From the JCC to Team Israel
Josh Zeid Shows That Hard Work Pays Off
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New program teaches leadership skills and creates connections among community leaders. PAGE 5

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CELEBRATE WORLD REFUGEE DAY
A small gesture of kindness in a grocery store makes a difference to one JCARR family. PAGE 11
Preparing for What’s Next

I’ve been able to visit our historic homeland Israel many times, beginning when I was 16 years old with BBYO. As we are about to celebrate Israel’s 69th birthday, there is much to be proud of, yet still so much that can be divisive. Differing opinions is the Jewish way—since the early days of Hillel and Shammai, our people have debated the issues and found ways to peaceably agree to disagree. This example was part of the inspiration behind our Jewish Federation’s Jewish Community Relations Council’s Left vs. Right—The Battle for Israel’s Soul, held at Temple Beth Tikvah in Madi- son, where two knowledgeable and passionate journalists on opposing sides, shared their insights, argued their perspective and embraced one another as kinsmen.

As our community continues to determine how to best serve the Greater New Haven Jewish community, we intend to build on this example of respectful and informed debate and discussion. An emailed survey asked if a community center was integral to a strong Jewish community and, if so, where such a center should be located. Eight hundred people responded to the survey. This was followed by a Jewish Community Town Hall where members of the community expressed their thoughts in person on April 26.

While the timeline for decision-making is compressed, we are confident that the process will be built upon over time and that there will be ample opportunity to adjust and strengthen our approach. The input sought by the survey and town hall is essential to inform the work of two task forces who have been considering options regarding current operations at 360 Amity Road. Those task forces will make presentations to a broader committee on May 10, and then conclusions will be recommended to a special meeting of the Jewish Federation and JCC boards of directors on May 17.

As we worked after the fire to assess and handle the needs of the building, our community also confronted challenges to our security. We were the victim of two telephonic threats during the spate of threats against Jewish communities across North America. We were heartened that the commitment to emergency preparedness that ensured no injury or loss of life during the fire also provided for proper response by our staff to handle the calls and evacuations with minimum disruption.

Working closely with law enforcement at the local level with Woodbridge Fire and Police, on through the Connecticut State Police Bomb Squad, FBI, Department of Homeland Security, ADL, the Jewish Community Centers Association and the Jewish Federations of North America’s Secure Community Network (SCN), we receive real-time updates and warnings to enable anticipatory response. When notice of threats in other communities is received, our staff is made aware and preemptive sweeps for devices are conducted in our facilities. Special trainings for all Jewish community agencies and congregations will continue.

The recent training run by the FBI focused on active-shooter preparedness. Community security remains a top priority.

This issue brings us closer to the conclusion of the program year. That also means the conclusion of the Annual Campaign is drawing near. The Annual Campaign is the backbone of our community. It is what enables our Jewish Federation to work on your behalf each and every day—responding to crisis wherever they erupt—overseas in war torn Ukraine or anti-Semitism riddled France, and right here at home when fires break out in our JCC. The Annual Campaign is at work building community, strengthening Jewish education, providing support for the needy and vulnerable and planning for our future. But the campaign is only as strong as each individual who supports it. This issue features our growing donor honor roll. We thank each person who has generously pledged their support this year and encourage you to add your name to the list if you haven’t had a chance to do so. There’s still time to make your increased commitment.

In closing, I want to reiterate that my door is open, my email inbox is waiting and I am always just a phone call away. If you have questions, ask. If you want to share your opinion, reach out. Call (203) 387-2424, ext. 231, email jalperin@jewishnewhaven.org or stop by 1764 Litchfield Turnpike, Woodbridge.

B’shalom, July
Jewish Family Service Support Groups

**Who Cares for the Caregivers?**
You may feel that there is nowhere to turn, that you are alone in the struggle to be the best caregiver you can be. But you are not alone. In this group, members each have a chance to express what they are going through and receive appropriate feedback from group members and the facilitator. The group is confidential and members feel a sense of freedom to share their burdens.

The next groups are scheduled for May 9, and June 13, at 7:00 p.m. at Tower One/Tower East, 18 Tower Lane, New Haven. For more information or additional dates please email Susan Skalka at susan@towerone.org or Rabbi Hyman at fhyman@jfsnh.org.

**Bereavement Support Group**
The loss of a loved one is felt differently by different people. Some who are grieving want extra support when times get more difficult. This group is an opportunity to receive peer support from individuals who have experienced something similar so you can cope a little easier.

The next group will take place Monday, May 15, at 6:00 p.m., at the JFS Office at 1440 Whalley Avenue, New Haven. Please register by phone (203) 389-5599, ext. 135.

Both groups are led by Rabbi Fred Hyman, Ed.D., Coordinator of Pastoral Care and Pastoral Counseling at the Jewish Wellness and Healing Center at Jewish Family Service of Greater New Haven, who has many years of experience as a congregational rabbi and as a mental health clinician.

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**Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger Exhibit**

MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger is pleased to bring “This Is Hunger” to New Haven as part of a 10-month national tour. “This Is Hunger” is a first-of-its-kind interactive exhibit, housed in a 53-foot-long trailer that expands on both sides. It was designed to raise awareness about who in America struggles with hunger and why, and to inspire participants to take action to make a difference. Reserve your free tickets for this 45-minute immersive experience now at thisishunger.org/the-tour.

The traveling Mazon exhibit will be at Congregation Mishkan Israel in Hamden from May 7-10. Please contact Rabbi Josh Ratner for more information or to sign up for the 45-minute immersive exhibit, jratner@jewishnewhaven.org.

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**FAMILY FUN DAY**

**featuring TOUCH-A-TRUCK**

June 4, 2017 | 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
JCC Building | 360 Amity Road, Woodbridge | FREE
jccnh.org/rsvp
By Yelena Gerovich
New American Acculturation Coordinator

Do you like gefilte fish? How about architecture? If you like both, you would enjoy and understand the fish motifs in Frank Gehry’s amazing architectural works.

Gehry was born in 1929 in Toronto to Polish Jewish parents. In a recent interview, Gehry said, “I grew up in a Talmudic household, and the Talmud starts with the question ‘Why?’ It is a built-in formula for curiosity, and curiosity is the lifeblood of creativity. If you are not curious, you can’t do anything.”

Gehry is widely considered to be the most original and innovative practitioner in architecture today. Fish embody his desire to create motion in architecture and represent a perfection that he could never realize in his buildings. “In Toronto, when I was very young, my grandmother and I used to go to Kensington, a Jewish market, on Thursday mornings. She would buy a carp for gefilte fish. She’d put it in the bathtub, fill the bathtub with water, and this big black carp would swim around in the bathtub and I would play with it.”

Later in life, he came back to the fish. “I was watching the beauty of carp swimming in a pool in Japan and thinking about how elegant and architectural they were,” he has said. “It inspired a beginning of a study of these forms […] That study took a few years. It then became a language that I guess became Bilbao [Spain] and a few other projects.” Gehry designed the Guggenheim Museum, which opened in 1997, and drew more than a million visitors its first year. Suddenly Bilbao, a city that was previously unremarkable, became a tourist haven.

After his Guggenheim triumph, Gehry worked harder than ever, both in the U.S. and around the world. In 1999, he finished the aluminum-covered office complex known as the Frank Gehry buildings, in Dusseldorf, Germany. A year later, he unveiled the Music Experience Project in Seattle, Washington, a $100 million interactive rock and roll museum. Then Gehry returned to Los Angeles, to create what many claim is a masterpiece to rival the Guggenheim, the Walt Disney Concert Hall. With the Disney Hall, Gehry transformed the skyline of Los Angeles, just as he had done in Bilbao, and so changed the face of those cities forever.

Almost every summer, the New American Acculturation Program helps to organize excursions for refugees from the former Soviet Union. We visit the most interesting historical and Jewish places in New York, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Washington and more. This summer the Guggenheim Museum is celebrating 80 years of avant-garde art and the visionaries who cultivated the Guggenheim permanent collection. We are planning to go to New York and to enjoy the exhibition, “Visionaries: Creating a Modern Guggenheim” (it will be on view until September 6, 2017).

Our excursions help members of the community better understand American history, prepare to pass the citizenship test and enjoy life in a new country. The “iron curtain” did not allow people in the former Soviet Union to travel abroad; they even did not have the opportunity to pick the city where they lived. They all had passports that indicated where they must live. Many people in the U.S. don’t know about this and can’t understand how it was possible.

Immigrants from the former Soviet Union now are free to celebrate Jewish holidays and study Jewish and American history and traditions. In March, we were able to celebrate Purim together, and in April, Passover. Thanks to the tremendous help and support from the State of Connecticut Department of Social Services, the Women of Vision Society, the Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut, and the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, newcomers are now free to travel where they like and to go to museums, sight see, visit new places and enjoy architecture. Inspiring a love for Jewish learning is one of the most precious gifts we can give ourselves and our children.

As Frank Gehry said: “Architecture has always been a very idealistic profession. It’s about making the world a better place, and it works over the generations because people go on vacation and they look for it.” We all take vacations for different reasons, to explore the world, to retreat from it, or to combine rest, learning and freedom! Celebrate your freedom and enjoy summer.

