



The Governor Goes to Israel



page 20



BEAUTIFUL COVER UP

Camp Laurelwood gets a beautifully designed Torah cover. **PAGE 4**



SETTLING INTO THE NEW HAVEN AREA

JCARR helps Afghan refugees begin a new life **PAGE 21**



CELEBRATING 60 YEARS!

Temple Emanuel in Orange marks a milestone. **PAGE 14**



On The Road in Israel...and Thinking of Ukraine

It's spring in Israel. The flowers are blooming and fragrant, the countryside is many shades of green, alive with plantings and trees full of fruit. The people are buzzing, the markets are full. It was wonderful to be back home again in Israel.

Like the spring season, our partnership with Afula and Gilboa is also renewed. The 11 Southern New England Consortium communities recently conducted a strategic plan which provides a road map for a reinvigorated relationship with the region where we can coalesce around a big impactful idea. During my trip I met with leaders in government, food tech/agri tech, educators, innovators and medical professionals to better understand the needs.

The trip also aligned with Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont's economic mission to Israel. Governor Lamont was ecstatic to receive a replica of the Connecticut Avenue street sign presented to him by Afula Mayor Elkabetz and municipality staff involved in the partnership steering committee. While the sign was a highlight, it wasn't the only one with many important business relationships renewed and others created during his trip. The Governor and his Connecticut

delegation met with Ofra Strauss of the Strauss Group, innovation leaders, Ambassador Tom Nides, leaders from OurCrowd, President Isaac Herzog, leaders from Google and education leaders from Israel's universities, Prime Minister Bennett, and Foreign Minister Yair Lapid. In partnership with the state government, Connecticut Innovations and JFACT (the Jewish Federations Association of CT), the governor met with important elected officials, leaders of industry, and shared his admiration for the start up nation. In addition to important accomplishments like a new order of Sikorsky helicopters, UCONN signed a MOU with the Technion to expand collaboration between the institutions.

The third component of my trip included advance scouting for our upcoming mission to Israel in partnership with the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford. With our departure one year away, I want to encourage all to join us. This highly customizable experience will feature tracks highlighting various areas, including arts & culture, food & wine, innovation & technology, geopolitics & adventure. All accommodations are 5-star, with each hotel featuring a lavish breakfast buffet served every morning. (If for no other reason, come for the breakfasts!)

Our visit will begin in Jerusalem and will include a very special and meaningful Shabbat experience in the holy city. From there we will journey north to the Galilee and conclude our visit in the bustling, cosmopolitan city of Tel Aviv.

During my trip I dipped my toe a bit into each of the tracks—I made pralines at a chocolate factory in Jerusalem, explored the Machane Yehuda market on a food tasting tour, met with Colonel Koby Marom on the Lebanese and Syrian border, met with the leaders of Margalit, an agri tech/food tech social investment start-up hub, sampled delicious Israeli wine, and visited The Mishkan Museum in our partnership region. Each visit was fascinating and at the highest level. Choose one track or choose a sampling of all—it's totally up to you. And, if traveling to Israel on the mission isn't enough, join us for a post-mission excursion to Morocco, a country that is part of the new Abraham Accords.

While I will admit to feeling a bit euphoric as we re-engaged with old friends, socializing and living life in much the same way we did prior to Covid, it was impossible not to keep in mind that all of this was happening amidst

(Continued on page 10, with photo gallery)

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:

- April 1 for May/June issue
- June 1 for July/August issue
- August 1 for September/October issue
- October 1 for November/December issue
- December 1 for January/February issue
- Feb 1 for March/April issue

SUBMISSIONS

To submit an article or photo, please email snh@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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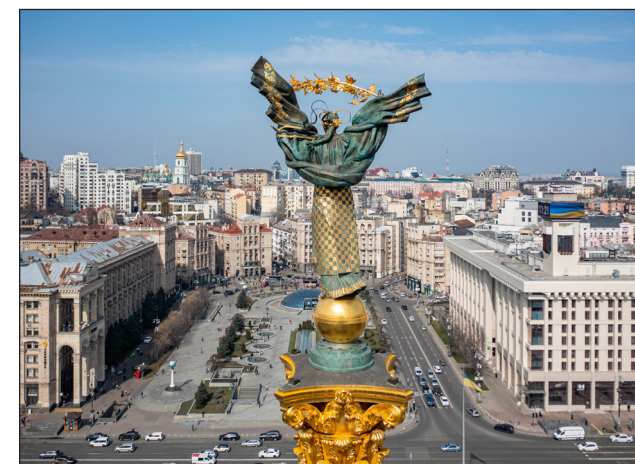


A NOTE FROM OUR
FEDERATION PRESIDENT
DR. STEVEN FLEISCHMAN



The Time Is Now to Help Ukraine

As this issue goes to print, Russia has just invaded Ukraine. We are all dismayed by the images coming out of Ukraine of fighter jets flying overhead, warships near the shore and tanks rolling through streets with cars driving in opposite directions. A newborn intensive care unit was moved into a basement in case the bombings damaged the hospital.



These images are in stark contrast to the images I experienced first hand in Ukraine just over four years ago on a Federation mission. I can't stop thinking about the image on the wall in Freedom Square in Kiev with chains breaking and the line "Freedom is our Religion." That is all at risk now.

I can't stop thinking about the older people we visited and danced with at the local JCC. The students we spent time with who are working hard to create a thriving Jewish community for the youth of Ukraine. The kids we met at the camp outside of the city that brings

Jewish kids from around Ukraine to experience Jewish camp, many for the first time. As Ukraine established its independence, a democracy developed that allowed for many to come back to their Jewish roots. A democracy that led to the election of a Jewish President. How wonderful is that!

All of this is at risk. It is times like this where my desire to help our community beyond the local geography is greatest. I wish there was more I could do. I find comfort in the fact that our Jewish Federation and our partner organizations, like JDC, the Jewish Agency for Israel and World ORT, are on the ground doing the necessary work to support our Jewish community in Ukraine. For our part, we need to help fund their great work.

I hope by the time this gets published, this invasion is over and Ukraine is able to continue as the wonderful democracy it has become. I have no doubt that whether this conflict is over or not, there will be others. There will always be Jewish communities, here and abroad, that need our support. Our contributions to the annual campaign supports Jews locally, nationally and all around the world.

I love the phrase told to me once about the Annual Campaign: The Campaign is about one Jew asking another Jew to help a third Jew. I am asking all of you to help.

Dr. Steven Fleischman
President, Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven



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Tuesday,
May 3
6:30 PM
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Yom Ha'atzmaut
Wednesday
May 4
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For more information please contact
Amalya Brownstein: (203) 640-4532,
amalyab@jccnh.org
jewishnewhaven.org/events

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Sunday, April 24
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the community

Proof of vaccination required or proof of a negative test within 72 hours of the event.
For more information please contact Jennifer Zuppe at jzuppe@jewishnewhaven.org

A Torah, an artist and Camp Laurelwood

By Vicki Hoffer

In that quintessentially Jewish way, it all started with a question. "What do you think about holding Max's bar mitzvah at Camp Laurelwood?" my daughter, Suzie, asked in reference to the upcoming bar mitzvah of her son, my grandson. What do I think? Outside, amid the trees and the rustic cabins, on Shabbat chol ha mo'ed Sukkot? What could be more fitting, more perfect!

Of course, a bar mitzvah needs a Torah. And, as luck would have it, we did not have to look far because Rabbi James Greene, executive director of Camp Laurelwood, kindly offered to let us use the camp's Sefer Torah.

Nineteen Tishrei 5782 (September 25, 2021) was a gorgeous fall day. The Torah was on the bimah, as promised. As soon as it was unrolled, it was obvious what an exquisite scroll it was. It turns out that this Sefer Torah was one of eight found, with some other ritual objects, in a storage unit where they had been stored when the former Jewish Home for the Aged in New Haven closed down. Nothing else is known of its background.

This particular scroll, written in Beit Yosef (Ashkenazic) script, needed only minor cleaning and replacement of patches and straps. Otherwise, though very heavy, it was declared by a sofer (Torah scribe) to be in fine condition.

The mantle of this Torah, however, was noticeably worn. Such a beautifully written scroll deserves a fine cover, and so, wanting to thank Rabbi Greene for his generosity, I offered to purchase a new cover for the Torah. Asked if he wanted something special, Rabbi Greene replied that he would like the image of a tree, representing the logo of Camp Laurelwood, to decorate the cover. He got



in touch with the artist Jeanette Kuven Oren, who came up with a design that honored the Torah and was fitting for the camp: a tree bursting with vibrant, colorful leaves and the words Etz Chaim Hi floating across its trunk. We loved it!

Meanwhile, I had been talking to Caron and Norman Alderman, about the project. They were immediately enthusiastic and wanted to participate. So here we were, three kvelling grandparents desirous of commemorating our grandson's becoming a bar mitzvah, and for whom the camp and the Torah have special significance.

Caron and Norman have been long-time supporters of Laurelwood. Not only was Norman a camper from 1950-54, he was 'Camper of the Year' in 1953. The Aldermans' sons, Jason and Ian, were campers and then staff in the 80s and 90s. Norman was on the board and served as president from 1983-84. He raised funds to build a second swimming pool, and, along with other family members, donated a super-senior cabin in memory of his father, Abraham Jacob Alderman.

It is important to Caron and Norman that children, whose families don't have the means, have the opportunity to experience Laurelwood. To this end, they support the camp financially on an ongoing basis. Norm and Caron also established an endowment in 2021 for the benefit of Camp Laurelwood, the Norman and Caron Alderman Fund for Camp Laurelwood at the Jewish Foundation.

I am a ba'a'lat qri'ah (a congregant who chants the Torah reading at services), initially self-taught, later studying with Lee Rothfarb, then a graduate student in music at Yale. Reading Torah is for me a deeply moving and completely absorbing experience; I love the melodies, cadences, the words, and the physical scrolls. That passion led to a career in Biblical Hebrew, which to this day still occupies my heart and mind.



Vicki Hoffer on the bimah at Camp Laurelwood with her grandson, Max Alderman, as he reads from the Torah at his bar mitzvah.

Of all the teaching I have done, no endeavor equaled the thrill of preparing my grandson for his bar mitzvah. Being with him on the bimah as he took the yad (pointer) and began to sing "Va'yomer Moshe...." Well, it was hard not to cry from the thrill and joy of experiencing, enacting l'dor va dor.

The new Torah cover is even more exquisite than the sketch promised. We who were involved in its coming to be are thoroughly delighted.

But what about the cover it is replacing? Surely it served many years and merits kavod. Rabbi Greene has promised a place for it in the ark at camp as another piece of Laurelwood's long and vibrant history. "It will not go unnoticed," he promised. And that is as it should be.

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Congregation B'nai Jacob, in partnership with PJ Library, is thrilled to present ShirLaLa live in concert! Shira Kline is a performance and ritual artist, recognized as a revolutionary educator and named one of the new re-engineers of Jewish life today. She tours with her band extensively, playing stages locally and globally from Los Angeles to Australia, from Tel Aviv to Texas. ShirLaLa's award winning albums along with her parent and teacher resource center, "Blog Sameyach," are played in homes, schools, classrooms, dance parties, and on the way to Grandmothers' houses, worldwide. Audiences of all ages are swept up by her love for the music, so bring your dancing shoes and get ready for this wiggle giggle love fest! This event is made possible by a generous gift from an anonymous donor.

jewishnewhaven.org/pj-library

SAVE THE DATE
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AT THE JCC

Can breathing exercises help with COVID-19?

