



Federation for Jewish Philanthropy
OF UPPER FAIRFIELD COUNTY

FJP is...
Fortifying Jewish Peoplehood
in

Bridgeport Easton Fairfield Georgetown
Monroe Norwalk Redding Ridgefield Stratford
Trumbull Weston Westport Wilton

news & events

12.2016

from our executive director



from our board chair



We are a community of communities.

Some of those communities exist in our congregations. Some at day schools or Merkaz or on our Weinberg Campus or Hadassah or our youth groups and many more.

As a new Executive Director, I have made it part of my goal to engage in all of those communities, going as far as to set an aspiration to speak and, if possible, chant *haftarah* at every congregation in our Federation catchment area over a 12-month period. (I'm chanting my third this Shabbat.)

But while those communities represent subsets of our extended family that allow us to come together in prayer, in learning, and in service, there is a special power in those moments, and those messages, in which we can all come together.

One of those moments occurred just before Thanksgiving, as rabbis and congregational presidents from throughout the community created a [joint message of unity](#) against hate and discrimination.

And while it was powerful for 36 community leaders to come together in one voice, it is our hope to continue to foster an environment in our Jewish community where partnership occurs not only in troubling times but also in community service, in education, in celebration, and in connecting to our extended Jewish family around the world.

Indeed, that seems to be happening more and more.

As I write this message, Jewish early-childhood educators from throughout our community have joined together for a day of continuing professional education here on our Weinberg Campus. This past weekend, I participated in and enjoyed a concert with Jewish musician Sam Glaser that, with the support of a micro-grant from the Federation, brought together a partnership of three congregations for a series of four well-attended community events.

Last week, I had a wonderful conference call with seven community cantors who are all planning to come together for our first-ever Community Cantorial Concert this April. Last night, we held the first meeting for the reboot of our Jewish Community Relations Council, with the aim of creating service opportunities related to public education that can bring our

Time Flies When You're Having Fun

When my kids were little, we struggled through the hours of 6 to 8 p.m. After a long day at work and fighting traffic to make daycare pickup, we often arrived home tired, hungry and cranky. I admitted to a friend with older children that I was sometimes guilty of silently ticking off the minutes until the magical bedtime moment arrived. Her wise response has stuck with me to this day: "Just remember that the days are long but the years are short." Truer words have never been spoken.

It's been almost a year since I took over as Board Chair of the FJP, and my friend's words are more applicable than ever. It's been quite a whirlwind – Year 2 of our Federation merger (or "start-up" as I believe it to be); our physical move and relocation; the search for, and successful hiring of, our new Executive Director; and the list goes on. There have certainly been many long days, but I couldn't be prouder of what our community has been able to achieve in this very short 11 months.

As I've said many times about our merged FJP, Year 1 was about planting seeds – getting to know our neighbors, creating basic infrastructure, identifying best practices, and stabilizing our annual campaign. This past year was about tending the garden – building our volunteer base, improving communications, adding more value for our synagogues and agency partners, and creating the right staffing for a bright future. And even though it is wintry outside, I'm thrilled to say that I'm seeing little green sprouts everywhere. I can't wait to reap the harvest of the next 12 months.

I don't mean to suggest our work is done; in fact, it is really just beginning. There will be endless opportunities to "farm" in the upcoming year, and we need your help. Our Marketing, Finance and HR committees could use your professional expertise. Sales skills? Join our Development team. Are you a foodie? Join our Jewish Food Festival planning team. Hey, Deadheads – drop the tie-dye and help plan our "Blues for Challah" program. Thoughts to share about our community? Come participate in our Strategic Visioning process in the spring.

Finally, if you haven't yet made a donation to our 2016 annual campaign, please help us continue to strengthen our community and save Jewish lives. In the spirit of saving you time,

entire community together in support of our neighbors. And in a few weeks, we'll begin the planning process for our first Upper Fairfield County Jewish Food Festival, to take place in Spring 2017. (We're looking to add members to our Community Relations Council and the Food Festival Planning Committee. If you're interested in being engaged, please email me: dweisberg@jewishphilanthropyct.org.)