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

Welcome to America
### Yesod Lays the Foundation for Future Leaders

**By Sharon M. Hasbani**  
Young Leadership Chair, Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven Executive Committee

What do an IT professional, a nurse, a lawyer, a robotics Ph.D., and a graphic designer all have in common? They are all local, rising Jewish community lay leaders who recently began the Yesod Leadership Program. On March 7, the men and women above and an additional 14 men and women joined together for their first Yesod class. The word *yesod* in Hebrew means foundation or basis, which is a fitting name for this new initiative for the Greater New Haven Jewish community. The Yesod program consists of a series of interactive classes that will take place at various Jewish community locations in the area. The curriculum was developed through the Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning and was written by Jewish educator Dr. Erica Brown. Our own Sydney Perry, esteemed educator and former CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven is the facilitator for the course, and for all eight classes.

The goal of Yesod is to help our local lay leaders build and develop their personal and organizational leadership through a Jewish perspective. The 2017 Yesod cohort has enjoyed not only the curriculum in their classes thus far, but getting to know one another. They are learning from the texts, from Perry and from one another. Beyond just increasing their leadership skill set, this is an opportunity for them to forge connections with other Jewish lay leaders in our area that will serve our Jewish community for years to come. At a recent feedback session, the members of this cohort reported being pleased that they had a sense of being in a “safe room” in which they could learn not just from Jewish texts but also from one another. They reported feeling appreciative of being given this opportunity. As Perry states: “In this age of unprecedented change in the world and in our own community, we yearn for enduring wisdom to help us navigate and succeed in this topsy-turvy environment. At work, in leadership roles, at home with family and friends, we search for inspiring role models, a sense of purpose, reliable sources of guidance from the fields of business management and psychology and lessons from the richness of our Jewish tradition, history and text to help us make wise decisions. I feel so very fortunate to be guide, facilitator, educator and participant in Yesod. These are the leaders of tomorrow and their energy, engagement and experience, combined with the excellent curriculum from Melton, will allow them to meet the challenges that lie ahead. I expect great things!”

The members of this cohort come from nine area towns and represent a variety of levels of involvement in Jewish observance. Most importantly, each and every one of them is involved with and committed to his or her Jewish community, and is interested in growing that involvement. Thanks to the Jewish Foundations of North America, the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven, and our generous sponsor Andy Eder and the Eder Leader Institute, they will all have the opportunity to acquire new skills and grow in their commitment to their communities.

Sharon M. Hasbani is a board member of the JCC of Greater New Haven, the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven and sits on the Executive Committee of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven. She is a graduate of the Wexner Heritage Program, which led to her position as Young Leadership Program Chair and her involvement in Yesod. She would like to thank Olga Markus for her invaluable work as Yesod Program Consultant.

### Ensuring Your Safety & Security

Over the past several months, there have been an alarming number of reported hate crimes and anti-Semitic inspired incidents directed at Jewish communities throughout the country. The recent fire at the JCC and the bomb threats experienced in January and February followed heightened local awareness to issues around safety and security. The Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven had been working in the months prior to these events to increase safety measures and enhance security training for its staff and the staff of Greater New Haven Jewish agencies and congregations. “Ensuring the safety and security of JCC members - be it at Camp, Yeladim or the Fitness Center – and the security of the community as a whole is one of our main roles as Federation, which we have taken very seriously,” said Judy Alperin, CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven. “Vigilance and preparedness are key,” she said.

The Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven has been actively working with federal, state and local law enforcement and first responders to review emergency plans and security protocols. Contact with elected officials has been made at the local, state and national levels as well to secure resources and bring the security of our communities to the public floor.

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**Specific measures include the following:**

**CONTACT WITH STATE LEGISLATORS AND LOCAL OFFICIALS** to lobby for increased funding

**SECURITY TRAINING WITH ADL & LAW ENFORCEMENT** for Jewish institutions’ front line personnel offered in August of last year, which resulted in effective response to the telephonic bomb threats our JCC experienced this winter

**FIRE DRILLS** and a clear emergency action plan resulted in effective evacuation of the JCC building during the fire in December

**FBI SECURITY TRAINING** and an active shooter drill was given to JCC Camp staff and the community as a whole in April 2017

**12 SECURITY CAMERAS** and additional lighting were installed at the JCC Fitness Center at Research Drive

**SECURITY INTERCOM** was installed at the Federation offices to help identify the people entering the main offices

**SECURITY BADGES** were distributed to the entire JCC and Federation staff to be at a state of preparedness for emergency evacuation

**ANNUAL TRAININGS** and refreshers on first aid given to Federation and JCC staff, including Camp and Yeladim

**CAMP SECURITY PRESENCE** will be increased beginning with the 2017 summer season
Mitzvah Day Makes an Impact

By Jessica McWeeney
Shalom New Haven Editor

185 volunteers joined the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven at its Mitzvah Day volunteering event on Sunday, March 5, to help lend a hand in the community in fulfillment of a mitzvah. Projects took place at four sites around Greater New Haven, and impacted over 1,000 people. Programs included baking and art projects, fitness classes, thank you calls, a cereal collection and toiletry drive, and a sing-along with local seniors.

Kick off your summer at Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek’s annual outdoor community concert and picnic on Sunday, June 25, offering free entertainment with the music of Bivolita Klezmer Quartet. This young group’s repertoire is drawn from the early European sources of Jewish instrumental wedding music, but finds contemporary interpretations to reveal the diverse musical experiences of its members. Through years of travel and research, the program includes suites that link nearly forgotten ritual melodies with more commonly known American klezmer repertoire and co-territorial Moldavian dance music. This musical cosmopolitanism leads to a rich interaction between Jewish and Gypsy musicians, and the infusion of both musical styles with Ottoman, near Eastern and Mediterranean influences. Their ensemble draws on this legacy to guide us in both selected repertoire and stylistic orientations. As this infectious music ensues you might find yourself dancing.

Members include: Christina Crowder on accordion, who has been performing and researching Jewish music for over 20 years, beginning in Budapest, Hungary in 1993; Gretchen Frazier on viola, who is currently assistant principal viola of Eastern Connecticut Symphony and section viola in New Haven Symphony; Brian Slattery on violin, who is also a member of Dr. Caterwaul’s Cadre of Clairvoyant Claptraps; Keryn Kleiman on violin, a New York-based violinist specializing in Jewish and Eastern European folk styles and is a member of a number of klezmer groups, including Kadya’s Project and the New York Fidl Kepelye.

The concert will start at 5:00 p.m., and is free and open to the public and no reservations are necessary. Jointly produced by our Music & More and Social Action committees, it is intended not only as a joyous music treat, but something that will benefit those in need. Although there is no charge for the performance, concertgoers will have plenty of grilled summer fare to purchase and other foods with proceeds benefiting local charitable organizations. Make sure to bring a lawn chair or blankets to sit and enjoy the music and food. The concert will take place at Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek, 55 East Kings Highway, Chester. For more information, visit our website, cbsrz.org or call 860-526-8920.
New Haven Native Snags Win for Team Israel

By Pauline Calloway

Special to Shalom New Haven

“If you become a successful athlete, you should let people know where you’re from,” Josh Zeid told the New Jersey Jewish Standard, which is a philosophy he has lived up to throughout his entire athletic career as a relief pitcher. A New Haven native and an active JCC youth member, Zeid came through with an impressive win for Team Israel in the World Baseball Classic this past March, beating out top teams, including #3 ranked South Korea, winning 2-1 in the opening game of the tournament. This win meant more to Team Israel than just a score, as they were ranked #41 in the tournament. After failing to make the last tournament in 2013, Team Israel was determined to come back strong this year and that’s exactly what they accomplished, earning Zeid a minor league contract with the St Louis Cardinals this spring season. “I went into the tournament wanting to win for Team Israel. I wanted to go out and put Team Israel in the best position to win. Anything that came out of that would be icing on the cake,” said Zeid to the New Haven Register.

As a young child, Zeid had always had a dream to play professional baseball, something he expressed to his Rabbi before his Bar Mitzvah, according to his supportive parents, Ira and Karen Zeid. Dedication and a deep commitment to bring awareness to baseball in Israel, which lacks the popularity of other sports like basketball and soccer, is what encouraged Zeid to play for the team, along with having pride in his heritage. Zeid and a few other team members had the opportunity to visit Israel in January, where they were embraced wholeheartedly by the country; giving them the morale needed to successfully advance in the tournament. Zeid’s dominance on the field and 96mph fast ball, which the New Haven native considers his strength, provided him with the spotlight to be named, along with just 11 other players, to the tournament all-star team, All World Baseball Classic, securing his position for the 2021 World Baseball Classic team. Excited to bring his skills to the St Louis Cardinals this spring, Zeid told Scout.com, “There are no excuses to not go out there and give it all you have. Give it the emotion. The thought and the attention that it deserves. You do that and success will be right behind.” Having the support from his family and team members alike, Zeid, a real mensch, will no doubt continue to thrive in his career and be an exceptional example.

Gennadiy Sorochan: A Holocaust Survivor’s Story

Our community takes its responsibility to preserve the collective memory of the Holocaust seriously. We gathered for our Yom HaShoah Community Observance on April 23, in keeping with the annual commemoration. Survivors in our community were recognized and the victims remembered. Here is the story of one survivor.

In April 1943, Gennadiy Sorochan was sent to a German work camp from his home in Kiev, Ukraine. Gennadiy’s father was Ukrainian and his mother was Jewish. Early in the war, when all of the Jewish people in their neighborhood were given instructions to pack up and move, his father felt that something was wrong, and hid his family to keep them from following the instructions. All of the people who followed the orders were taken away and killed.

Gennadiy’s mother hid in their home for a year, before a neighbor betrayed her to the Nazis. She was shot in January 1942. Gennadiy was 11 years old.