By Susan Donovan
Director of Group and Virtual Exercise

As we have learned during these challenging times, COVID-19 can present differently in different people. Some who get sick from this viral infection often experience a restriction of the respiratory tract which obstructs the air flow into the lungs. Certainly, this poses a greater problem for those suffering from a pre-existing condition such as COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) or severe asthma, as these conditions already cause chronic inflammation of the lungs and airways.



Deep breathing exercises can help clear the lungs and strengthen lung function, especially beneficial for anyone with this underlying condition, and also very helpful for anyone recovering from the COVID-19 virus.

Here are a few simple breathwork practices that can help to increase lung capacity, strengthen the diaphragm (a major respiratory muscle located under the lungs), and even help you feel calmer in coping with stress.

These breathwork practices can be done seated tall in good posture, or lying down.

DIAPHRAGMATIC BREATHING:

1. Inhale slowly through your nose imagining filling your deep belly, lungs, and filling all the way up to your throat. Your belly and ribs will expand.
2. Exhale slowly through pursed lips as if you are flickering the flame of a candle, empty all the breath out. Feel your belly and ribs gently deflate.

BOX BREATHING

1. Inhale slowly for a count of 4, hold the breath for a count of 4, exhale slowly through pursed lips for a count of 4, and hold on empty for a count of 4.
2. Do this at a comfortable pace, thinking of filling and emptying the body as in Diaphragmatic Breathing.

You can repeat both of these gentle breath practices four to five sets, several times per day.

Retraining your body to breath deeply will help to support healing from the coronavirus and reduce stress at the same time. So relax, take a deep breath and know that you are tapping into an internal mechanism for better health and fitness. It's simple, it's free, and it's always there!

For more information on how our wellness professionals can help you achieve your health and fitness goals, contact Susan Donovan. susand@jccnh.org

Security check

Since he was hired this past fall, the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven's Regional Security Advisor (JSA) Michael Shanbrom has been working hard to develop and administer a comprehensive program to protect Jewish institutions throughout the region.

As one of his first tasks, Shanbrom, a public security expert and a 20-year veteran of the FBI, is helping our Jewish community understand how our Federation is deploying security support to assist all Jewish institutions.

That's just what he was doing recently when, on February 3, Shanbrom met with Temple Beth Tikvah representatives to discuss security related procedures and infrastructure matters. Pictured here are RSA Shanbrom and synagogue administrator Kim Romine.

The next day, Shanbrom met with Camp Laurelwood representatives to discuss security related procedures and infrastructure matters at camp. Pictured here with Shanbrom (left) is Camp Laurelwood Executive Director Rabbi James Green, and Camp Director Louis Lasko.



Kids and parents can join our innovative events

Wet felting on a snowy afternoon! What a wonderful way to spend Tu B'Shvat!

We sold out of 50 craft kits and more than 20 families joined us live to get creative and take part in a wet felting craft project led by fiber artist Natasha Lehrer Lewis of Esther's Place.

The fun afternoon was the third event in the Pathways to Jewish Experiences series of opportunities to connect young families. Next up: A Pre-Passover Taste of Camp on Sunday, April 10. The series will culminate in a PJ Library Family Camp Weekend Retreat on June 10-12.

PJ Library is powered by Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven. The series is made possible by an engagement grant from PJ Library, a program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

Those interested in joining in the fun are encouraged to register now at jewishnewhaven.org/pjlibrary.

Space is limited!

PATHWAYS TO JEWISH Experiences



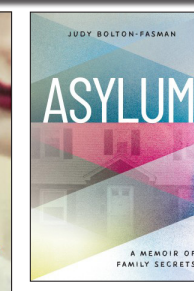
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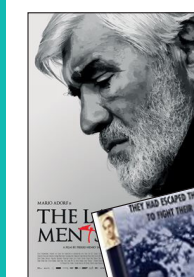
FINAL 3 MONTHS: MARCH-MAY | AUTHORS & FILMS

FAMILY SECRETS



AUTHORS VIA ZOOM:

- Evening
Author **Nessa Rapoport**
Monday | March 21 | 7 PM
- Asylum
Author **Judy Bolton-Fasman**
Thursday | March 31 | 7 PM

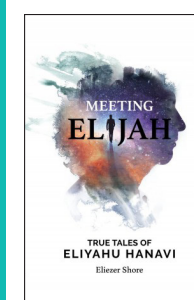


FILMS OFFERED VIRTUALLY:

- The Last Mentsch | Mar. 14-20
- The Art Dealer (L'Antiquaire) | March 21-27
- The Ritchie Boys | Mar 28-April 3

SINGLE TICKET: \$10 FILM
SINGEL TICKET: \$5 AUTHOR
CATEGORY: \$39 | FULL SERIES: \$108

PASSOVER HOPE



AUTHOR VIA ZOOM ■ Meeting Elijah
Author **Eliezer Shore**
Wed. | April 20 | 7 PM

FILM OFFERED VIRTUALLY ■ Streit's: Matzo and the American Dream
April 11-17

CULTURAL CONFLICT



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| Spa Events | Birthday Partys |

Contact Sandy at sandyh@jccnh.org or call (203) 387-2424 x251 to book your event or discuss your ideas.



Foundation News

Co-Generation Gives The Towers 'Meal Sustainability' a Boost

The Towers has developed an innovative way to enhance its vital Meal Sustainability project—an initiative that addresses food insecurity issues for many senior adults living on fixed incomes or no longer able to shop or cook for themselves.

The Towers has now successfully reinforced the Meal Sustainability initiative through the addition of the Co-generation Project. The new co-generator is already humming right along, providing most of the energy needs to Tower One. Monies saved have begun to be realized and are being used to provide the community's elderly population with more meals.

What does success look like? From September through December of 2021, The Towers provided 19,949 meals to those in need through the Meal Sustainability Project. This impressive goal could not be reached without community support for our community's elderly population. The Towers Meal Sustainability project

provides 75 percent of the funding needs to make two healthy meals a day affordable for those who may not otherwise be able to afford them. The remaining 25 percent funding gap is provided by our community, especially the Jewish Foundation's Grants for the Jewish Elderly Initiative and the Jewish Federation through its Planning & Allocation Process, both of which allocated funding to provide meals for residents in need at the Towers.

"These meals, for many of our residents, were very much a step toward a healthier lifestyle, leaving behind the days of microwaved pre-packaged items for freshly cooked balanced and nutritious Kosher meals," reports Jesse Wescott, associate vice president of The Towers. "This project has allowed our team in the back and front of the house to truly foster their passion for food and feed more people. With the added number of residents who can receive a meal subsidy and dine

with us, we can stretch the amount of hours the dining room and café are open. Looking into the future, when we can safely open our dining spaces back up for communal dining, a new layer of impact will unfold as we can now welcome many new residents to break bread together.

Craig Sklar, chair of the Jewish Foundation's Grants for the Jewish Elderly Committee, noted that "in 2020, the Jewish Foundation was fortunate to receive funds which allowed us to establish the Grants for the Jewish Elderly Initiative, an annual grant making initiative to support the Jewish elderly in the New Haven area. A significant portion of the Grants for the Jewish Elderly awards have been allocated to support the vital work of the Towers. We hope to continue to aid their essential mission of providing food security to those in need and reducing the isolation of their residents, especially during this difficult pandemic."

Jewish Foundation 2021 Financial Snapshot

as of December 31, 2021

Total Foundation Assets

\$80 Million

Over 700 Funds

Investment Return*

4.97%

QTD

25.33%

One-year

18.71%

Three-year

*Performance for periods greater than one year are annualized.

2021 Charitable Donations

\$2,935,595

2021 Charitable Distributions/Grants

\$4,205,762

- \$2,604,489 (87%) was to local Jewish organizations and synagogues
- 1,113 separate distributions to 386 different organizations

2021 Grant Highlights includes

\$277,000

in security grants

\$150,000

in Jewish elderly grants

\$551,040 (2020-2021)

Jewish Federation/Jewish Foundation Covid Maimonides Response grants

\$474,652

in PACE Distributions to Federation, Annual Campaign

\$30,650

in scholarships for Jewish overnight camps

Jewish Foundation 2022 Scholarship & Grant Opportunities

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS Scholarships offered are needs-based as well as needs-blind for high school seniors from Jewish households. All applications must be completed online by May 13, 2022. All applications are confidential and anonymously reviewed. Awards range from \$500 - \$3,000

This is a competitive application process and in many years there are more applicants than money available. Therefore, awards are based on the strength of the application.

ONE HAPPY CAMPER The Jewish Foundation offers:

- Needs-blind incentive grants for first-time campers to Jewish overnight camp as well as
- Needs-based aid for first time and returning campers. There are over 200 traditional and specialty Jewish overnight camps from which to choose.

Deadline is June 10, 2022

ISRAEL EXPERIENCE SCHOLARSHIPS The Jewish Foundation Israel Experience Scholarship Program enables local Jewish students ages 15-20 the opportunity to participate in an Israel experience to develop and enrich their Jewish education and reinforce their Jewish identity. Scholarships are for both short-term (minimum of 3 week program) and long-term organized Israel educational programs.

For 2022 summer trips, applications are due by March 18, 2022. For the 2022 gap or academic year programs, applications are due by June 10, 2022.

An essay and 2 recommendations are required. All applications are confidential and anonymously reviewed by the Israel Experience Scholarship committee. These scholarships are needs-blind. This is a competitive application process and in many years there are more applicants than money available. Therefore, awards are based on the strength of the application.

For more information and applications, visit jewishnewhaven.org/scholarships.

GRANTS

• **Security Grants Initiative** from the Arthur Eder Family Fund, in memory of Arthur & Yvette Eder. Since 2020, over \$537,000 in security grants has been awarded to Congregation B'nai Jacob, Congregation BEKI, Congregation Or Shalom, Chabad of the Shoreline, Hebrew Congregation of Woodmont, the Israeli Jewish Center, Temple Emanuel, Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek, Congregation Mishkan Israel, Westville Synagogue, Beth Israel (Wallingford), Temple Beth David, Temple Beth Sholom, Temple Beth Tikvah, Ezra Academy, Camp Laurelwood, Southern Connecticut Hebrew Academy and the JCC. 2022 applications are now being accepted on a rolling basis until August 3, 2022.

• **Grants for the Jewish Elderly** These grants are made possible thanks to the former Jewish Home Building Fund and community donors. This initiative provides grants to benefit new and innovative programs and projects for Jewish elderly residing in Greater New Haven. Applications due April 10, 2022.

• **Jewish Foundation Professional Development Grants for Jewish Educators** These grants ensure classroom educators in local Jewish schools have the opportunity to attend workshops and conferences to develop their teaching skills, and will help local Jewish organizations to provide educational opportunities to instructors and the community. Applicants must be either 1. classroom educators employed in Jewish education in a local Jewish school or synagogue and/or 2. A local Jewish school or synagogue. Eligible programs must be hosted by a recognized Jewish institution or reputable educational institution. Application deadline is April 1, 2022.

Go to jewishnewhaven.org/grants for all grant information and applications.



Your first time camper may be eligible for up to \$1,000 off Jewish Camp!



The Jewish Foundation's One Happy Camper program provides 1. Needs-blind incentive grants of up to \$1,000 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



JEWISH PERSPECTIVES OF REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, RIGHTS & JUSTICE



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Jody Rabhan, Chief Policy Officer, NCJW

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Congregation B'nai Israel Bridgeport, CT

Rabbi Rona Shapiro
Congregation B'nai Jacob Woodbridge, CT

Rabbi Tuvia Brander
Young Israel West Hartford, CT

Wednesday March 30 7-8 PM VIA ZOOM

Hear from Jewish clergy and thought leaders about why abortion is a Jewish issue, why we should be paying attention, and what to do next.

To register, visit us at jewishnewhaven.org/events/rsvp

On The Road in Israel...and Thinking of Ukraine

(Continued from page 2)

the backdrop of events in Ukraine, which we were monitoring closely.

