and saw to the signing of the declaration of independence; we rescue(d) Jews around the world and resettled them in our historic homeland and right here in New Haven. Locally, we helped to establish The Jewish Home, The Towers, Camp Laurelwood, and we have sustained the Jewish Agencies in our community year after year after year.

That is why we say the Jewish Federation was built for this moment. We've been taking care of our community since the earliest days of modern Jewish history, and thanks to the support of more than 2,000 donors, we will continue to meet the vast and growing needs of all who are counting on us. We are here for good.

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