In April 1943, Gennadiy, his father and younger sister were taken to a distribution camp in Berlin and were then transferred to a work camp for the Alkett #2 factory in Berlin, Spandau West. The factory manufactured tanks. The family hid their Jewish origins, but feared death if they were discovered. His father was helped by one of the guards at the factory and they were able to escape.

In hopes of improving their chances for survival, the Sorochan’s returned to the distribution camp in Berlin, where they changed their last name. They were sent to an agricultural site near Cottbus, Germany. After a month there, the family was sent to the camp for the Mechanische Werke factory. Gennadiy’s job was to paint the panels for the military cars assembled at the factory. The family survived at the factory until their liberation in April 1945.

After WWII, Gennadiy came back to Ukraine and attended medical college. Once he had finished school, he moved to the north of Russia, near Siberia, because it was safer for him there as a Jew. He worked there in medicine before moving to the U.S.

Gennadiy now lives in Hamden with his daughter and grandchildren nearby. The family celebrates their Jewish heritage. Some Holocaust survivors don’t want their family to be very Jewish. Understandably, they associate it with being dangerous after their traumatic experiences. They think it is good to assimilate to a new culture and life. For Gennadiy, however, it’s a different story. He wants his grandchildren to remember who they are, and have a strong Jewish identity.
RABBI’S CORNER

On Shavuot, We Are All Jews-by-Choice

By Rabbi Marci Bellows
Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek

I feel bad for Shavuot – the lesser-known, infrequently celebrated, but super important, holiday in late spring. It should be one of the biggest festivals on our calendar. It is one of the Shalosh Regalim, the three pilgrimage holidays of ancient Judaism. Plus, it celebrates the receiving of the Torah on the top of Mt. Sinai.

Yet, because it usually falls after the typical religious school year, or even after secular school has ended, few of us have a chance to properly observe Shavuot, the festival of “Weeks.”

I find Shavuot to be incredibly inspiring. On this day, we reenact the moment of revelation. We remember what it was like to receive the Torah, the central holy text of our tradition. In that extraordinary moment, all of the Israelites arguably became Jews, in that we finally had a unifying document that would serve as the basis for our religion, culture and values-system. Our sages saw it as a communal conversion moment; we all accepted Torah as our own on that day.

Likewise, we read from the Book of Ruth on Shavuot, and we celebrate her individual conversion to Judaism. With the following words, she linked herself to our people and our beliefs:

Do not urge me to leave you, to turn back and not follow you. For wherever you go, I will go; wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God.

Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. Thus and more may the Eternal do to me if anything but death parts me from you.” (Ruth 1:16-17)

In my third year of rabbinical school, I began a student pulpit in Florida. One part of my two-year experience there that will always stay with me involved my work with a prospective convert, Tammy. In the middle of my first year, she approached me to discuss the possibility of conversion to Judaism. She had read quite a bit about Judaism already, and she really felt that the Jewish community was her true home.

Besides my general work with Tammy, one particular comment she made led me to a focused study and growing passion for the area of conversion. During a discussion of images of Jews in the media, she said: “Here I am: I know so many of the rituals, I can pray with the congregation on Friday night, I celebrate the holidays and I am learning Hebrew. But, even with all of those things, I still don’t understand Seinfeld!”

She attributed her reaction to her southern upbringing, but it really got me thinking. If Judaism is a religion and a culture, then how and when does a Jew-by-choice truly take on all aspects of Jewish life? A person can learn the rites and rituals of Judaism, but how does someone develop a religious sense of life? How does anyone develop a Jewish sense of humor?

It was at this point that I realized that so much goes into the process of choosing Judaism – a change in identity was necessary for the change to truly take place. An exposure to, and a comfort with – all things Jewish (holidays, food, humor, literature, sacred texts, other Jews, stories and folktales, and much more) was necessary for one to feel truly at home in the Jewish community. Thus, I decided, in my final year of rabbinical school, to write my rabbinical thesis on the psychosocial aspects of adopting a Jewish identity.

Sage Resh Lakish wrote a famous midrash: “The proselyte who converts is dearer to God than Israel when they stood at Mt. Sinai. Why? Because had Israel not seen the thunders and the lightning and the mountains quaking and the sound of the shofars, they would not have accepted Torah. But this convert, who saw none of these things, came, surrendered himself to the Holy One, and accepted upon himself the Kingdom of Heaven. Could any be dearer than he?”

In my 13 years as a rabbi, I have personally worked with at least three dozen conversion students. I have sat on a Beit Din for many, many more. I have heard many a student weep with joy and wonder from the waters of the mikveh. They enter the waters in one state, and they emerge a Jew. Something magical, mystical, and beautiful happens in the water, and he or she is now fully a Jew. They won’t ever have to tell anyone that they have converted if they don’t want to – they can just say that they are Jewish. A favorite midrash of mine discusses the souls who gathered at Sinai to receive the covenant – the text says that the Torah is given to those who stand there, and those who are not there. One midrash believes that this refers to future converts, meaning they were at Sinai, as well. Thus, when I conclude a conversion ceremony, I do not say, “Welcome to the Jewish people.” Rather, I say, “Welcome Back.”

As we continue to count the Omer and thus approach the festival of Shavuot, we all reaffirm our Judaism. In an important way, we are all Jews-by-choice. We all choose to be here, to be a part of this special global community and to apply a Jewish lens to our lives. I hope that we all remember to appreciate this precious heritage, so easily taken for granted, and use its teachings to inspire us to live lives of goodness, righteousness and justice.

JCRC Legislative Breakfast

Members of the Jewish community met with state representatives at the Jewish Community Relations Council Legislative Breakfast on March 20. Senator Len Fasano & Rep. Themis Klarides, along with Rep. Pat Dillon, shared their support for new hate crime legislation, encouraging the community and legislature to come together and say “no more,” and to view this as an opportunity to set a tone for what Connecticut will stand for.

Steve Ginsburg, director of the Connecticut office of ADL, said in regards to the rise in anti-Semitic incidents, that we need the “community coming together to say this is not who we are.” Ginsburg said that there has been a 100 percent rise in the reporting of incidents to ADL since last summer.

Other topics discussed included anti-Semitism, school security, refugees, Connecticut’s relationship with Israel and Israeli business with the Consulate General of Israel to New England Consul General Yehuda Yaakov.

Left to right: Representative Pat Dillon, Senator Len Fasano, Consulate General Yehuda Yaakov, Consulate General of Israel to New England.
**Henry J. Spencer Art Exhibit**

The lobby of Beth El-Keser Israel [BEKI] has been transformed this spring into a bright landscape of butterflies, thanks to Woodbridge-based artist Henry J. Spencer’s exhibition, “Capturing Bialik’s Butterflies, Poet’s Voice Meets Camera’s Eye.” Spencer has created large digital inject images of Monarch butterflies on canvas, each surrounded by a few words from a Hebrew poem by Chaim Nachman Bialik. Spencer will give an artist talk at 1:00 p.m. on May 6, which is free of charge and open to the public. Spencer’s exhibit is on display through July 9. BEKI is located at 85 Harrison Street, New Haven.

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**New Assistant Director to Join Camp Laurelwood**

By Camp Laurelwood Staff

It is with great pleasure that we announce that Louis Lasko has joined Camp Laurelwood as our new assistant director.

Lasko brings 10 years of summer camp experience to this position. Prior to Camp Laurelwood, Lasko served three years as the director of day camp at the Jewish Community Center in Springfield, Massachusetts. He also served as the assistant director of Camp O-la-mi and the director of the Kids Place after school program at the Stamford JCC in Stamford. Lasko holds a Bachelor’s degree in elementary education from Elmira College.

Lasko was selected as a Merrin Teen Professional Fellow in 2012. He collaborated with members of the Jewish community to develop leadership opportunities for teens. Lasko has built his career around creating fun, engaging and diverse programs for children, which he will continue to implement in his new role at Camp Laurelwood. He will also be responsible for training and supervising camp staff.

As someone who grew up at overnight camp, Lasko understands how meaningful and life-changing a great camp experience can be. He can’t wait for summer to begin at Camp Laurelwood!

**About Camp Laurelwood** For the past 79 summers, Camp Laurelwood has provided the Connecticut area with a fun, safe and inclusive environment that builds self-esteem and encourages personal growth for children ages 5-15. Camp Laurelwood allows campers to explore and enhance Jewish identity and values, encourage healthy lifestyle choices and lay the foundation for positive, lifelong friendships.

For more information, please go to camplaurelwood.org

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**Temple Beth David Welcomes New Rabbi**

Temple Beth David of Cheshire is proud to announce that Rabbi Micah S. Ellenson will join the TBD community as rabbi beginning July 1. Rabbi Ellenson comes to Temple Beth David with a wealth of experience, warmth and enthusiasm. “I feel very blessed to come to a community that has so many wonderful things going on. The Temple Beth David congregation has a strong foundation of warmth, caring and commitment to Judaism, social justice and spirituality. In my brief time with this community, I can already see that Temple Beth David, Cheshire and the Greater New Haven Jewish community possess the right tools and potential for growth and exploration. There are so many exciting things in store for TBD. I feel so fortunate that my family and I are going to be a part of this wonderful Jewish community.”