Just a few years ago, I journeyed to Ukraine on a JFNA mission with Jewish Federation President Steven Fleischman and Foundation Executive Director Lisa Stanger. While there, we learned about the rebirth of Jewish life across a country that is home to 200,000 Jews. We saw first hand the work of our partners, the Jewish Agency for Israel, the JDC and World ORT who were working hand in hand to build a vibrant Jewish life and who were also the lifeline for about 10,000 elderly shut-ins, many of whom are Holocaust survivors, providing food, medicine and companionship. What would become of all of them if all-out war erupted?

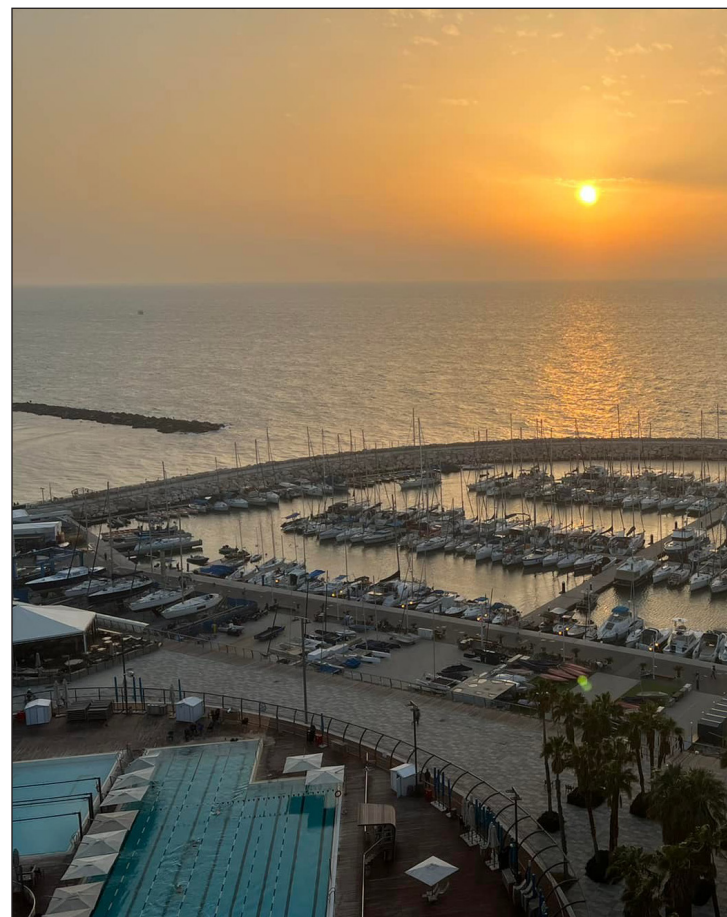
Sadly, we know. Despite the early preparation of special centers to shelter those displaced, people cannot get to the shelters and our partners are doing their best to reach them. Those who are finding their way to bordering countries are being helped to find food and shelter. JDC expects to spend an un-budgeted \$16 million in the next two months alone. JAFI and our other partners expect to incur millions of expenses to assist in emergency aliyah and absorptions and to aid the five ORT schools and their 1900 students and their families.

When crisis happens, the Jewish Federation is there and when crisis happens, whether here in our backyard or thousands of miles away, our Jewish community is there to help. We believe in our core value—kol Yisrael areivim zeh la zeh — all Jews are responsible for one another.

The Jewish Federation in partnership with Jewish Family Service is reaching out to provide help and support to our community members who hail from the region, and we have opened an emergency funds mailbox so that you too can join in this important mitzvah. As always when emergencies arise, 100% of all contributions will go straight to where they are urgently needed.

May we know peace again soon.

Judy



Tel Aviv Shoreline.



Judy Alperin, CEO of Greater New Haven, Diane Sloyer, CEO of the United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darian, U.S. Ambassador to Israel Thomas Nides, and Greater Hartford VP Heather Fiedler.



Judy standing next to the NoxBox nitrous oxide unit donated to Emek Medical Center to assist with Covid patients.



Standing on Connecticut Avenue in Afula. Left to right: Heather Fiedler, Judy Alperin, Diane Sloyer, Maya Shoham and Daniel Benn.



UCONN Interim President Radenka Maric with Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford VP Heather Fiedler and Nathan Schachter.



Enjoying the Machane Yehuda food tasting tour with mission co-chairs Yitz & Juanita Moss.



Left: Experiencing the traditional Ethiopian coffee ceremony at the Bet Alpha Absorption Center.

Right: Laptops generously donated by SNEC to assist at the Ethiopian olim during the pandemic.



CT Native Joins Team Taking Northern Israeli Hospital to New Heights

AFULA, Israel –Betsy Winnick Melamed, a fourth-generation Connecticut native, has joined the leadership team at Emek Medical Center (EMC) as part of its drive to become the premier care facility in northeast Israel, EMC announced.

Winnick Melamed, who grew up in West Haven and immigrated to northern Israel more than 20 years ago after graduating from UCONN, will serve as Chief Development Officer at a critical time in the history of the medical center, which serves more than 700,000 residents in northern Israel.

“We look forward to Betsy advancing our institutional fundraising efforts as we transition from a regional hospital to a tertiary care center, serving one of Israel’s fastest growing regions, said CEO Dr. Ziv Rosenbaum. Winnick Melamed will help implement a masterplan which includes upgrading EMC with a new state-of-the-art cancer treatment and research center, a doubling of the number of ICU beds, 10 new state-of-the-art operating rooms, and construction of an urgent care and an integrated psychiatry mental health-care building.

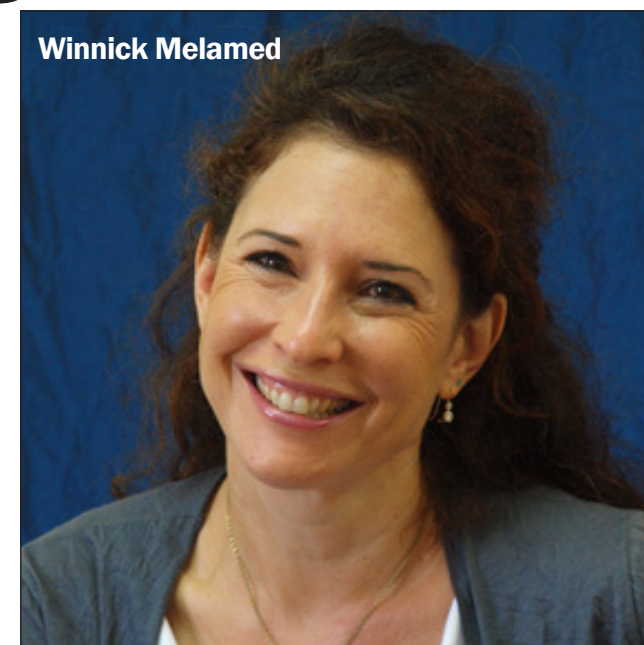
EMC, the largest employer in the region, is part of the Clalit HMO and is a teaching hospital for the Technion Medical School. It is located in Afula, the sister city of the Jewish Federation’s Southern New England Consortium (SNEC).

“Coming from New England which has some of the best healthcare institutions and medical school hospitals in the world, I am inspired by those institutions and excited by the idea of helping to build excellent healthcare in an a peripheral region with a highly diverse and growing population.” said Melamed. “I believe philanthropists and foundations in Israel and abroad will want to play a key role in that vision”.

Northeastern Israel has seen a rise in population as new highways and train links make it a feasible commute to the center of Israel for those seeking to live in less congested, less expensive parts of the country, a trend intensifying as more people work remotely. The catchment area is expected to grow to 1 million residents, a growth of 43 percent during the next 5 years.

The changing demographics have made it imperative to provide more robust healthcare services in a region where for years, residents traveled long distances to other parts of the country for treatment.

“We are committed to assuring that residents in north-east Israel will have more options for treatment with advanced and comprehensive technology and medicine close to home right here in Afula – and with the patient-centered, family-style care for which EMC is known,” said Rosenbaum, who took over the helm at EMC two years ago.



Winnick Melamed

Melamed joins EMC with 20 years of experience in international fundraising, creating partnerships with non-profit organizations, philanthropists, and business leaders to build up Israel’s northern periphery through programs that empower youth at risk, strengthen Jewish education, and enrich community life.

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IN OUR SYNAGOGUES

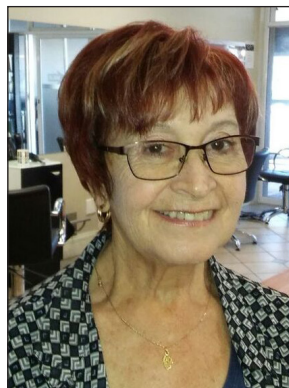
An interview with Mel Van Emmenes

Jewish Senior Services Coordinator for Chabad of the Shoreline

TELL US ABOUT YOUR NEW ROLE AS JEWISH SENIOR SERVICES COORDINATOR FOR CHABAD OF THE SHORELINE? I am excited about this new project! Rabbi Yossi and Rochel Baila Yaffe approached me about reaching out to a segment of the Jewish population on the Shoreline that sometimes feels isolated and forgotten—our seniors. We plan to provide more opportunities to involve our seniors in Jewish community life. Our goal is ambitious but important. And my role is to coordinate a variety of social, learning, cultural and religious activities to move towards that goal.

WHY IS THIS A GOOD FIT FOR YOU? A good fit? It is a perfect fit! Two years ago, I emigrated to the Shoreline from Cape Town, South Africa. I hoped for an opportunity to work with Jewish seniors, and now I have it. In South Africa, I earned a bachelor's degree in social work and a graduate degree in clinical social work. Before emigrating to the States, I was a social worker for the Cape Jewish Seniors Association in Cape Town, where I established a satellite office for Jewish seniors. Now, the opportunity to collaborate with Jewish seniors on the Shoreline offers new challenges with, I believe, great rewards.

WHAT STEPS HAVE YOU TAKEN TO START THIS AMBITIOUS PROJECT? We began by creating a database of senior centers, independent and assisted living facilities, health and rehabilitation centers, adult day care centers, and residential housing for seniors on the Shoreline. To date the database consists of 62 facilities. I then reached out to the appropriate staff at each facility to assess the needs of their Jewish population.



LEFT: Mel Van Emmenes, Jewish Senior Services Coordinator for Chabad of the Shoreline

RIGHT: A resident of a senior adult facility on the Shoreline shows off her Chanukah gift bag from Chabad of the Shoreline.

Currently, I am continuing my communication with them and establishing relationships that will benefit both the facilities and their Jewish residents/attendees.

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST PROGRAM ON THE SHORELINE? Shortly before Chanukah, we visited over 50 facilities and made personal contact. We gifted each facility with a beautiful metal LED Menorah and Chanukah decorations to increase Chanukah spirit and awareness. During Chanukah, we conducted follow-up visits to some of the facilities to deliver Chanukah gift bags—including fresh kosher sufganiyot (Chanukah doughnuts). We made sure to remember the staff, too!

I have met some of the seniors, and they are lovely. Current COVID restrictions have limited my ability to personally meet more, but I look forward to better days ahead.

WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING NEXT? Our primary immediate goal is to recruit volunteers interested in developing long-term relationships with seniors. The view is to reduce isolation and to increase socialization for Jewish seniors, whether in their own homes or in assisted living centers. The volunteers will phone, Zoom and (when able) visit seniors in person on a weekly basis and build meaningful relationships with them. This is just the beginning. I am looking forward to what lies ahead!

The Art of Two women on display at BEKI

The artwork of Suzanne Neusner and Naomi Safran-Hon are on exhibit at Beth El-Keser Israel (BEKI) now through June 4.