Indeed, there is great beauty in our many communities. As the weeks and months pass, I hope to be able to continue to engage with and become a part of all of them.

And I am delighted that, over those same weeks and months, we will continue to find ways for our community of communities to learn, to vision, to serve, to support, and to celebrate together.

Wishing you a joyous and meaningful Chanukah, full of light and rededication.

David Weisberg

[here's the link](#). It's more important now than ever.

Thank you for the honor of serving you and our special community. I hope you think it's been time well spent. I know I do.

Happy early Chanukah and New Year!

Bonnie Slyn

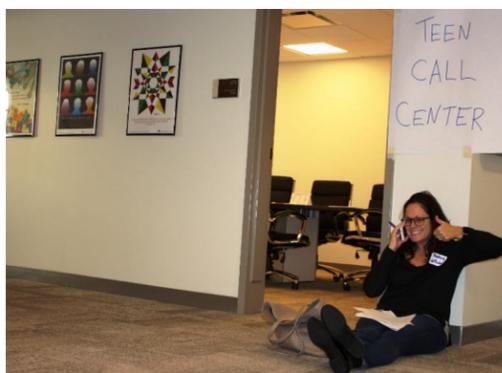


**CELEBRATE CHANUKAH
WITH PJ LIBRARY!
story time ~ craft ~ music**

Tuesday, Dec. 13, 3 pm

**Barnes and Noble
1076 Post Road East, Westport
[Click for details.](#)**

**our SUNDAY
was SUPER!**



The FJP offices were electric on Super Sunday, Dec. 4. Seventy-two community-members reached out to hundreds of friends and neighbors to give them the opportunity to participate in the great miracle that is our Jewish Federation system -- where a simple annual campaign pledge can help ensure that we are caring for our extended Jewish family here in Upper Fairfield County, in Israel, and around the world.

If you answered the call, thank you!

To help us save and improve lives, make a difference [here](#).

See the Super Sunday action [here](#) and [here](#).

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Paula Argosh * Leon Berkowitz * Judy Green Blumenthal * Barbara Cohen * Josh Cohen * Wendy David * Eric Fanwick * Lily Fanwick * Michelle Fanwick * Noa Feldman * Liam Feltman * Karen Ferleger * Jessica Ficarra * Jon Fraade * Natalie Fried * Meshy Gabay * Julia Marx Genser * Ilene Goby * Andrea Gottschall * Matt Greenberg * Freida Hecht * Rabbi Yehoshua Hecht * Bob Hillman * Jane Hillman * Debbie Hochhauser * Joan Kalmans * Rebekah Kanefsky * Rabbi Yehuda Kantor * Mark Kirsch * Jillian Klaff * June Klein * Sam Klein * Shelley Kreiger * Sara Laden * Rabbi Shlame Landa * Ellen Lautenberg * Sharon Levy * Joanne Lippman * Ted Lopatin * Rachael Maly * Gabe Mansour * Sharon Miles * Harry Morgenthaler * Jake Nuland * Rabbi Ita Paskind * Beth A. Posner * Ethan Rodier * Rotem Rotner * Edith Samers * Ben Sanger * Karen Sanger * Sheryl Santiago * Rabbi Evan Schultz * Guy Shamai * Mindy Siegel * Jeff Siegel * Bonnie Slyn * Debra Smolka * Ed Smolka * Beverly Stein * Chanie Stone * Rabbi Levi Stone * Jim Sugarman * Laura Sydney-Pulton * Robert Velthuizen * Margery Verlezza * Alison Wachstein * Noah Wallis * Carolyn Wasserlauf * Andrew Weinstein * Jacob Weisblatt * Seth Young * Izaake Zuckerman * Juliette Zuckerman * Lou Zuckerman * Mark Zuckerman * Noah Zuckerman * Rachael Zuckerman

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