Rabbi Ellenson, 39, was ordained by Hebrew Union College in 2014, and currently serves as the director of congregational learning at Temple De Hirsch Sinai in Seattle, Washington, where he oversees Pre-K to 12 religious school, preschool and early childhood education programs, temple youth groups, libraries and adult lifelong learning. He has extensive experience as a Jewish educator, having served at Milken Community High School and the Stephen S. Wise Temple in Los Angeles for many years. Rabbi Ilene Lerner Bogosian, who is currently serving as Temple Beth David’s interim rabbi, stated that she is excited to be working with the Temple Beth David community while they prepare to welcome their new rabbi and his family. “Rabbi Ellenson is a mensch whose love of learning and Jewish tradition will bring new growth and joy to the congregation,” said Rabbi Bogosian.

Rabbi Ellenson, his wife Sara, and their two daughters are already planning their move to Cheshire. According to Kim Math, Temple Beth David’s president, “Our entire community is looking forward to the enthusiasm, leadership and spiritual guidance that Rabbi Ellenson brings, and we are equally excited to welcome his young family into our temple home.”

Please join Temple Beth David for Kabbalat Shabbat services Fridays at 7:30 p.m., and Saturday mornings with Torah Study at 9:00 a.m. Family services are held the first Friday of every month beginning at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to join Temple Beth David in worship, learning and social action. Please contact the Temple office at (203) 272-0037 or our website www.TBDCshire.org to learn more. Everyone interested in learning more about the vibrant Temple Beth David community is encouraged to inquire about our special “Welcome Rabbi Ellenson” events planned for 2017. Temple Beth David of Cheshire is located at 3 Main Street in the heart of Cheshire.
By Dr. Dena Schulman-Green
Women’s Philanthropy President

It is a special pleasure to share all that Women’s Philanthropy has been up to over the past several months. Our newly structured leadership cabinet has been meeting monthly to revisit all aspects of Women’s Philanthropy in order to truly operationalize our updated mission statement.

I would like to acknowledge all of the cabinet members for giving their time and expertise to so creatively advance our work. Many, many thanks to Dana Schwartz (Lion Chair), Nancy Cohen (Pomegranate Chair), Emily Sandberg and Lauren Miller (Sabra Society Co-Chairs), and Elaine Braffman (Israel and Overseas Affairs Chair). I would also like to thank Jennifer Bayer, our Federation staff member, for expanding our partnerships and for setting and meeting a very high bar in the quality of our programs. I would also like to thank all those who have hosted or partnered with us on our events so graciously, including Tower One/Tower East, Jewish Family Service, JCC, FORCE (Facing our Risk of Cancer Empowered), Yale New Haven Health, Westville Kosher Market and Manjares.

Women’s Philanthropy Mission Statement

Women’s Philanthropy of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven strives to engage all women across a broad spectrum of age, geography, Jewish observance and philanthropic ability to be a welcoming, accessible, educated and supportive community.

Women’s Philanthropy seeks to accomplish its mission by:
- Being open to all women who share a commitment to support the Jewish community locally, in Israel and globally
- Offering a full calendar of educational, social and fundraising events
- Collaborating to support community partners by identifying and addressing needs and opportunities
- Raising more than $1 million annually in support of the Jewish Federation’s Annual Campaign

To offer something for everyone, we have more than doubled the number of Women’s Philanthropy events in a year and have increased their accessibility. We have also partnered with community agencies and organizations to highlight the important services and volunteer opportunities in our community. Consider joining us at some, or all, of our upcoming programs, including Living Well With Illness, co-organized with the Sherwin B. Nuland Foundation (May 11, 7-9 p.m., Congregation B’nai Jacob), and an evening with Marjorie Ingall, Author of “Mameleh Knows Best” (May 16, 6-8 p.m., Grassy Hill Country Club), co-organized with the JCC of Greater New Haven and featuring PJ Library. At this event, we are very proud to host a special pre-event reception to honor our Sabra Society members. The newly created Sabra Society recognizes women who support the Federation Annual Campaign with a gift of at least $365, or a dollar a day. This year, our signature event, Cool Reads with Roxanne Coady of RJ Julia Booksellers (June 21, 6:30-9 p.m., Guilford Yacht Club), will feature Camp Laurelwood, and we invite all women to bring their daughter(s) and/or a special young lady (age 12 and up) to enjoy supper and summer reading on Long Island Sound! Please look for additional information on the Federation website, in your email and in your mailboxes! Not getting our correspondence? Email Jennifer Bayer at jbayer@jewishnewhaven.org.

Amidst your busy schedules, I hope you will check in with Women’s Philanthropy and check out what we’re up to! Coming soon: our Mitzvah Booklet with community-wide volunteer opportunities for the whole family (including Bar and Bat Mitzvah projects!), opportunities to be an event chair, a committee to welcome new families to our community and more!

If you are interested in traveling to Israel on a very exciting women’s trip, please save the dates, Feb. 4-8, 2018, for Federation’s Women’s Philanthropy Mission to Israel, Heart to Heart.

I would be delighted to hear your ideas for Women’s Philanthropy. Please contact me at dschulmangreen@me.com, and thank you for supporting Women’s Philanthropy.
Living Well with Serious Illness

A Community Education Event

May 11 | 7 - 8:30 p.m. | RSVP: jewishnewhaven.org/events

In an interactive session, learn about palliative care and what resources are available. Discussion led by Dr. Jennifer Kapo: Chief, Yale New Haven Palliative Care Service. Dr. Dena Schulman-Green, Women’s Philanthropy President.

JCARR’s Rays of Hope

By Jean Silk
Coordinator, Jewish Community Alliance for Refugee Resettlement

What is it like to be a refugee in America in 2017? Amidst all the political debate in Washington, D.C., about President Trump’s refugee bans, what often gets lost is the voice of the refugee. In celebration of World Refugee Day on June 20, I thought it was time to bring that voice, that perspective, to our community.

Since Dec. 2015, I have been the coordinator of the Jewish Community Alliance for Refugee Resettlement (JCARR). Volunteers from five local synagogues, in partnership with the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven and its Jewish Community Relations Council, serve as a co-sponsor to resettle refugees who come to New Haven through IRIS, Integrated Refugee and Immigration Services. We welcomed a family of young adult siblings from the Democratic Republic of Congo in April 2016, a family from Syria on election night (Nov. 8, 2016), and a second Syrian family, who arrived on Jan. 26, 2017, the day President Trump released a draft of his Executive Order banning refugees from seven Muslim countries.

A short while ago, “Mom” (for reasons of security, we don’t use their names in print) in the first Syrian family was talking about “synagogue” – “not here” – “other” and “boom, boom.” I realized she was talking about what she heard on the news – bomb threats at Jewish Community Centers in multiple states and gravestones overturned in Jewish graveyards. “I’m sorry,” Mom said repeatedly, touching her heart. This expression of empathy from a woman who has personally suffered the loss of her home, her security, her livelihood, her extended family, even her country, moved me deeply. Her ability to empathize with me, and with the Jewish community at large, spoke volumes about her character and how interconnected we all are.

Recently, I took the second Syrian family to do some grocery shopping. It being the last day of the month, the dad asked me whether money they didn’t spend this month on their SNAP (food stamps) card would carry over to the next month. I didn’t know, so he wound up gathering a larger than normal amount of groceries. When the clerk rang up their total she explained that it was $83 more than they had left on their card. I asked if they had cash to pay the balance, and they said no. I explained they would have to put back some items. I turned to the tall, grey-haired man behind us in line and apologized for the delay, adding this was going to take some

CONTINUED ON PG. 27
SCHA Students Tour Israel

Twenty-seven seventh and eighth grade students from Southern Connecticut Hebrew Academy spent 10 days in February on the Middle School Israel Experience Trip. They traveled throughout Israel, to sites both ancient and modern. In addition to traveling all through Jerusalem, including the Old City and the Kotel, some of the highlights of the trip were visits to the Judean desert, the Dead Sea, and Masada in the South; Machon Ayalon and Holon in the West; and Tzefat, Tsfat, and Mt. Arbel in the North.

The memories and lessons the students brought home are many and varied. Seventh grader Tziporah Drukier, “learned that there are many layers of history in Yerushalayim.” She was in awe of the excavation sites that revealed many of the places mentioned in Tanach. Seventh grade boys Zachary Schumman, Shlomo Malka and Max Forti were impressed by the ancient architecture in Jerusalem – that one of the world’s largest stones ever to be lifted without machinery is part of the Kotel (the Western Wall), and the use of arches to add new buildings on top of old. Several students felt a powerful connection to the past while visiting ancient sites.

Eighth grader David Holtzberg, “learned how the farmers in the time of the Beis Hamikdash lived and worked.” Kayla Glotzer, also in eighth grade, remarked that during the visit to Masada, “the caves were all from King David’s time and David may have stood in the same one I stood in.”

Everyone enjoyed the food, the very wide variety of sweets, and the opportunity they had to help make pita bread, but the overwhelming favorite experience of the students was going donkey riding in Kfar Kedem! One thing they all learned, as eighth grader Zachary Epstein expressed, “Israel is beautiful.”
Ezra Academy
Robotics and coding program - $3,000
Funding sought to purchase hardware robot kits for newly created Robotics and Coding program for the middle school. The program will allow students in grades 6-8 to receive hands-on education in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) through the practical application of coding. These kits allow students to build robots that will interface with a computer program. The students will be learning to write the code on the computer that will allow the robot to move.

Ezra Academy
Science textbooks and resources - $3,000
Ezra Academy has strengthened their focus on using innovative technology such as SmartBoards and 3-D Printers within their science programs. Funding sought for science textbooks and resources for grades 4-8 to enable them to continue to enhance their use of technology and explore the ever-changing world of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math). The new textbooks will allow students to explore new lessons in engineering, technology, as well as the scientific and discovery methods.