Artists Suzanne Neusner's Fiber Arts in the upstairs gallery space and Naomi Safran-Hon's Going Home downstairs.

Neusner, whose exhibit Fiber Arts will be on display, has focused on abstract imagery through a variety of weaving and quilting techniques throughout her



Naomi Safran-Hon, The Curves in My Wall, 2017. Acrylic, gouache, lace, archival inkjet print, and cement on canvas, 46 x 76 in.
© Naomi Safran-Hon

35-year career. Her work includes references to landscapes, abstractions, and playful reinventions of traditional Jewish themes. For inspiration, the Rhinebeck, New York, resident draws from her natural surroundings in the Hudson Valley.

Many of her creations have appeared as covers for books published by renowned publishers.

The paintings in Safran-Hon's exhibition, Going Home, depict neglected rooms, halls, and passageways with traces of their former inhabitants and the external forces that brought about their desolation. Through these paintings, the artist reflects on a complicated relationship with her homeland, Israel.

In these pieces, Safran-Hon, who was born in Oxford, England and raised in Haifa, combines photographs of abandoned homes in Wadi Salib, a neighborhood in her hometown of Haifa, with cement, fabric, lace, and acrylic paint. These structures, which were the homes of Palestinians until the Arab-Israeli War of 1948 and the creation of the State of Israel, stand as ghosts of the past in a neighborhood that has never recovered. Through the process of making her work, Safran-Hon reconstructs these buildings and asks the viewer to reconsider our ideas of home and belonging.

Safran-Hon's work has appeared in solo exhibitions at Slag Gallery, New York, RX Gallery, Paris, Brandt Gallery, Amsterdam, and Marfa Contemporary, Marfa, Texas. To schedule a visit to the galleries, call the BEKI office at 203-389-2108.

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IN OUR SYNAGOGUES

Temple Emanuel celebrates 60 years

By MiriYam Judd

Founded in 1962 by a group of local Reform Jews seeking a different type of synagogue experience, Temple Emanuel was initially located in the home of founding members Lois and Paul Levine. Today, as the congregation gets set to celebrate its 60th anniversary, the synagogue is nestled in the woods off of Derby Road—a place it has called home since the 1971.

Rabbi Michael Farbman understood the uniqueness of the Temple Emanuel experience even before he was appointed the congregation's spiritual leader in 2009.

"While I was interviewing, everyone I met would tell me how they ended up at Emanuel. Some came looking for a shul, others weren't sure about where to go and were invited in by a member. Some people came by accident. But no matter what the person's journey, they all said, 'we walked in and instantly felt at home,'" Farbman says. "It's just an amazing community, an incredible environment."

That sentiment is shared by congregants. Phillip Pivawer moved with his wife, Barbara, to Hamden in early 1964. Looking for a congregation to join, they attended services at a few area synagogues until they found good fit in Temple Emanuel.

"We came from a small town in Indiana, with a very small, friendly congregation, and were looking for something similar," Pivawer says. "In the summer of 1966, Barbara saw an article about the Reform Jewish Association and their first student rabbi. Lois [Levine] came to our house and invited us to high holiday services. We went, and we never left."

"It's such a friendly place. We're open to all kinds of people from all kinds of situations. If you want to be there, we want you there," he adds.

Robin Levine-Ritterman, a past president of the synagogue who joined the congregation with her wife and daughter in 2000, believes the community is what has kept Emanuel alive and well all these years.

"There is a real warmth, caring and support among community members," she says. "You can't show up for a service as a new or prospective member without having several people come over to find out who you are and how you found us."



Rabbi Michael Farbman (center) at his 2009 installation as spiritual leader of Temple Emanuel, with Rabbi Jerry Brieger z"l (left) and Rabbi Mark Winer.

WATCH FOR THESE UPCOMING 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATORY EVENTS:

APRIL 2, 7:30 P.M. — The annual Shir Magic concert will be held in honor of Rabbi Jerry Brieger, with special guest Noah Aronson as the Musician in Residence. Aronson will also work with Hebrew school children on Sunday.

MAY 15, 9:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M. — An in-person family celebration for the last day of religious school.

OCTOBER 29, 6-9 P.M. — A formal gala celebration of the 60th anniversary will be held at the New Haven Country Club.

The communal spirit that Emanuel is known for is not accidental. "Temple Emanuel was created by a group of pioneers who were driven by the idea of a community they wanted to build," Farbman says. "They wanted to be profoundly different. When the synagogue was first established, they called themselves 'temple emanuel,' with lowercase letters. They wanted to deliver home the message that this was not an institution, it was a community. We now spell it with capital letters, but that spirit of communal revolution and experimentation, that's still there."

The world is a much different place than it was in 1962 when Temple Emanuel hosted those first meetings. But the sentiment of what it means to belong to the congregation, the community, hasn't wavered.

"The spirit of Temple Emanuel was instilled by the founding generations," says Farbman. "We are all hungry for meaning, for engagement, for community. Even if we are overwhelmed by so many things and so many tasks at hand, communities are profoundly important, and Emanuel had a particular vision of what a community could be."

2022



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Passover 5782

Community Rabbi's share perspectives on Passover in the aftermath of the pandemic

Why is this Passover different than all other Passovers?

A roundtable discussion with our Greater New Haven rabbis

In March 2020 the COVID virus hit full force, sending the world into turmoil as people were forced to isolate themselves inside their homes, cut off from families and friends. The effect of the pandemic on the global Jewish community was especially profound when, just a few weeks later, the Passover holiday began and families, whose seder tables were usually brimming with beloved guests, were left vacant.

Now, two years later, the pandemic seems to be waning and many people are once again preparing to welcome families and friends to their seders.

But what will they find? Has the impact of the pandemic left its permanent imprint on Passover? Has the holiday been forever changed?

For insight into how the COVID pandemic has impacted the Passover holiday—and what lessons we can cull from the holiday's central themes to help us navigate current world events—Shalom New Haven editor Judie Jacobson sat down with four area rabbis for the newspaper's first ever roundtable discussion.

(Continued on page 16)

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The roundtable participants include (pictured from left to right):

- › **Rabbi Marci Bellows** of the Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek in Chester,
- › **Rabbi James Greene**, executive director of Camp Laurelwood in Madison;
- › **Rabbi Sheya Hecht** of Chabad of Orange/Woodbridge; and
- › **Rabbi Eric Woodward** of Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel in New Haven.

■ **SHALOM NEW HAVEN (SNH):** Thanks so much for joining us today. Passover, of course, tells the story of the Israelites wandering in the desert and their feeling of being somewhat lost and disoriented. That sense of disorientation is similar to what we've all experienced these past couple of years as the COVID pandemic swept through our lives. Now that it appears the pandemic may well be behind us, can we expect the celebration of Passover will return to normal? Do you have a sense that the holiday has been permanently changed? Will it continue to affect the way we interact with one another at the seder and over the holiday? Will it change the mood of Passover?

› **RABBI BELLOWS:** The image of the Israelites and the wilderness is quite apt considering the fact that we don't exactly know where we're going as we're approaching Passover. It has been a really difficult two years of wanting so much to come together as a community. Passover is meant to be celebrated around the table with people, and that has been virtually impossible for many of us.

We just started conversations at our synagogue about what we're planning on doing this year. Every year we hold an enormous seder that's open to the community, and we get 75-100 people and it's a big celebratory event. But we're not sure if we're going to be able to do that this year.

Right now the conversation is surrounding the question of whether or not we eat at the synagogue. Right now we're hoping to have people, but do we have to limit the amount of people so that we can spread out more? Do we have to require vaccinations or negative tests? There are a lot of questions and worries and anxieties that I imagine the Israelites escaping to freedom and wandering through the desert were also filled with. There's still a lot to come as we search for that Promised Land.

› **RABBI HECHT:** It's actually very interesting when you think about it; the first lockdown in Jewish history was the night of Passover when the Jewish people left [Egypt]. The verse tells us that the Jews were actually locked down in their homes for their own safety. And so, the fact of the matter is that the real source and place Passover was celebrated in is at home.

When we celebrate Passover we are celebrating our freedom—freedom not necessarily in a physical way, but freedom from those chains that bind us spiritually so that we can grow and develop. That's true freedom. [This] can happen even today when we are at home and even when we see the world around us with COVID and all kinds of things. We ourselves still have the mandate of being able to leave our personal prison, to leave that which binds us, and elevate ourselves and strengthen ourselves and celebrate personal freedom.

So, I think that's something to keep in mind. Passover is not only about 'passing over'—it's much more than that. When there are ups and downs you are required to jump, to veer you off the path of where you're going and to elevate yourself to the point where you can reach the next level. It's too high to get there just walking, but with setting yourself up to jump, to go to the next level, to push yourself and to strive for greater heights, that's what Passover is all about.

Together with friends each one of us really has to take that leap; to jump up, assess where we are in our lives and where we want ourselves to be, and take that leap to the next level. That's what Passover is all about and we look forward to celebrating that again each year. We relive the excitement, the inspiration and the spirituality of the holiday.

› **RABBI GREENE:** Passover is a core identifying experience in Jewish life. Passover seders are perhaps the second most widely observed Jewish experience of the year. It's a critical thing for us to do because it's not just any holiday, it's the retelling of our foundational story. We are the story of an enslaved people who became free and it guides everything that we do.

At Passover, we get together at the seder and we say that every person is supposed to behave and believe as if they themselves are leaving Egypt. So, what does

it mean to preserve life, to take care of one another so that we can come together not just this year but in future years, to sit around the seder table and relive that experience to make sure that the next generation of Jewish children come to understand their sacred responsibility to seek and pursue freedom for everyone everywhere?

Part of my experience at camp [Laurelwood] over this past summer was learning how to do that safely and in person. I believe there are ways to do that—where we balance the critical need for preserving life with this very important responsibility to retell this story in a way that passes down that legacy when we come together with family and friends to celebrate Passover.

I want to add that the Passover offering, as we read in the Torah, is not meant to just be eaten by one small group of people but is designed to be shared with the folks who are not just family—folks who are in one's community. It speaks to the important nature of community, specifically for Passover. So, while I know that each of our communities will respond to that challenge, we will meet the challenge of this moment, and adapt to it differently and in unique ways with all of the intentionality that you can bring to this moment. The Passover offering is something that we do not just in our smaller families but, in whatever way that we meet each other in the moment of the exodus, that we do that in our larger community.

› **RABBI WOODWARD**—There's a part of me that's sitting here in February wondering who even knows what's going to be happening on Passover COVID-wise. Part of me is saying the numbers are getting better, so it's all going to be better...and then there's part of me that's saying the numbers are getting better, which means we have nowhere to go but down and it's all going to be worse. We're sort of waiting for the other shoe to drop. And I think that feeling of being unsettled has been very much with us the past several years.

But I actually think there is some spiritual wisdom in this experience. One of the big messages of Passover is that we are supposed to see ourselves as going from degradation—sort of loneliness—to praise. There's this debate that I think is very powerful and that is about this "degradation." There are two takes on this. One is the fact that we were once slaves and the other is that our ancestors were idol worshippers. We are all very much in touch with both in the last two years. We are feeling lost and hurt and confused, and we're also in touch with feeling vaccinated and saved and we appreciate the people around us in new ways. Being in touch with those feelings is actually really important for us. Obviously, we usually think that slaves are sort of the thing that we are talking about at Passover, but I also think about the piece about our ancestors being idolators. So, it's not just about the fact that we were slaves, but there's this whole story that comes before that; every one of us has a pre-story [that leads] to where we are now.