To learn more about these programs and other funding opportunities, contact Lisa Stanger:
Executive Director, Jewish Foundation of GNH
360 Amity Road, Woodbridge, CT
203-387-2424 x382
lstanger@jewishnewhaven.org
Thank you...because it’s always something.

Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven 2017 Annual Campaign
$2,037,407
Raised as of 4.5.17
**Your Campaign Dollars at Work**

**LOCALLY: CAMP LAURELWOOD**

In today’s secular world, it is becoming increasingly difficult to keep our children connected to their Jewish heritage, culture and traditions. Without these strong ties to their religion and each other, youth and young adults are less likely to make Judaism an integral part of their own families and communities as they mature. The best way to enhance and increase Jewish identity in our youth and help sustain our proud heritage is through Jewish camping experiences and here in Connecticut, that is Camp Laurelwood.

Since 1937, Camp Laurelwood has integrated Jewish traditions and culture to provide an environment that is welcoming to all, known in the Jewish faith as Hachnasat Orchim. Camp Laurelwood provides opportunities where each child can find their own comfort level with their religion and live American values through a Jewish lens. Research indicates that participation in Jewish summer camp has a tremendous positive impact on campers’ adult Jewish life. For example, they are 10 percent more likely to marry a Jewish partner, 55 percent more likely to feel attached to Israel, 21 percent more likely to feel that being Jewish is very important and 45 percent more likely to attend synagogue at least once per month. Camp Laurelwood’s mission is to provide a fun, safe and inclusive environment that builds self-esteem and encourages personal growth. The programs explore and enhance Jewish identity and values, encourage healthy lifestyle choices and lay the foundation for positive, lifelong friendships. This is achieved through a wide array of programming such as swimming, dance, music, arts & crafts, all sports including Gaga and boating, drama, nature and so much more. Programs are age appropriate, fun and meaningful, while working on skill development and meeting the core values of Jewish camping. In summer 2016, Camp Laurelwood served 311 overnight campers and 44 day campers, added five new Gaga courts, three new tetherball sets, created tournaments in archery, soccer and tennis, created a Gaga League and renovated the infirmary. Through the financial support of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, made possible through the Federation’s Annual Campaign, Camp Laurelwood provides significant dollars to campers for summer camp scholarships; last year 33 campers who would not have otherwise been able to attend camp received scholarships. For summer 2017, so far 24 scholarship offers have been made with 22 accepted. Furthermore, our Federation dollars provide staff with appropriate resources to better engage and serve the campers, including training opportunities aimed to increase staff’s skills and experiences and provide resources to enhance camp programming, including more robust sports activities and a stronger creative arts program.

Because of your support of the annual campaign, we are giving the gift of camp to children who otherwise wouldn’t have the chance to attend or benefit from this experience. Support the Annual Campaign of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven and help to fund community-wide programming that aids people in need here at home, in Israel and around the world, as well as nurtures and sustains programs that enrich our Jewish community. From feeding the hungry to helping the unemployed, from supporting families with special needs to funding Jewish education and Israel experiences, the Jewish Federation is focused on addressing the most pressing issues facing our community every day.

**INTERNATIONALLY: EASTERN UKRAINE**

What started as a political crisis in November 2013 has evolved into armed conflict and near-humanitarian catastrophe in eastern Ukraine. As social and economic conditions in the country continue to deteriorate, every aspect of daily life is affected. The estimated 200,000 Jews of Ukraine — the world’s fifth largest Jewish population — are not immune. They face a crumbling economy, terrifying realities of ongoing conflict, political instability, ethnic tensions and anti-Semitism.

Through our national office, the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven is working with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), The Jewish Agency for Israel and others to care for our family in Ukraine. Much of this work takes place behind the scenes, where we can be more effective on a personal, human level. Our system’s work in Ukraine addresses real and immediate human needs, from assistance for internally displaced people to Jewish continuity and communal programming to ongoing homecare and Hesed services.

- The Jewish Agency’s Mayak Center for Displaced Persons has served close to 2,000 people since it opened its doors in the summer of 2014. The Center helped 40 displaced people a day in 2016 and continues to serve large groups in 2017.
- 5,851 new olim from Ukraine have received assistance from The Jewish Agency’s aliyah and absorption services.
- Local populations have received assistance with security needs, Jewish continuity and communal programs, and meaningful connections to Israel.
- Over 6,500 people have been directly helped through JDC’s Hesed and other assistance programs in Ukraine. Our agencies provide food, medication and homecare services to 4,500 people in the conflict zone on a monthly basis.
- Our agencies are also there to help formerly displaced people return to their homes or resettle in new locations, and find a sense of security and normalcy.

Thanks to the generosity of this community that touches more Jewish lives than any other entity on the planet, Federation is there in every random act of kindness, every family rescued, every spiritual awakening. Every time we see our fellow Jews’ plight as that of our own, we strive to repair a broken world.
Why I Go to Camp Every Summer

By Rabbi Michael Farbman
Temple Emanuel of Greater New Haven

Every summer, I get to spend two weeks at URJ Camp Eisner, serving as a Rabbi on Faculty. Every day, I get to teach and play, and teach through play, and enjoy the magnificent Jewish “bubble” that the camp creates for every child, every teen and every adult that comes through the gates. While it is a lot of work, and I feel like I need a vacation when I get back home, I wouldn’t change it for the world! A few years ago at a conference, I was given a big badge which said “Because of Camp I,” offering me the chance to find my own way to end the sentence. I wrote, “...know the future leaders of our movement.” I still keep it on my desk, as a reminder of how just a few weeks at a Jewish summer camp can help shape the future leaders of our people.

Over the last few years, Camp Eisner/Crane Lake, and now 6 Points Sci-Tech, have honored Temple Emanuel by sending a large number of our kids to camp. As a small community we couldn’t compete with larger Northeast synagogue numbers, but when you look at the percentage of our kids that go to Jewish camp, our numbers are truly impressive. In addition to URJ camps, our students attend Camp Laurelwood, as well as a number of other Jewish and non-Jewish camps. Why does it matter? Here are the words of one of our parents, Sharon Feuerstein:

“Jewish sleep away camp is not Hebrew School in the summer. It is a chance for Jewish kids to have fun, and to be surrounded by others that share a common bond. They get to think about, safely question and better understand how Judaism is a part of their everyday lives, not just about going to services. They get a sense of how they fit into the larger world around them — and how they can make important contributions to this world. While at Jewish camp, they get the experience of knowing how to take care of themselves, at the same time as caring for others. They get music and Shabbat – a day of rest, a day of community, a day filled with lots of song and dance, a day that is different from the rest of the week so that they have space and time to relax. They get freedom from their hectic outside worlds filled with computers, iPhones, Instagram, AP exams, sports tryouts and so many other commitments. Lastly, and most importantly, they make the most amazing friends.”

Emissaries at JCC Day Camps

Four Israeli teen emissaries will join JCC Day Camps for an Israel Week program this summer. These emissaries are high school graduates from Afula-Gilboa, selected and trained by the Jewish Agency for Israel. They will be volunteering for one week with Camp prior to beginning their army service. The Israeli Emissary program is made possible through support from the Jewish Federation’s Annual Campaign.

The summer is not here just yet, but I have been dreaming of camp all winter, and all the wonderful possibilities it will give our children. I can’t wait for my annual ice cream party with Temple Emanuel kids at Camp Eisner.
THE FIRST WEEK OF MAY IS NATIONAL CHILDREN’S BOOK WEEK. 
PJ Library books and other picture books are a great way to celebrate this week and engage your children in discussing the great lessons inherent in all of these books!

SUNDAY, APRIL 30 As Israel’s Memorial Day for Fallen Soldiers and Israel’s Yom Hazikaron are observed, “Sammy’s Spider’s First Trip to Israel” is a fitting choice. The book by Sylvia Rous, illustrated by Katherine Jaunus Kahn, for children ages 3-4, is from the Sammy Spider series. Sammy gets a tour of Israel. Josh – who Sammy secretly accompanies in each book of the series, offers the spider a full sensory view and feel of Israel from Jerusalem and Tel Aviv to a Kibbutz and the Dead Sea.

MONDAY, MAY 1 “Family Ties,” by Shoshana Banana. This sweet introduction offers children a glimpse of the world and the stories that can come home from our travels. Enjoy the book and decorate your own tie with your family theme or origins! Also see her in person May 21 at RJ Julia Booksellers in Madison.

TUESDAY, MAY 2 “Bear Feels Sick,” by Karma Wilson, illustrated by Jane Chapman, for ages 3-4, offers us a lovely lesson about taking care of our friends & family when sick.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3 “Chicken Soup, Chicken Soup,” by Pamela Mayer, illustrated by Deborah Melmon, for ages 6-7, is about Sophie whose grandmas are from two different cultures. They each make their own kind of chicken soup – and each soup is delicious!

THURSDAY, MAY 4 “Gabriel’s Horn,” by Eric Kimmel, illustrated by Maria Surducan, for children ages 7-8, is a story about a stranger who appears unexpectedly at Gabriel’s house and he gives him an odd gift – an old horn. But as Gabriel and his family take care of it and good luck seems to follow.

FRIDAY, MAY 5 “Yaffa and Fatima: Shalom, Salaam,” adapted by Fawzia Ginani-Williams, illustrated by Chiara Fedele, for children ages 6-7, discusses the different cultures of Israel so that we can teach children to make special efforts to get to know families with different backgrounds.