In March 2020, we felt we were all perfect and life was great, and then this pandemic happened. But we had a lot of other challenges; we had political and social challenges in our country; we had psychological and emotional challenges in our own lives. And so, we can also think about whether we are telling a story of the past two years of pandemic or are we also seeing that as something that fits into our own lives and the ups and downs of those experiences. That's been hard for us in the long term which I think is something that Passover is trying to get us towards.

(Continued on page 18)

Passover Greetings

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Chris Murphy
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Passover is a holiday about political freedom, obviously, and the need to create political freedom and emancipate slaves and things like that. But it's also about spiritual freedom and liberating ourselves from places we feel trapped. There are moments that we feel trapped in our homes and we feel trapped in Zoom screens and all sorts of things like that, but there is liberation to be found in small beautiful moments of existence. And maybe a prayer for all of us is that we can find some moments of liberation in our seder, whether it's in the crumbs of the matzah or in the taste of the grape juice or wine that we can really feel something 'liberatory.'

■ **SNH:** *Recognizing that the COVID has been very tragic for so many people, it sounds as if you're all suggesting there might be something positive that we can cull from the pandemic as it relates to Passover. Is that correct?*

➤ **RABBI BELLOWS:** What's been interesting for those of us who feel comfortable using technology on Pesach is the ability to gather together with people who have otherwise not been able to join us for our seders. It's forced

us to get creative to rethink what a seder can look like.

If you're home alone or if your family lives across the world or in another country, and you weren't able to go to someone's home or to your congregational seder, what would you do? It's been really special to be able to turn on the computer, as sterile and impersonal as that can often feel, and to enjoy a bowl of matzah ball soup together! This can be very freeing for us in the midst of the narrow place that COVID has created. That's been surprisingly special. And it's not just true for Passover; during COVID many people who experienced loss would have been prevented from having people at the funeral, were it not for Zoom. It allowed people from all across the world who are close to you to be able to mourn with you. So there have been interesting silver linings to this technology.

➤ **RABBI WOODWARD:** I think that's brilliant and I think you are just so right on. It makes me think about how there are things in our lives that have contracted in the last two years and there are things that expanded. Maybe

the other rabbis have had experience with this too—where you have a congregation who doesn't know how to use Zoom or something like that. Oftentimes it's a generational thing and you never thought 'Oh, one way I might connect to a senior is by teaching them on the phone how to use Zoom.' but it is and that's beautiful.

■ **SNH:** *Switching gears... It appears that Russia may indeed invade Ukraine. [NOTE: This interview was conducted just prior to the Russian invasion of Ukraine.] There are many Jews living in Ukraine today; many are torn between fleeing the country they love or staying put. Of course, this—the exodus—is yet another theme of the Passover holiday. What can we learn from the Passover story that relates to the plight of our brothers and sisters in Ukraine right now? How can we help them?*

➤ **RABBI HECHT:** Chabad has institutions throughout Russia and same throughout Ukraine, and there are many discussions regarding this crisis on various websites Rabbis in the Ukraine's thought it would be best to try to give them places to go if they felt they wanted to leave; but if some felt that they would try to stick it out, then we would support them with whatever we can in terms of physical needs, social needs, etc.

Clearly, it's something that is frightening for the Jewish people because they say Jews are the first ones to get it whenever something like this happens. I don't know if that will happen, but certainly the fear and the worry is there. We must help and support those in Ukraine in any way possible. There are campaigns going on to collect donations and to help with items like food and

shelter, etc. I think that's what we can do. We can send support to our brothers and sisters, as we have throughout history.

➤ **RABBI GREENE:** I think that often from our place of privilege we think about what is it that other people need and how can we provide that to them. I think that comes from a place of deep kindness and deep belief in the humanity of others.

The story we learn from Pesach, and what triggers the beginning of the exodus narrative, is the crying out from the Israelites who are in Egypt. I actually think that's what we should be listening for, we should be listening for voices in the Ukrainian Jewish community, and we should be looking for how we can be supportive to them in the way in which they would like our support. We should allow them to lead that conversation and we should, as Rabbi Hecht said, stand ready to be supportive in whatever way emerges for them.

If folks in the Ukrainian Jewish community want to stay, we should be supportive of that and we should be bringing the resources that they are asking for to support that. And if there are Jews in the Ukrainian Jewish community who want to leave, I would advocate that we listen to that crying out as well and support that in whatever way we can, with all the resources that we can bring to there. Not just because they are Jews but because they are humans who are in the pathway of suffering. And that we understand from our place in the world, not just from the exodus story but from other moments when the Jewish community has been 'otherized' and suffered. That experience, that feeling, is deep in our bones and because of that we have a special obligation to respond by taking a rights-based approach, saying, "You have these basic human rights let us help you stand up and gain access to those rights in the ways in which we are best able to do."

➤ **RABBI BELLOWS:** These are beautiful and thoughtful answers. It's really making all the gears turn regarding what is the best approach both for us from the outside and for our brothers and sisters within the Ukraine. It reminded me of Operation Moses—the airlift of Ethiopian Jews from the Sudan in the mid 80s to Israel. We have a history in modern times of swooping in quite literally and saving those who need to be saved from destruction, from war, from persecution of any kind. Moses! What a beautiful name to give an operation! To give it that title really does show us how meaningful this story of exodus always is.

In putting myself in the shoes of the Ukrainian Jewish community—and of everybody really—the question we have had to ask ourselves way too many times is when do we leave? Even for some of us in America, there have been times over the last few years when we've said to ourselves "Is it safe to be Jewish in America right now?" And "When do we leave?" I made sure my son had a passport just in case, and I don't think that was being alarmist, I think that was being smart. I think back to my great grandfather who always had a suitcase packed in his closet, ready to go at anytime.

I think it's something sadly that Jewish people have had in our history for thousands of years: a feeling of not being welcome where we are, of being prepared to go. It's actually quite reassuring and heartwarming to know that, as Rabbi Greene said, should the community or members of the community decide it is time to go, there are supports set up for them across the world should they make that choice.

➤ **RABBI GREENE:** I would add one other piece to this, which is that we're really fortunate in the Jewish world that we have organizational leaders and experts and resources to bring to this conversation: folks from the JDC, from the Jewish Federation, who are leading that conversation. I would just voice appreciation and gratitude that there are resources that are being used in our community, not just in this moment but in every moment, to ensure that we are ready to face that challenge when it arises.

➤ **RABBI WOODWARD:** You know, I don't know what's going to happen with Russia and Ukraine right now, but what I do imagine is people are scared out there right now and I think all of us, as clergy, are used to talking to people about their fears. Also, if you're a person who has experienced displacement or trauma or war before, and that's something in your background that is sort of triggering fears or traumatic stress right now, we are all here to talk to you if you need help.

■ **SNH:** *Well, I want to thank you all for taking part in this important conversation and for your continued guidance in times of trouble and stress. This roundtable discussion was a first for Shalom New Haven and I'm sure it won't be our last.*

We wish you all a Chag Pesach Sameach!



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 - Tzimmes
 - Broccoli Soufflé
 - Apple Currant Matzoh Kugel
 - Passover Potato Kugel
 - Spinach, Mushroom & Onion Kugel
 - Herb-Roasted Red Bliss Potatoes
 - Whipped Potatoes
 - Herbed Mushroom Stuffing
 - Quinoa
 - Orange & Honey Roasted Sweet Potatoes

Governor Lamont finds a kindred spirit in the Jewish state



By Judie Jacobson

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut—It was billed as an “economic development mission ... focused on building and strengthening connections between the Connecticut and members of Israel’s innovation ecosystem.”

And so it was.

But, according to Ned Lamont, the Connecticut Governor’s recent week-long trip to the Jewish state — in which he and representatives from Connecticut’s public and private sectors met with venture capitalists, incubator, accelerators and thought leaders — turned to be that...and so much more.

“Israel really rolled out the red carpet for Connecticut. I was so impressed,” said Lamont upon his return to Hartford on Thursday, February 24.

The Governor attributed Israel’s especially warm welcome by Israeli leaders at least in part to a special connection between the Israel and Connecticut that makes them kindred spirits.

“President Herzog said to me, ‘You know, you’re small and innovative and punching above your weight class just like Israel, so we should do more together,’” Lamont said, noting that Connecticut is the first state to send an official mission to Israel in two years.

At a news conference in New Haven held on Monday, Feb. 28, just four days after Lamont’s return home, the Governor discussed some of the highlight’s of his trip.

The delegation from Connecticut included representatives from Raytheon, Hartford HealthCare, Digital Currency Group, the Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut, the University of Connecticut, the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, and Connecticut Innovations.

The governor and the delegation met with partners and founders from Strauss Group, Viola, Vintage and OurCrowd and attended several roundtable discussions with Google. The trip culminated with a VentureClash event led by Connecticut Innovations, the state’s venture capital arm and featured six pitches from companies looking to expand to the United States.

In addition to meeting with business leaders, Governor Lamont met with several Israeli officials, including Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, Foreign Minister Yair Lapid, President Isaac Herzog, and Dr. Salman Zarka, Israel’s chief COVID-19 officer. Interim UConn President Dr. Radenka Maric and representatives from Technion also led a session around their clean energy initiative.

Lamont was especially moved by his visit to Yad Vashem, Israel’s official memorial to the victims of the Holocaust, where on February 22, he participated in a lighting ceremony of the Eternal Flame. Following his tour and a wreath laying ceremony, he gave brief remarks about the importance of remembering our shared history so that atrocities and genocide, like the Holocaust, never happen again. Lamont’s emotional remarks at Yad Vashem can be viewed at youtube.com/watch?v=ryNf-HZz6v_U&t=41s

As for the mission’s goal — to meet with business leaders and learn more about the innovation ecosystem in Israel — the Governor described it as a great success.

“In addition to meeting with more than a dozen businesses in Israel, we also met with leading investors, incubators, accelerators, and thought leaders in the country. From those meetings, we have already established next steps and additional opportunities to work together in the future,” he said at the news conference.

“We were fortunate to bring the best and the brightest Connecticut delegation members with us to meet and network with early-stage companies interested in expanding to the United States,” Matt McCooe, CEO of Connecticut Innovations, said. “We continue to further our efforts to turn Connecticut into a global tech and bioscience destination for companies and talent.”

“We had an incredibly productive trip to Israel,” Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development Commissioner David Lehman said. “The governor led delegation meetings with high-growth Israeli companies, venture firms, established companies, and the Israeli government. Our meetings were singularly focused on how to increase collaboration between our two economies and mutually beneficial direct investment. I am optimistic about the future of the Connecticut-Israel economic relationship.”



JCARR helps Afghan refugees begin anew in New Haven



By Jean Silk

With the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan last summer, the crisis of Afghan evacuees cried out for a humanitarian response.

And, as it has in the past, Connecticut’s Jewish community stepped up to the plate.

The Jewish Community Alliance for Refugee Resettlement (JCARR)—a partnership of six local synagogues and the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, formed in 2015 to help new refugee and immigrant families resettle in the New Haven area—immediately began preparations to welcome the partnership’s seventh immigrant family in seven years.

Then, on February 16, JCARR volunteers moved furniture and household supplies into an empty apartment, transforming it into a warm and lovely new home for an Afghan family seeking a safe haven. Unfortunately, the family—a mother and her three young daughters and teenage nephew—were not accompanied by their father, who had fled to Dubai after receiving death threats from the Taliban and was unable to reenter Afghanistan in order to board the plane that brought the rest of his family to the States. He still has not been reunited with his family.

Escaping from their country was only the first step in the family’s long journey. Like other refugee families, they arrived on American soil in October 2021 and were housed in a military camp in Virginia until January 2022, at which time they were transported to Connecticut and into the care of IRIS (Integrated Refugee and Immigration Services) in New Haven. In February, IRIS asked JCARR to assist with their resettlement.