SATURDAY/SHABBAT MAY 6 “A Hat for Mrs. Goldman,” by Michelle Edwards, illustrated by G. Brian Karas, for children ages 5-6, is a lovely intergenerational story. Since Mrs. Goldman is always knitting for everyone else in the neighborhood, her young neighbor Sophie helps her out by making pom-poms. But one day Sophie decides she wants to go beyond pom-poms and knit something for Mrs. Goldman too. Who knew knitting could be so tricky? But Sophie gets an idea that ends up with a one-of-a-kind hat for her friend.

Friday, May 5, 2017

Barry Vine Send a Kid to Camp Scholarship Fund
By David S. Fischer, M.D.
“Jews of New Haven” Editor

For the past 65 years or more, the Jewish Community Center (JCC) of Greater New Haven or its predecessors have operated a summer camp for children of its members, but accepts children of non-members for a higher tuition fee. In 1953, 10-year old Barry Vine was fortunate to receive a scholarship to the camp. He has never forgotten that experience.

“Barry also has fond memories of summers spent as a scholarship camper at the JCC. He relates that camp ‘opened my world to new vistas and experiences. We traveled to Woodmont, the summer home of many Jewish families, where, as young boys, we sometimes peeked into the girls’ dressing areas, only to be scolded by our counselors. We learned camp songs, which we sang as we traveled to Wharton’s Brook and Chatfield Hollow, parks where we swung and had cookouts. Each day we ate freshly cooked kosher lunches and on rainy days we went to the movies at the Whitney Theatre. We had arts and crafts classes and played many games, but most of all we developed life-long friendships with campers and counselors who became our mentors.’ (Barry has been a strong supporter of camping programs and chairs the JCC Camp Scholarship Fund),” Jews in New Haven (JINH) 9, 2009, pp. 244-253.

In 2003, Barry and a group of his close friends informally started raising funds for the JCC summer camp with some success. In 2004, they formally established the Barry Vine Send a Kid to Camp Scholarship Fund because they knew that Barry’s friendships were legion and if he vouched for a charity it was worthwhile and he always “put his money where his mouth was.” If he asked you to give, he was giving much more. From his 1953 experience, Barry knew how important a summer camp experience is, especially for a city kid who needs a subsidy (partial scholarship) to attend for two weeks or more. Since then, the fund has raised close to one million dollars for scholarships.

The camp provides a unique opportunity for the children to spend time in a safe and enriching environment and to enjoy activities that enhance life experiences and friendships that begin one summer and continue to grow and evolve throughout life. All activities have been at the JCC campus in Woodbridge, including the outdoor pool and swim lessons, drama stage, sports fields, music and dance, basketball, human foosball, field trips, archery, picnics, arts and crafts and four miles of hiking trails. The complete version of this article is published in the Jewish Historical Society of Greater New Haven’s newly released “Jews of New Haven” Volume X, and has been printed here with permission.

JCC Day Camps is gearing up for another lifetime of fun in one endless summer at its campgrounds at 360 Amity Road in Woodbridge. The 2017 Camp Season is June 26 - Aug. 11. For more information or to register, visit jccnh.org/camp.
Tax-Smart Charitable Giving Opportunities
FOR THOSE 70 1/2 & OVER
The IRA Charitable Rollover is an opportunity for donors to establish an endowment or make an outright charitable gift with a tax-free distribution from your IRA. Consider taking advantage by making a non-taxable distribution from your IRA to the Jewish Foundation, Jewish Federation Annual Campaign, synagogues, local agencies, or any charitable program or organization. You can designate the distribution for current needs or endowment purposes. The gift can be earmarked for scholarships, capital projects, or any of the many vital programs and projects that impact our community.

HERE'S A HYPOTHETICAL SITUATION:
Mr. Cohn distributes $18,000 from his IRA to his synagogue to establish a permanent endowment, providing annual funding for synagogue school scholarships. Mr. Cohn names the fund after his grandchildren. Without the IRA Charitable Rollover, Mr. Cohn’s donation would be subject to federal and Connecticut income tax regardless of whether it was distributed directly to charity. Although he could claim a corresponding “charitable income tax deduction” on his federal income tax return, he could not claim any deduction on his Connecticut income tax return. The State of Connecticut would tax the distribution. With the IRA Charitable Rollover, the $18,000 distribution is non-taxable for both federal and Connecticut income tax purposes (even if it is used toward Mr. Cohn’s minimum distribution requirement). Therefore, it is tax neutral. Mr. Cohn will have created a wonderful Jewish legacy for his family and community, reduced his Connecticut income tax liability and reduced his “taxable estate.”

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES?
If your income is sufficient to sustain you, and your IRA minimum distribution requirement only increases your tax liability, then this allows you to donate your distribution directly to charity without it being taxed. In addition, if you have a taxable estate, then your IRA will be subject to income and estate taxes once both you and your spouse are deceased. The result being that your non-spouse beneficiaries could receive 25 cents on the dollar for your IRA assets. The rollover, however, allows you to remove some of those tax-plagued assets from your estate while also providing you with the opportunity to make a significant charitable gift. If you have a secondary smaller IRA, which is not a necessary income source, this is an opportunity to donate that IRA to our community and make a significant and much needed impact.

TEN THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER:
1. The distribution from your IRA must be made directly to the charitable organization.
2. You must be 70 1/2 or older at the time that the distribution is made (note, this differs from the minimum distribution requirement where you only need to turn 70 1/2 during the year).
3. The maximum amount that can qualify is $100,000.
4. You can distribute less than $100,000.
5. The IRA Charitable Rollover will satisfy your minimum distribution requirement.
6. You can rollover more than your minimum distribution requirement in addition to your minimum distribution requirement.
7. The amount of the IRA Charitable Rollover does not need to be reported as income on your federal or Connecticut income tax return.
8. Only distributions from traditional (401K and 403B are included) and Roth IRAs qualify.
9. To qualify, the distribution can only be for charitable purposes and cannot be designated for a donor advised fund, supporting organization, private foundation or life-income gift (charitable trust or annuity).
10. No goods or services can be received in exchange for the distribution (i.e. tickets or dinner).

In most cases, you will need to contact your IRA plan administrator/financial institution directly.

Please consult your professional advisor concerning your tax plans.
For more information please contact, Lisa A. Stanger, Esq., Executive Director of the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven, lstanger@jewishnewhaven.org, (203) 387-2424, ext. 382.
Teva Tuesday: A Weekly Outdoor Classroom Experience

By Marcy Thomaswick  
Ezra Academy Faculty

This is the first year of a new program called “Teva Tuesday” in our multi-age fourth and fifth grade classroom at Ezra Academy. The program integrates secular studies, Judaic studies, science, holidays, writing and social/emotional development, as well as cultivates a community of excited, motivated and hands-on learners.

We begin each outdoor time with a niggun and blessing. We kicked off the year by allowing the students to become comfortable in the woods – realizing that quite literally, some students had never walked on an unmarked path. We then tied the outside time into the month of Elul and new beginnings. “At first I was nervous about Teva Tuesday because of bees and cold weather. Now I like it a lot because I like being in the rain and stomping in the water. I like trying to build things like our shaduf, even though it didn’t exactly work,” said student Dani Brandt.

We have used our outdoor time to connect with our curriculum. For example, we had been doing a unit about archaeology and how we learn about the past. The students started their discovery with a puzzle activity. Each group received only a few pieces of the whole puzzle. They then realized how hard it was to figure out the full picture with only a few pieces. The activity helped the students understand what an archaeologist must go through to find out about the past. For Teva Tuesday, the students ventured outside and worked on their second activity. They used cardboard tubes to look through and then named the tubes “monotubes.” After looking through the monotube, students wrote descriptions and created questions about what they saw for their group members. At the start, the task was difficult for them because they could only see a small section of a very large picture. But students were then able to relate it back to the archaeology lesson and the pieces of a puzzle and construct a more complete image.

Along with the science teacher, we reworked the science curriculum using National Standards and Common Core. By doing this over the summer, we were able to find areas in which to use the Teva Tuesday component and link it to the identified units of study in science. One example is the topic of erosion. While in the science lab, we used water tables and conducted experiments by changing only one variable in order to measure how water impacted the sand. Then we moved outdoors to complete activities using wind and water. Additionally, we did water testing of the stream found in our outdoor space and then created water filters.

I know that our new Teva Tuesday program is successful because of the positive feedback from everyone involved. “I thought it would be fun to be outside because I like nature and it’s relaxing. My favorite activity is hitbodedut (mindfulness/meditation),” said student Na’ama Klein. Perhaps more importantly, the students eagerly look forward to it and have begun generating their own questions and ideas about ways to utilize our time spent outdoors. As we move forward, we hope to extend this idea of outdoor education to other grades in our school.

Communal Purim Seudah

Community members enjoyed the festivities at the Communal Purim Seudah at Westville Synagogue on March 12, and celebrated as one united community.
JHSC Students Create a Banner for Shabbat Across Stamford

As the saying goes, “More than Jews keep Shabbat, Shabbat keeps the Jews.”

On March 3, Stamford hosted its annual “Shabbat Across Stamford,” which celebrates the unity of Jews through the observance of Shabbat and the communal enjoyment of a Friday night meal. This year, the students who participate in the art Tefillah class at The Jewish High School of Connecticut were honored with the task of creating a banner for the occasion.

The student-made banner encapsulates the true essence of Shabbat as characterized and envisioned by the students. The students, with the guidance of their teacher Morah Chana Stein, cut, glittered, glued and drew the setting of a Shabbat table, highlighting the traditional blessing of the children. The students decided to depict this scene, as it showcases the importance of family, education and youth when observing Shabbat.