JCARR’s goal is to enable refugees to become self-reliant within a year by providing assistant in securing clean, safe and affordable apartments; providing household supplies, clothing, cell phones, internet service, medical insurance and healthcare; enrolling adults in ESL programs and children in schools; navigating social service networks; coordinating transportation and coaching family members to use public transportation; supporting job searches; providing cultural orientation; and more.

JCARR encountered unusual challenges in preparing for this family. They confronted a severe housing shortage, extraordinarily high rents, and other difficulties resulting from the COVID pandemic. They also had to recruit translators who speak Pashto. Mom doesn’t speak English and is responsible for four children. Yet, she is expected to work to pay the family’s expenses.

JCARR volunteers joined the Run for Refugees. Pictured here at the run are (l to r) Chris George, Executive Director of IRIS, with JCARR leaders Laurel Shader and Susan Millen.

Like many other Afghans, the family was allowed to enter the U.S. on ‘Humanitarian Parole,’ a process that allows refugees to enter the country without a visa and reside here for two years with permission to work. Once here, most Humanitarian Parolees must apply for asylum. Currently, however, there is a significant backlog of 400,00 applications for asylum.

Fortunately, JCARR’s Legal Services team has lined up an immigration lawyer willing to work on this family’s case pro bono. It may take a long time to resolve their legal status, but JCARR is committed to helping them build a life here. JCARR anticipates needing \$ 25,000 to help this family, and contributions are urgently needed.

To make an online donation, visit: jewishnewhaven.org/refugee-resettlement/ give Or, send a check to the attention of Amy Holtz, payable to the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven (with JCARR written in the memo line), at 360 Amity Road, Woodbridge, 06525.

For more information contact JCARR Coordinator Jean Silk at jsilk@jewishnewhaven.org or visit jewishnewhaven.org/refugee-resettlement.



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What's in Your Genes? "Healthy You 2022"

The JCC of Greater New Haven, The Jewish Federation, and Women's Philanthropy of Greater New Haven will host a day of wellness, fitness and FUN ways to promote good health

The statistics tell an unsettling story:

One in 40 Ashkenazi Jewish men and women—or more than 10 times that of the general population—carry a mutation in one of the BRCA genes, dramatically increasing their risk for breast, ovarian, prostate, and pancreatic cancer.

One in 14 Jews carry a mutation in the APC gene which doubles their risk for colorectal cancer, reflecting one of the highest colorectal cancer risks of any ethnic group.

Eighty percent of babies born with a heritable genetic disease are born to parents who have no family history of that disease. The only way to know if a child carries a genetic mutation is to either be tested or the baby is born with a devastating disorder.

Then again, there is good news too.

Tay Sachs and other genetic diseases have been eradicated due to increased knowledge and community understanding of risk. Today, it is possible to know your own genetic disposition prior to starting a family with a simple spit test through JScreen's ReproGen; a reproductive carrier screening test designed for individuals between the ages of 18-45 to determine their risk for having a child with a genetic disease. The panel tests for more than 200 genetic diseases that are commonly found in the Jewish population and other populations.

In addition, JScreen also offers CancerGen; a cancer screening spit test designed for individuals who are 21 and older that looks for genetic changes that increase the risk for many types of cancer. The panel tests for more than 60 genes, such as BRCA1/2, that are related to hereditary cancer. In many cases, individuals who test positive have options to reduce the chances of developing cancer or to detect it at an early, treatable stage. Because we share genetic information with our family members, a positive result may also alert other relatives to consider testing. For those who have had a cancer diagnosis, knowing the genetic cause may help identify other cancer risks and help their doctor adjust their medical management.

The Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven wants to help. And so, to ensure that all members of our community have the ability to be screened for Jewish genetic diseases, a fund has been established to help support those who would like to be screened.

Learn more about JScreen and other programs at "Healthy You 2022," to be held on Sunday, May 15, hosted by the JCC and Women's Philanthropy of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven. A collaborative program presented in partnership with Discovery to Cure, JScreen, and Gift of Life, will focus on learning how to gain information about your personal genetic risks as well as on the hands-on monitoring available.

Speakers will include experts in cancer and genetic counseling, including Dr. Gary Altwerger, gynecologic oncologist; Emily Goldberg, MS, CGC, genetic counselor; Dr. Sarah Rosasco, radiologist; Estie Rose, MS CGC genetic counselor; and Dr. Harry Schwartz, gastroenterologist.

A committee of volunteers, led by Dr. Dana Schwartz and Robyn Teplitzky,

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are encouraging all to participate. The event is free and open to the community. This program is only made possible by the generosity of our community and lead sponsors; The Frances Shield Fund for JCC Healthy Women Healthy Lives, and Sound Obstetrics and Gynecology.

For more information about sponsorship and vendor opportunities, contact Lindsay Barger at lbarger@jewishnewhaven.org, or visit the website jccnh.org/healthyyou2022.

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This event made possible by generous support from Sound OB/GYN and the Frances Shield Fund for JCC Healthy Women Healthy Lives.

Impact Grants provide funding for collaborative initiatives

By Robyn Teplitzky

The Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven has announced the recipients of the inaugural Impact Grant Initiative allocation.

A direct result of the community strategic planning process, the new Impact Grant Initiative is designed to inspire creativity, collaboration, and engagement from every aspect of the Federation's catchment area. The broad-based initiative is designed to inspire project proposals that create meaningful Jewish experiences to address Federation's core priorities of education, security, advocacy, and collaboration priorities.

To be eligible for a grant, applicants were required to work in collaboration with another Jewish organization or synagogue.

Recipients will receive a maximum of almost \$100,000 in funding for up to three years to local Jewish organizations, synagogues and individuals.

After much consideration and discussion of 11 grant applications, the Impact Grants Task Force — comprised of Linda Caplan, Dr. Dena Schulman Green, Dr. David Hass,

Chesky Holtzberg, Sami Merit, Dr. Norman Ravski, and Stacey Perkins— selected the following inaugural grant recipients:

ICONIC PLACES ON THE SHORELINE
Camp Laurelwood with Temple Beth Tikvah and PJ Library
 Camp Laurelwood is working in collaboration with Temple Beth Tikvah and PJ Library, a project of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, to provide engagement opportunities for intergenerational Jewish families living on the Connecticut shoreline; and to maximize resources that nurture and advance Jewish values.

This initiative will expand to engage families in local public spaces — such as, RJ Julia Booksellers, Bishop's Orchards, Ashley's Ice Cream, Camp Laurelwood in local public spaces — such as, RJ Julia Booksellers, Bishop's Orchards, Ashley's Ice Cream, Camp Laurelwood Hammonasset State Park, Essex Steam Train and Lavender Pond Farm — in order to bring Jewish values into public spaces to serve as a reminder that Jewish identity **(Continued on page 27)**



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THE WORLD AT A GLANCE

Tunisia boycotts Gal Gadot's latest film

(JNS) Tunisia has pulled from all movie theaters across the country the new film "Death on the Nile" starring Israeli actress Gal Gadot. Movie theaters in Tunisia began screening the murder mystery earlier in February but after protests that accused the country of "normalization" with Israel, the country's ministry and visual arts authority decided to ban the movie, activists and Tunisian media said on Feb. 23. Cinemas in Tunisia confirmed to AFP that they will no longer screen "Death on the Nile." The film by British director Kenneth Branagh, which is an adaptation of the popular Agatha Christie novel of the same name, is already banned in Kuwait and Lebanon for the same reason.

Gadot, who completed two years of mandatory service in the Israel Defense Forces, received backlash last summer for expressing support for Israel during its conflict with Hamas terrorists in the Gaza Strip. In 2014, she was criticized for saying she hoped Israeli soldiers stayed safe while fighting Hamas. "The main actress in the film is Israeli, was trained in the (Israeli) army and supports the colonization of Palestinian territory," said Kaouther Saïda Chebbi, head of an anti-Zionist woman's movement.

Tunisia hosted the PLO from 1982-1994 and is a longtime supporter of the Palestinian cause. The country also banned Gadot's film "Wonder Woman" in 2017.

Lego to open its first Israel store in Tel Aviv

(JNS) The Danish toy company Lego announced that it will open its first stores in Israel starting with a location in Tel Aviv that will be ready for Israeli shoppers before the summer, Globes reported. "Lego sees the Israeli market as an important and strategic target," said Israeli entrepreneur Eran Tor, who will be in charge of launching the Lego stores in Israel. "There are customers here that very much appreciate Lego and ultimately it is an emotional connection. I don't think I've ever known any other brand that is loved so much." The owner and CEO of TorGaming, who also brought Nintendo

to Israel and served six years as CEO of the iDigital retail chain for Apple products, added: "This brand brings a smile to the lips, not only because it is a game, and it's fun, but also the way the game is played teaches and develops the imagination, which has rather disappeared in today's digital world. The happiness I have seen today is exactly what I felt, and I am excited to be the messenger who is doing this here in the country."

Tor acknowledged that Lego prices are high in Israel, which often leads to customers looking to shop abroad, and said one of his goals "is to create a much more competitive and attractive level of prices. We will bring about a revolution."

He explained, "In addition to the experience and service that we will provide, one of the things we want to do is make the products more accessible to customers in Israel, and there is no reason that customers will buy the products abroad."

Israeli gov't pledges aid to Ukraine's Jewish community

(JNS) The Israeli government allocated NIS 10 million (\$3.07 million) in aid to Ukraine's Jewish community amid Russia's ongoing invasion of the country. "This decision comes from the unique mandate of the State of Israel, and in particular, its Diaspora Ministry, as the nation-state of the Jewish people, to support Jewish individuals and communities in harm's way," the Diaspora Affairs Ministry said in a statement. The announcement came as Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett spoke with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Friday, Feb. 25. In recent weeks, Diaspora Affairs Minister Nachman Shai and his team have been in ongoing contact with Jewish community leaders and partners in Israel and on the ground to monitor the evolving situation and evaluate needs. According to the ministry, support will focus on for main areas: security, food and medicine, absorption of refugees and transportation. "Our hearts are with the Jewish people of Ukraine. We will continue to closely monitor the needs and developments in the field, and respond accordingly," Shai said.

THE WORLD AT A GLANCE

Bennett holds calls with Putin, Zelensky

(JNS) Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett spoke with both Russian President Vladimir Putin and Volodymyr Zelensky separately on March 2. Bennett first spoke with Zelensky, where they spoke about "Russian aggression," the Ukrainian leader said on Twitter. According to the Kremlin, Bennett initiated the call with Putin, with the Russian leader telling the Israeli leader taking into account Moscow's security interests was among the key conditions for settling the conflict. While Israel has expressed support for Ukrainian and provided humanitarian aid to the country, it has been nuanced in its approach to the conflict, especially with its muted criticism of Russia. Israel is especially concerned with maintaining its freedom of action in Syria against Iranian targets, where Russia has military forces. Nevertheless, Israel did vote to approve the U.N. General Assembly resolution on Wednesday to reprimand Russia for invading Ukraine. According to reports, Bennett has offered to mediate peace talks between both countries.

Egypt's El-Sisi to deepen Israel ties

(JNS) Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi has taken a "strategic decision to deepen ties with Israel," a report in Globes said recently. The report said Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi is "striving to deepen economic and commercial ties," adding, "This new approach can be attributed, among other things, to the major success of the Abraham Accords, which have helped promote economic deals signed between the Israel and Egypt themselves, and private companies from the two countries." A second factor listed by the report is Egypt's need for Israeli assistance with the U.S. administration, "which is pressing Cairo on human rights."

Meanwhile, the energy sector has been over the past decade "one of the areas in which deals between Israel and Egypt have flourished," said the report, stating that pipelines "have been laid and sales agreements signed and also implemented. Now, as part of the new approach that Al-Sisi has adopted, these deals

have been expanded to include Jordan." According to Globes, Chevron, which has a near 40 percent stake in Israel's offshore Leviathan gas field and a 25% stake in the Tamar gas field, signed a deal with Jordanian gas pipeline company Fajr for conveying gas from Leviathan and Tamar to Jordan through Israel, and then south to Egypt via the Jordanian Red Sea city of Aqaba under the Red Sea.

Israeli medical kits donated to remote Ukrainian villages

(By Abigail Klein Leichman/Israel 21c) Israeli company TytoCare provided 50 telemedicine devices that will allow children in isolated villages of eastern Ukraine to be examined and monitored remotely by physicians and nurses. The devices were transferred to 10 medical centers in eastern Ukraine through the United Nations' UNICEF Fund. The goal is to avoid children having to travel long distances for medical care during the war. In 2012, TytoCare invented the global healthcare industry's

first all-in-one modular device and exam platform for AI-powered, on-demand, remote checkups of lungs, heart, throat, ears, abdomen, skin, blood oxygen level, body temperature and pulse. Parents can use the device independently, enabling doctors to diagnose and monitor common ailments remotely.

Andrej Slavutskij, head of UNICEF Ukraine's Health Program, said, "With more than 400,000 children living in the conflict-affected area, almost 20,000 of them reside in locations with difficult access to healthcare. ...Telemedicine will allow us to increase access to essential health services for the most disadvantaged families, as well as protect the frontline healthcare workers."

In a related development, Sheba Medical Center, Israel's largest medical center, is readying equipment and supplies to be sent to countries adjacent to Ukraine, and then into Ukraine as conditions permit. The medical center's virtual healthcare program, Sheba Beyond, will provide Ukraine and surrounding areas with the resources to remotely consult with Sheba physicians.

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The Purim Miracle of 1953

By Yelena Gerovich New American Acculturation Program Coordinator

Do you believe in miracles? There are Jews in our community from the former Soviet Union who, from generation to generation, pass down the story of the miracle that happened on Purim 69 years ago.

The winter of 1953 in Russia was cold, dark and ominous – especially for the Jews. On January 13, the newspaper Pravda announced the discovery of the Doctors' Plot, an alleged conspiracy by high-ranking Jewish physicians to murder important Kremlin officials. The antisemitic campaign in the press aroused hatred of all Jews.

Many Jews were arrested on false accusations. All over the country, anti-Jewish meetings were held. Jews were dismissed from their jobs; they were insulted on the streets, in shops, and on public transportation. By the end of February, Jews across the country believed in the imminence of pogroms that would kill thousands of our people and exile survivors to concentration camps in the Soviet Far East.

The brutal dictator Joseph Stalin ruled over the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics from 1924 to 1953. Millions of his own citizens were murdered during his reign of terror.

Stalin was not a novice when it came to purges and show trials. There is indirect evidence indicating that in March 1953 Stalin intended to put many Jewish doctors on trial ("murderers in white coats"), which would have resulted in their execution. Jewish pogroms would be organized and, subsequently, all Jews would be deported.

In 1953, Purim fell on March 1. On that day, Stalin, a modern-day Haman, had a stroke. Soon thereafter, he died. At the time of his death, the noose had already been wrapped around the neck of Soviet Jewry. And so, in 1953 the story of Purim once again came to life, as the death of Mordechai (the Jews) was replaced with the death of Haman (Stalin). An entire generation of Soviet Jews came to believe that they were saved by Stalin's sudden stroke.

Bravery is central to the Purim story – consider Queen Esther, who exhibited immense courage by standing up for what she believed in. While she initially concealed her Jewish identity, when she discovered that the survival of her people—the Jewish people—was at stake, she chose to speak up and reveal her identity.

At times throughout history, in different places around the world, it has been hard to be openly Jewish. Nonetheless, in the former Soviet Union in March 1953, in spite of the difficult circumstances, Jews secretly celebrated Purim.

The story of Purim reminds us to always be proud of our Jewish identity. The moral of the Purim story is this: When a moment of truth arrives, it is incumbent upon us to summon our strength of heart and act in the right way, the humane way.

The New American Acculturation Program connects and educates Jews from the former Soviet Union, helping them to learn more about American and Jewish history and traditions, and strengthening their Jewish identity. For more information, including sponsorships of specific program, contact Yelena Gerovich at (203) 387-2424 x321, or email ygerovich@jewishnewhaven.org



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WELCOME TO AMERICA

Чудо Пурима в 1953

Верите ли вы в чудеса? Евреи из бывшего Советского Союза из поколения в поколение передают историю о чуде, случившемся в праздник Пурим 69 лет назад.

Зима 1953 года в России была холодной, темной и злобшей — особенно для евреев. 13 января газета «Правда» сообщила о раскрытии «заговора врачей» — предполагаемого заговора высокопоставленных еврейских врачей с целью убийства важных кремлевских чиновников. Антисемитская кампания в печати вызвала очередной поток ненависти к евреям.

Многие евреи были арестованы по ложным обвинениям. По всей стране проходили антиеврейские митинги. Евреев увольняли с работы; их оскорбляли на улицах, в магазинах и в общественном транспорте. К концу февраля евреи по всей стране верили в неизбежность погромов, которые убьют и покалечат тысячи евреев, а выживших сошлют в концлагеря на Дальний Восток.

Беспрецедентно жестокий диктатор Иосиф Сталин правил Союзом Советских Социалистических Республик с 1924 по 1953 год. Миллионы его собственных граждан были убиты во время его террора. Сталин не был новичком в чистках и показательных процессах. Есть косвенные данные, свидетельствующие о том, что в марте 1953 г. Сталин намеревался предать суду многих еврейских врачей («убийц в белых халатах»), что привело бы к их казни. Планировалось организовать еврейские погромы, и впоследствии всех евреев депортировать.

В 1953 году Пурим выпал на 1 марта. В этот день у Сталина, современного Амана, случился инсульт. Вскоре после этого он умер. На момент его смерти петля уже была накинута на шею советского еврейства. И так, в 1953 году история Пурима вновь оживила, поскольку смерть Мордехая (еврея) сменилась смертью Амана (Сталина). Целое поколение советских евреев поверило, что их спасла внезапная смерть Сталина.

Храбрость занимает центральное место в истории Пурима — вспомним царицу Эсфирь, которая проявила огромное мужество, отстаивая то, во что верила. Сначала она скрывала свою еврейскую идентичность, но когда обнаружила, что жизнь ее народа — еврейского народа — была под угрозой уничтожения, она решилась заговорить, заступиться и рассказать правду о себе.

Мы помним что бывали такие времена и такие страны где открыто быть евреем было трудно и опасно. Тем не менее, в бывшем Советском Союзе в марте 1953 года, несмотря на тяжелые обстоятельства, евреи тайно отпраздновали Пурим.

История Пурима напоминает нам что всегда надо помнить и гордиться своей принадлежностью к еврейскому народу. Мораль истории о Пуриме такова: когда наступает момент истины, мы должны собраться с силами и действовать правильно и гуманно.

Наши образовательные программы объединяют евреев из бывшего Советского Союза, помогая им больше узнать об американской и еврейской истории и традициях, укрепляют их еврейскую идентичность. Для получения дополнительной информации о New American Acculturation Program, с вопросами и предложениями звоните Елене Герович по телефону (203) 387-2424 x321 (tel:(203)%20387-2424;321) или ygerovich@jewishnewhaven.org. (mailto:ygerovich@jewishnewhaven.org)

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(Continued from page 25)

can happen everywhere, not just in traditionally Jewish locations. Each event will focus on a Jewish value and incorporate appropriate PJ Library books and activities across the generations.

COMMUNITY INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM

Congregation Mishkan Israel with Greater New Haven Board of Rabbis and Cantors

Greater New Haven's local spiritual leaders are working hard to provide ongoing life-long Jewish learning opportunities to the local Jewish community. The program is initiated by a partnership of spiritual leaders from Congregation Mishkan Israel in Hamden (Rabbi Brian Immerman), Temple Emanuel in Orange (Rabbi Michael Farbman), Temple Beth David in Cheshire; with the commitment of spiritual leaders from Temple Beth Sholom in Hamden (Rabbi Benjamin Scolnic), Westville Synagogue in New Haven (Rabbi Fred Hyman), and Beth El-Keser Israel in New Haven (Rabbi Eric Woodward) who will offer Jewish learning classes.

UNIPER TECHNOLOGY TO REDUCE ISOLATION FOR HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS Jewish Family Services

Jewish Family Service of Greater New Haven and Greater Hartford together provide case management, emergency assistance, and home care support for 248 Holocaust survivors across Connecticut, 92 of whom live in Greater New Haven. A shocking number of survivors live in poverty, and JFS New Haven works one-on-one with them to help them age in place and live life as fully as possible. Many Holocaust survivors and other aging adults suffer from social isolation (even prior to the pandemic) and JFS of New Haven and JFS Greater Hartford are launching a new program that uses free, user-friendly, TV-based Uniper technology that connects older adults with local community programs, helps them stay connected to friends and family, allows them to participate in online classes, and much more. The grant will provide vital staffing and other critical elements and infrastructure for the program, including Russian translation, visits to survivor's homes, etc.

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In this series, Shalom New Haven features women in our community who make a gift in their own name to the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven Annual Campaign.

A Lion of Judah is a distinction given to a woman who makes a gift at the level of \$5,000 or more. A Pomegranate designates a gift of \$1,800-\$4,999 and a Sabra gift of \$365-\$1,799.

Women's Philanthropy Why I Give



HEAR FROM BETTY LEVY ON WHY SHE "LIONS"

The most important thing to me about the mission of the Jewish Federation is its unique ability to reach out to our entire community and connect people with one another while providing resources to expedite effective action for the Jewish community. This includes community services, support and advocacy for Israel. This was most dramatically reinforced by the Federation's response to the Coronavirus Pandemic. Through the generosity of our community volunteers and donors, the Federation was able to provide

emergency funding to several vital Jewish community organizations enabling them to continue their services to the elderly, sick, disabled, and indigent. Through special grants and contributions, the Federation distributed over one million masks to the community in areas where they were most needed. Volunteers called over 10,000 households to find out if they needed any kind of help and Shabbat meals were delivered to homebound seniors. Women's Philanthropy launched Dignity Grows, a program to provide free menstrual and hygiene supplies on a monthly basis to indigent women and girls in our community. My personal connection to the mission of the Jewish Federation is that my husband Arthur and I co-chair the New Haven Jewish Community Relations Council. The charge of the JCRC is to focus on Israel advocacy, inter-group relationships, government and social action. We are proud to be part of this dedicated committee.

It is important to me as a woman, mother and grandmother that I be a role model for my children and grandchildren. By establishing my own gift and my own work at the Jewish Federation, I feel that I am accomplishing that goal. As part of a dynamic, pro-active group of women who care about issues such as food insecurity, domestic violence and personal dignity, we can emphasize the values that are important in all of our lives.

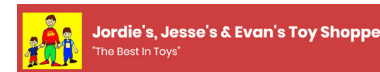
Betty Levy is the mother of three grown children and the grandmother of six. She practiced law, specializing in Social Security Representation and Family Law from 1982-2019. Betty is chair of the Jewish Community Relations Council. She serves on the APT Board of Directors; Executive Board Member of the NHJF; member of Beth Hamedrosh Hagodol/Westville Synagogue and Beth El Kesser Israel Synagogue.



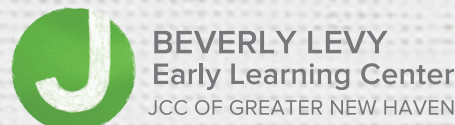
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR mid-march events

Event details subject to change. Please visit jewishnewhaven.org/events or jccnh.org/events.