While the banner is a beautiful artifact, the truly special outcome of this project was the unity displayed by students from a variety of backgrounds expressing the theme of Shabbat together. These students come from all walks of the community and reflect the idea of what Shabbat across Stamford stands for. Conversations and connections about Shabbat are something that is very special about the “Shabbat Across America” experience as people come together to break bread as a unified community celebrating Shabbat.

Pictured: Sarah Hanna, Zane Roshe, Zoe Jaffe-Berkowitz, Natalie Shclover, Gabriella Lieberman, Celia Rosen, Kovi Bodek

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Friends and Family of Stephen & Mary Beth Saltzman

To purchase a tribute card:
jccnh.org, jewishnewhaven.org, newhavenjewishfoundation.org

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Losing a loved one to Alzheimer’s Disease or dementia is often a tragic, heartbreaking nightmare for the whole family. Eliezer offers a more balanced perspective, based on caring for his mother, who is currently in her 17th year of Alzheimer’s. He presents the riches, the joy and laughter, and ultimately the healing that can also be part of the journey through memory-loss.

Tuesday, June 27, 2017
7:00 pm
Tower One/Tower East
18 Tower Lane
New Haven, CT 06519

For more information contact Susan (203)772-1816, ext. 150 or susan@towerone.org

This program is generously sponsored by Geriatric Adult Psychiatry (GAP), Hamden, CT.
**May**

**Zohar: Kabbalah, Part 2**, May 1, 7:30 - 9:00 PM, FREE, Congregation B’nai Jacob, 75 Rimmon Road, Woodbridge, Contact Rosalind Atkins, (203) 389-2111, rozatkins@optonline.net

**Celebrating Israel Week**, May 2-7, May 2: Family Cookout Night, 6-8 p.m., B’nai Jacob. $15 Adult + child, $5 additional child. May 5: PJ Library Shabbat, 10:30-11:30, ages 2-6 with adult, Temple Beth David, Cheshire. May 5, PJ Library Musical Shabbat, 3:30-4:30 PM, B’nai Jacob, Woodbridge. May 7, 7:30 PM Wine & Dine Israeli Cooking Night, Beth El-Keser Israel, New Haven, $20 for cooking & wine, $10 for wine tasting only. Contact Eliana Sugarman, (203) 387-2424 x306, elianas@jccnh.org

**Operation Entebbe The Greatest Hostage Rescue in History**, May 3, 7:30 - 9:30 PM, $20, Chabad of Orange/Woodbridge, 261 Derby Avenue, Orange, Contact Laura Donahue, (203) 795-7095, ldonahue@schacademy.org, chabadow.org

**Beckerman Jewish Film Series: ‘Indignation’**, May 4, 7:00 - 9:00 PM, $5/students, $10/community, Bucknail Theater - University of New Haven, 300 Boston Post Rd., West Haven, Contact Grace Koo, (203) 387-2424 x228, gracek@jccnh.org

**Capturing Blalik’s Butterflies - Artist’s Talk by Henry J. Spencer**, May 6, 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM, FREE, Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel, 85 Harrison Street, New Haven, Contact Helen Rosenberg, (203) 389-2108 x14, office@beki.org, BEKI.org

**Beckerman Jewish Film Series: ‘Raise the Roof’**, May 7, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, $10, Madison Art Cinemas, 761 Boston Post Rd, Madison, Contact Grace Koo, (203) 387-2424 x 228, gracek@jccnh.org

**Solomon Schechter Ner Tamid**, May 8, 7:00 AM - 9:45 PM, FREE, The Bushnell Performing Arts Center, 166 Capitol Ave., Hartford, Contact Jayne Rotter, jrotter@ssds-hartford.org

**Beckerman Jewish Film Series: ‘The Age of Love’**, May 9, 7:00 - 9:00 PM, FREE, Tower One Tower East, 18 Tower Ln., New Haven, Contact Grace Koo, (203) 387-2424 x 228, gracek@jccnh.org

**Westville Synagogue University presents Rabbi Fred Hyman**, May 10, 7:30 - 9:00 PM, FREE, Westville Synagogue, 74 West Prospect Street, New Haven, Contact Steven Zalesch, (203) 387-9666, sezphl@aol.com

**Living Well with Serious Illness**, May 11, 7:00 - 8:30 PM, FREE, Congregation B’nai Jacob, 75 Rimmon Road, Woodbridge, Contact Jennifer Bayer, (203) 387-2424, x 320, jbayer@jewishnewhaven.org

**TBS Sisterhood Fashion Show**, May 11, 7:00 - 9:00 PM, $15, Temple Beth Sholom, 1809 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, Contact Lauren Piscitelle, TBSsistershood@gmail.com

**Beckerman Jewish Film Series: ‘Disturbing the Peace’**, May 11, 7:00 - 9:00 PM, $10, Regal Branford Stadium 12, 325 East Main St., Branford, Contact Grace Koo, (203) 387-2424 x 228, gracek@jccnh.org

**12th Annual Comedy Deli Night**

**Yale Day of Service - Hebrew Free Cemetery Cleanup**, May 14, 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM, FREE, Hebrew Free Cemetery, 1 Brockett Place, East Haven, Contact Paul Terman, (904) 485-7794, contact@hfbclean.org, hfbclean.org

**The Towers Chorus and Z’Mirah Chorale Performance**, May 14, 7:00 - 8:00 PM, FREE, Tower One/Tower East, 18 Tower Lane, New Haven, Contact Susan Skalka, (203) 772-1816, x 150, susan@towerone.org, towerone.org

**Solomon Schechter Ner Tamid**, May 15, 7:00-9:00 PM, FREE, The Bushnell Performing Arts Center, 166 Capitol Ave. Hartford, Contact Jayne Rotter, (860) 561-0700, jrotter@ssds-hartford.org

**Author Marjorie Ingall, “Mamaleh Knows Best”**, May 16, 7:00 - 9:00 PM, $5/JCC Members, $10/community, Grassy Hill Country Club, 441 Clark Ln, Orange, Contact Grace Koo, (203) 387-2522 x228, gracek@jccnh.org

**JCL Volunteer Appreciation Reception**, May 17, 9:30 - 11:00 AM, FREE, Congregation Mishkan Israel, 785 Ridge Road, Hamden, Contact Brenda Brenner, 203 387-2424 x 308, bbrunner@jewishnewhaven.org, jewishnewhaven.org

**Westville Synagogue University presents Dr. Jay Sokolow**, May 17, 7:30 - 9:00 PM, FREE, Westville Synagogue, 74 West Prospect Street, New Haven, Contact Steven Zalesch, (203) 387-9666, SEZPHL@aol.com

**A Taste of Israeli Cuisine Cooking Series On the Shoreline**, May 18, 7:00 - 8:30 PM, $20, Shoreline Office - Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, 705 Boston Post Rd, Building C, Suite 2A, Guilford, Contact Jill Lesage, (203) 738-0033, jwilesage@jewishnewhaven.org, jewishnewhaven.org/rsvp

**Meditation: Spring Awakening - Shabbat Schmooze**, May 20, 12:45 - 2:45 PM, FREE, Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel, 85 Harrison Street, New Haven, Contact Robin Goldberg, (203) 389-2108 x.14, office@beki.org, BEKI.org

**Jewish Historical Society of Greater New Haven**

**Westville Synagogue Annual Gala**, Jun. 4, 5:00 - 8:00 PM, FREE, Westville Synagogue, 74 West Prospect Street, New Haven, Contact Betsy Schulman, (203) 464-8729, BetsySchulman@gmail.com

**Farewell Party for our Israeli Emissaries**, Jun. 12, 6:30 - 8:30 PM, FREE, JCC of Greater New Haven, 360 Amity Rd., Woodbridge, Contact Amalya Brownstein, (203) 387-2522 x385, amalyab@jccnh.org

**Grill N Chill**, Jun. 14, 5:00 - 8:00 PM, FREE, JCC of Greater New Haven, 360 Amity Road, Woodbridge, Contact Grace Koo, (203) 387-2522 x228, gracek@jccnh.org

**Ezra Academy Graduation Ceremony**, Jun. 15, 7:00 - 9:00 PM, FREE, Congregation B’nai Jacob - Sanctuary, 75 Rimmon Road, Woodbridge, Contact Donna Hamilton, dhamilton@ezraacademycnt.org

**Last day of JCC After School Sunday**, Jun. 16, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, FREE, JCC of Greater New Haven, 360 Amity Road, Woodbridge, Contact Kari McInerney, (203) 772-1816, x 150, susan@towerone.org, towerone.org

**Grill N Chill**, Jun. 28, 5:00 - 8:00 PM, FREE, JCC of Greater New Haven, 360 Amity Road, Woodbridge, Contact Grace Koo, (203) 387-2522 x228, gracek@jccnh.org

**Sunday Funday featuring Touch A Truck!**, Jun. 4, 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM, FREE, JCC of Greater New Haven, 360 Amity Rd., Woodbridge, Contact Eliana Sugarman, (203) 387-2424 x 306, elianas@jccnh.org, jccnh.org

**ADL Greater New Haven Torch of Liberty Event**, Jun. 13, 5:30 - 9:00 PM, $275, Congregation B’nai Jacob, 75 Rimmon Road, Woodbridge, Contact Lisa Ratcliff, (203) 780-0202, lratcliff@adl.org, connecticut.adl.org

**Ezra Academy Graduation Ceremony**, Jun. 15, 7:00 - 9:00 PM, FREE, Congregation B’nai Jacob - Sanctuary, 75 Rimmon Road, Woodbridge, Contact Donna Hamilton, dhamilton@ezraacademycnt.org

**Last day of JCC After School Sunday**, Jun. 16, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, FREE, JCC of Greater New Haven, 360 Amity Road, Woodbridge, Contact Kari McInerney, (203) 387-2522 x228, gracek@jccnh.org

**Cool Reads with Roxanne Coady**, Jun. 21, 6:30 - 8:30 PM, $54, Guilford Yacht Club, Guilford, Contact Jennifer Bayer, jbayer@jewishnewhaven.org

**The Towers to host author, Eliezer Sobel**, Jun. 27, 7:00 - 8:00 PM, FREE, Tower One/Tower East, 18 Tower Lane, New Haven, Contact Susan Skalka, (203) 772-1816, x 150, susan@towerone.org, towerone.org

**Grill N Chill**, Jun. 28, 5:00 - 8:00 PM, FREE, JCC of Greater New Haven, 360 Amity Road, Woodbridge, Contact Grace Koo, (203) 387-2522 x228, gracek@jccnh.org
Sarkany Shares Holocaust Experience with Students

Andy Sarkany spoke to students in Ms. Deja Restrepo’s fifth grade class at Christopher Columbus Family Academy in New Haven, about his experiences during the Holocaust and the Soviet occupation of Hungary.
**Shlichim: Host Families Reflect on Their Year with the Emissaries**

**From the Epstein Family:**
Agreeing to have a total stranger become a part of your family for six months is a bit stressful. Will he like us? We don’t speak much Hebrew - how good is his English? What will he be like? Will we all get along? Will our regular household rhythms be disrupted? Our family took a leap of faith and agreed to host Yotam, and we definitely made the right decision. Yotam is an amazing person! He is kind, intelligent, funny, thoughtful, easygoing, and yes, his English is excellent. He embraces every new experience with enthusiasm. Our regular weeknight dinners are filled with long, wide-ranging conversations on everything from politics to food to the merits of PlayStation versus Xbox. We’ve learned so much about life in Israel. Yotam is very knowledgeable about the U.S., and is always eager to learn more and share his perspectives. Amalya Brownstein, the Young Emissary Coordinator, instructed us to treat Yotam as a member of the family, so we do. He sets the table, walks our dog and does his laundry, just like our kids do. He knows how to raid the fridge for a sweet treat. It is amazing how easily he fits into our family life, and how he has become a part of our family. We miss him when he is out doing his emissary work. Our dog gives him a very warm greeting every time he comes home. During Pesach, we enjoyed sharing one of our favorite holidays with Yotam and adding his voice to the seder table. One day, we look forward to visiting him and his family in Israel.

**From The Grubman Family:**
Our family first experienced the emissary program while our four children were at Ezra Academy. The emissaries were an integral part each morning. They started out each day with a fun song, followed by a “word of the day” during announcements in hopes of teaching each student something new every day. They were young, funny and always loved by every kid. We got to know the two emissaries each year through the programming within the community, and talked one day, that we would love to host an emissary when the time was right. Well, that time had come this year. We said that we would host a girl. After three sons, our fourth child, a daughter, longed to have a sister. Our emissary, Raz, arrived. Suitcases in tow, we helped her to her room and welcomed her into our family. It was the moment we had been anticipating. Nervous. Excited. We dove in, and haven’t looked back. It has been such an amazing experience. Raz has taught us so much more about Israel- the country, its people, culture, language, cuisine and tradition. There is still so much more to learn. We have shown her our country as well, and shared our traditions. It has been such a fun journey so far. We welcomed a new member to our family, and have welcomed her Israeli family into ours as well. It has been an incredible experience. We look forward to learning together, sharing together and taking our lives in a new direction together. Raz is a sister, daughter and a friend all wrapped into one. All because of the emissary program that we said “yes” to. Thank you!

For more information about becoming a host family, please contact Amalya Brownstein amalyab@jccnh.org or (203) 640-4532.
Connecticut Z’mirah Chorale

Since 2006, the Connecticut Z’mirah Chorale has attracted singers from throughout the state to perform music of interest to Jewish audiences. Their mission is to preserve and share all types of Jewish vocal music, which reflect the rich tapestry of our people’s experience. Repertory ranges from complex modern compositions and classical Reform works of Shabbat and High Holiday liturgies to Hebrew, Yiddish, Ladino and Israeli folk and work songs, as well as meaningful pieces by non-Jewish composers. The group, conducted by Kevin Mack, is open to new members, and rehearsals take place on Sundays from 7-9 p.m., at Whitney Center in Hamden, during the spring and fall.

The Chorale will perform on Sunday, May 14, at 7 p.m., at Tower One/Tower East in New Haven. The program will include a sampling of the rich repertoire of Jewish music, including Yiddish folk songs and a sing-along so all can join their voices in sharing our musical heritage.

For information about joining the group, email Chorale President Ben Judd at bjudd9752@sbcglobal.net or Secretary Rhoda Zahler Samuel at rzahler@sbcglobal.net.

Moses Hoskins Art Gallery Exhibit

Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek’s Art Gallery opening in May will feature the work of visual fine artist Moses Hoskins. From Astoria, New York, Hoskins describes his work: “As a visual fine artist, it is customary for me to work abstractly or non-representationally in conventional mixed media; painting and drawing combined. Everything I do is manual. My work is made with old media: cotton canvas on wood stretchers, paint, drawing media and paper. I am some guy who paints and draws and makes collages.” Moses Hoskins’ exhibit with be displayed though July 2017, and is open to the public. Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek is at 55 East Kings Highway, Chester

Ezra Academy Receives Grant

Ezra Academy received a $100,000 matching grant from Avi Chai and an anonymous funder after participating in the PEJE Governance and Fundraising Academy, a special incentive and programming for schools in small communities.

More Jewish Learning at The Towers

Aristotle said it best, “Those who know, do. Those that understand, teach.” Sydney Perry and Ira Wise, with much learning to share and wisdom to impart, have been leading classes on Jewish learning at Tower One/Tower East, and it has been an enriching experience for both teacher and students alike.

For many years, Perry has been an icon in New Haven. She was the executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven for many years. She feels it is an honor for her to teach the Towers’ “adult learners,” as she describes them, because “Intellectual stimulation is so important [for Towers’ residents] to the extent that it adds meaning and relevancy to their personal lives.”

She went on to say more about her teaching at Tower One/Tower East: “The Talmud says that ‘Much have I learned from my teachers; more from my colleagues than from my teachers; and from my students, most of all.’ I have long found this saying to be true.” She also feels that the students “bring their whole selves to the classes.” She sees the intelligence, great knowledge and terrific memories everyone brings, as well as always keeping a sense of humor.

Wise, director of education at Congregation B’nai Israel in Bridgeport, has been involved in educating children for many years. However, he does say that “Teaching Jewish adults is one of the two things I love to do most.” He went on to explain how gratifying teaching the deeper Jewish learning class is because, “It gives me a chance to give back since my parents became [Towers] residents last summer.”

He said that after studying Jewish philosophers and rabbis of the Talmud, he wanted to try something different. “This year we have begun to explore the idea of Israel. We are looking at the land, the people and the nation. The participants will have an opportunity to explore their own feelings and connections, as well as to have a chance to think deeply about the problems facing Israel and its neighbors today.”

For more information on how your loved one can enjoy the many life enriching programs and activities The Towers has to offer or to schedule a tour, please contact Rebecca at (203) 772-1816, ext. 250, rebecca@towersone.org.

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time. He smiled and said, “Don’t worry about it.” Dad was taking things out of the cart, when I heard the man say to the clerk, “I’d like to cover this.” It took a few seconds for us to realize what he meant. When Dad understood, he said, “Oh, no, thank you!” But the man insisted. “Please,” he said, “I want to do this.” He took out his wallet and paid the balance on the groceries. Tears flowed from both our eyes as Mom and I gave each other a huge hug. In one small, yet incredibly significant gesture, this man—this stranger—exemplified what a kind, caring country America can be. So as we celebrate World Refugee Day, what I will be thinking about are the mom and the man at the grocery store; the virtues and values inherent in the refugee program in the U.S., as expressed by individuals, one compassionate act at a time.
What will your Jewish Legacy be?

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- Congregation Sinai
- Westville Synagogue
- Congregation Mishkan Israel
- Hebrew Congregation of Woodmont
- Temple Beth David
- Congregation Or Shalom
- Temple Beth Sholom
- Temple Emanuel
- Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek
- Bikur Cholim Sheveth Achim
- Jews in Need
- Congregation B’nai Jacob
- Congregation Beth El Keser Israel
- Orchard Street Shul
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- Camp Laurelwood
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- Ezra Academy
- Southern Connecticut Hebrew Academy
- Hebrew High School of New England
- Jewish High School of CT
- Jewish Community Center
- UConn Hillel
- Jewish Education
- Jewish Cemetery Association of Greater New Haven
- Jewish Historical Society
- Jewish Community Relations Council/Jewish Coalition for Literacy
- Hebrew Free Burial & Loan Association
- Israel
- New Haven Holocaust Memorial
- New American Acculturation

Create a Jewish Legacy New Haven is a program of the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven and is funded in part by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation of Western Massachusetts.

For more information about Create A Jewish Legacy, contact Lisa Stanger, (203) 387-2424 x382, lstanger@jewishnewhaven.org.