JCC's Beckerman Cultural Arts Film Series: The Last Mentsch March 14-20, Available all day via link \$10, Contact Susan Skalka susans@jccnh.org

Jewish Federation's Women's Philanthropy presents "Hello Gorgeous" March 15, 12-1 PM, \$15 per person. Join us from your home to see this amazing collection which celebrates the amazing life and work of Barbra Streisand. Contact Lindsey Barger lbarger@jewishnewhaven.org

Community MEGA MISSION Zoom Information Session March 15, 7-8 PM, FREE, In celebration of Israel's 75th birthday, the Jewish Federations of Greater Hartford & Greater New Haven are leading a "Choose Your Own Adventure" community mega mission to Israel. Contact Jennifer Zuppe, jzuppe@jewishnewhaven.org

JCC's Job Fair March 16, 12-2 PM and 4-7 PM. Come network at the JCC to jump start your future career! JCC of Greater New Haven, 360 Amity Rd. Woodbridge Contact Sandy Horvath sandyh@jccnh.org

BEKI Purim Festivities for Children March 16, 5:30-6:15 pm: Children's Megillah Reading (indoors), 6:15-7 pm: Children's Costume Parade and light dinner (outdoors), Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel (BEKI), 85 Harrison Street, New Haven, Contact Peggy Hackett, office@beki.org, beki.org

Erev Purim at BEKI March 16, 6:30-8:30 PM, In-person, Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel (BEKI) 85 Harrison

Street, New Haven. Contact Peggy Hackett, office@beki.org, beki.org

Hamantaschen Baking and Learning with Temple Beth David March 16, 6:30-8 PM, Temple Beth David, 3 Main Street, Cheshire. Contact Larry Barnett, office@tbdcheshire.org, tbdcheshire.org

Purim Day at BEKI March 17, 7:30-9 AM, both in-person and on Zoom, NOTE: If pandemic conditions allow, we will have a mini-Seudah (Feast) at 5 PM, followed by minyan at 5:45 PM. Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel (BEKI), 85 Harrison Street, New Haven, Contact Peggy Hackett, office@beki.org, beki.org

Ruach Shabbat, Megillah Reading, and Purim Spiel at Temple Beth David March 18, 7-8:30 FREE. Celebrate Purim. Temple Beth David, 3 Main Street, Cheshire, Contact office@tbdcheshire.org, tbdcheshire.org

Purim Tot Shabbat with Temple Beth David March 19, 10:30-11:30 AM, Purim themed Tot Shabbat featuring songs, stories, and a craft. For toddlers through age 7. Temple Beth David, 3 Main Street, Cheshire, Contact: Jodi at education@tbdcheshire.org

BEKI Children's Shabbat Services March 19, 11 AM-12 PM, Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel (BEKI), 85 Harrison Street, New Haven, Contact Peggy Hackett, office@beki.org, beki.org

april events

BEKI Children's Shabbat Services April 2, 11 AM-12 PM, Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel (BEKI), 85 Harrison Street, New Haven. Contact Peggy Hackett, office@beki.org, beki.org

Temple Emanuel @60 Shir Magic Concert April 2, 7-9 PM, All ages! Price TBD, In-person. Temple Emanuel, 150 Derby Avenue, Orange. Contact Ruth Gross office@tegnh.org, www.tegnh.org

JCC Wag and Walk (Walkathon) April 3, 1-3 PM, FREE, 360 Amity Rd., Woodbridge, Contact Sandy Horvath, sandyh@jccnh.org

BEKI Schmooze-New Ideas for Pesach with Children April 6, 7:30-9 PM, Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel (BEKI), 85 Harrison Street, New Haven. Contact Peggy Hackett, office@beki.org, beki.org

BEKI Children's Shabbat Services April 9, 11 AM-12 PM, Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel (BEKI), 85 Harrison Street, New Haven. Contact Peggy Hackett, office@beki.org, beki.org

Temple Beth Sholom's 75th Anniversary Event April 9, 7:45-10:30 PM, \$45, In-person, Temple Beth Sholom 1809 Whitney Avenue Hamden, Contact Hinda Piscitelle tbshamden75@gmail.com, tbshamden.com

PJ Library Presents: Pre-Passover Taste of Camp April 10, 4-5:30 PM, FREE, In-person, Camp Laurelwood 463 Summer Hill Rd., Madison, Contact Kayla Bisbee kbisbee@jewishnewhaven.org

JCC's Beckerman Cultural Arts Film Series: Streit's: Matzo and the American Dream April 11-17, Available all day via link, \$10. Contact Susan Skalka, susans@jccnh.org

BEKI Children's Shabbat Services April 16, 11 AM-12 PM, Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel (BEKI), 85 Harrison Street, New Haven. Contact Peggy Hackett, office@beki.org, beki.org

JCC's Beckerman Cultural Arts Film Series: The Art Dealer March 21-27, \$10, Available all day via link, Contact Susan Skalka, susans@jccnh.org

JCC's Beckerman Cultural Arts Author Series: Nessa Rapoport "Evening: A Novel" March 21, 7-8 PM, \$5, Contact Susan Skalka susans@jccnh.org

Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek (CBSRZ) presents Affordable Housing Education Series (Part 2 of 2) via Zoom March 22, 7-8 PM, Contact Wendy Bayor, wendy@cbstrz.org

BEKI Schmooze: Getting to Know Siddur Lev Shalem March 23, 7:30-9 PM, Via Zoom, Contact Peggy Hackett, office@beki.org, beki.org

Book Talk Online Salon - The Orchard by David Hopen March 23, 8-9 PM, Via Zoom, Contact Lynn Jackson, Slifka.Center@yale.edu for link, lynn.jackson-quinn@yale.edu, slifkacenter.org

Jewish Perspectives of Reproductive Health, Rights & Justice March 24, 7-8 PM. FREE via Zoom, Hear from Jewish clergy and thought leaders about why abortion is a Jewish issue, why we should be paying attention, and what to do next. Contact Jennifer Zuppe, jzuppe@jewishnewhaven.org

JCC Virtual Family Trivia Night March 24, 7-8 PM. FREE via Zoom, Contact Sandy Horvath sandyh@jccnh.org

Shabbat for Multifaith Families at Temple Beth David March 25, 6-7 PM, FREE, In-person babysitting available, Temple Beth David, 3 Main Street, Cheshire, Contact office@tbdcheshire.org, tbdcheshire.org

BEKI Children's Shabbat Services March 26, 11 AM-12 PM, Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel (BEKI), 85 Harrison Street, New Haven, Contact Peggy Hackett, office@beki.org, beki.org

Installation Ceremony of BEKI Rabbi Eric Woodward March 27, 9-11 AM, Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel (BEKI), 85 Harrison Street, New Haven. Contact Peggy Hackett, office@beki.org, beki.org

PJ Library and Congregation B'nai Jacob Present ShirLaLa Community Concert March 27, 4-5 PM, FREE, All Ages! Congregation B'nai Jacob, 75 Rimmon Road, Woodbridge. Contact Kayla Bisbee, (203) 387-2424 x300, kbisbee@jewishnewhaven.org

JCC's Beckerman Cultural Arts Film Series: The Ritchie Boys March 28-April 3, All Day between dates, \$10, Contact Susan Skalka susans@jccnh.org

JCC's Beckerman Cultural Arts Author Series: Judy Bolton-Fasman "Asylum: A Memoir of Family Secrets" March 31, 7-8 PM, \$5, Via Zoom, Contact Susan Skalka, susans@jccnh.org

JCC's Beckerman Cultural Arts Author Series: Eliezar Shore's "Meeting Elijah: True tales of Elyahu Hanavi" April 20, 7-9 PM, \$5. Via Zoom. Contact Susan Skalka susans@jccnh.org

BEKI Children's Shabbat Services April 23, 11 AM-12 PM, Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel (BEKI), 85 Harrison Street, New Haven. Contact Peggy Hackett, office@beki.org, beki.org

BEKI Yom HaShoah Program with Janet Kirchheimer April 27, 7:30-9 PM, FREE, Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel (BEKI) 85 Harrison Street, New Haven. Contact Peggy Hackett office@beki.org, beki.org

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By Chava Light

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*Tributes listed are up to February 23, 2022

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Elanna Bernstein

In honor of and appreciation for Rabbi Bruce Alpert and Beth Israel Synagogue of Wallingford
Ingrid Tuckler-Eaton & Family

In honor of Judy Alperin, to the Women's Philanthropy Dignity Grows Program
Nancy Cohen

In honor of Amy Holtz, to the Women's Philanthropy Dignity Grows Program
Nancy Cohen

In memory of Richard Berkowitz, father of Emily Sandberg, to the Women's Philanthropy Dignity Grows Program
*Nancy Cohen
Judy Alperin
Amy, Mark & Sarah Holtz
Ana & Steven White
The Teplitzky Family*

In memory of Judy Scolnic, mother of Rabbi Benjamin Scolnic and grandmother of Rachel Scolnic
Judy Alperin

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Jody Beck

In memory of James Blume, father of Peter Blume
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In memory of Edward Winnick, husband of Mary Lou Winnick
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In memory of Harold Noe
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In memory of Jessica Zachs father to the Women's Philanthropy Dignity Grows Program
*Amy & Mark Holtz
Judy Alperin*

JCC

In honor of Norman & Caron Alderman for helping to make the JCC possible for our community
Ian, Rachel, Jonah & Izzy Alderman

In memory of Robert Baltimore to the Library Fund
Judy Alperin

In honor of Lindsey Barger to the Friends of the J Campaign
Nurit Kohl

In memory of Steven Silberfein to the JCC Fitness Center
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In memory of Lawrence Dragunoff, father of Howard Dragunoff
Allan & Ellen Greenberg

In memory of Don Pearlstein, father of Jessica Zachs, to the Women's Philanthropy Dignity Grows Program
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In memory of Minnie Bernstein, Rosalind, Melvin & Anna Hemmann, Evelyn Trombino, Jane Judd
Debra & David Judd

In honor of Rollyn Osterweis Krichbaum, Rollin G. Osterweis & Marjorie Osterweis Rubens, Ruth Loenstein Osrerweis & Sally Osterweis Kopman
Ruth O. Selig

In memory of Ruth Kronish, Elliot Kronish, William Kronish, Bertha Kronish and Rose Sanders
Betsy Ann Kronish

In memory of Peggy Ross, Paul Ross, Sarah Hayden & Ruth & George Ross
Irma M. Ross

In memory of Bernice Gerson, Erma Gerson, Allan & Jerome Gerson
Martin L. Gershon and Karen Perell Gerson

In memory of Adele Marqusee Hahn & Harold "Bub" Hahn Jr.
Judith S. Hahn

In memory of Regina Weil Baumann, Ruth Baumann Leichter, Claire Baumann Ginsburgh, Delia Zunder Weil and Lothar Baumann
Dennis & Sandy Barnes

In memory of Nanette & Edward Bower, Florine Jacobs Trachtenberg, Aaron Jacobs, Henry Jacobs, Sid Trachtenberg
Nancy A. DeWolfe

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In memory of Edward Winnick
Velma Grodd

JCC OF GREATER NEW HAVEN

JOB FAIR

OPEN TO ALL

WED. MARCH 16

12-2 pm –AND– 4-7 pm



“HERE FOR GOOD” means Federation is here to provide resources, strength and support to help build and sustain flourishing Jewish communities at home and around the world. Whether it’s a response to attacks on synagogues and Jewish life, missiles raining down on Israel’s south, hurricane relief in Kentucky, Houston or Haiti, or the COVID-19 global pandemic, Federation is there to help and rebuild. For us, it means we are, and always will be, the engine for Jewish communal life in Greater New Haven. We are here for good, for the past 100 years and the 100 years to come.



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER NEW HAVEN

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