



## *Jewish Federation Convenes Security Briefing*

On Wednesday, August 4th the Jewish Federation of Western Connecticut convened and hosted a security briefing for all of the Jewish institutions in our Federation catchment area on Wednesday, August 4. The briefing was provided by Patrick Daly and Bradley Orsini, two senior-level professionals from Secure Community Network. SCN is the official homeland security and safety initiative of the organized Jewish community in North America. The purpose of the briefing was to provide Jewish professionals and lay leaders with institutional security obligations to get to know SCN, to provide some guidance for High Holiday and school openings, and to give the group insight into a new security initiative that the Federation will be undertaking shortly.

We are pleased to report that the briefing was attended by 27 community members and that nine synagogues and schools had representatives in attendance. We are thankful that the people in charge of Jewish institutional security took the time to come together so that we can continually work on upgrading the safety and security of the Jewish institutions and the people they serve in Western and Northwestern Connecticut.

Just as importantly, the briefing was attended by other community leaders who wanted to show support for the Jewish community, including Southbury First Selectman, Jeff Manville, and five law enforcement professionals. James C. Rovella, Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, addressed the group on the variety of ways his Department and the State are working to enhance security. In addition, he discussed his law enforcement mission to Israel during his tenure as Hartford Police Chief.

Also in attendance were the Commissioner's Chief of Staff Sgt. Kazimera Morse, Waterbury Police Chief Fernando Spagnolo, Newtown Police Chief James Viadero, and Corporal Christopher Grillo of the Southbury Police Department. Every law enforcement professional who attended the briefing had to change his or her schedule to do so. We are honored that the people who protect us all understand the special challenges facing the Jewish community and are concerned about our well-being. These dedicated professionals demonstrate that concern not only by attending this important briefing but also by how they do their jobs each and every day. We are very grateful.

Your Federation is pleased to be in a position to take a lead role in supporting the safety and security of each and every Jewish institution in our catchment area. We expect to provide additional information on these efforts very shortly.



Left to Right: Federation Board Member Lisa Miller, Federation President Pauline Zimmerman, Federation Executive Director Gary Jones, SCN Principal Deputy Director/COO Patrick Daly, Dept. of Emergency Services & Public Protection Commissioner James Rovella, SCN - Senior National Security Advisor Bradley Orsini, Dept. of Emergency Services & Public Protection, Chief of Staff Sgt. Kazimera Morse

Left to Right: Gary Jones, Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Western CT, Pauline Zimmerman President of Jewish Federation of Western CT, Commissioner James Rovella, Chief of Police Waterbury Fernando Spagnolo, Chief of Staff Sgt. Kazimera Morse



SCN Principal Deputy Director/COO Patrick Daly, Dept. of Emergency Services & Public Protection



Rabbi Shloimy Lebovics, Bais Yaakov; Rabbi Aryeh Reiss, Mesivta Yesodei Hatorah; and Yochi Cohen, B'nai Shalom

### ***Message from Ambassador Meron Reuben, Consul General of Israel to New England***

Summer was exceptionally wet this year in New England, in fact, it was the wettest in recorded history. As an Israeli, I enjoyed the rain and soaked up the magnificent greenery that it left behind. September is now upon us with Rosh Hashana, Yom Kippur, and other fall festivals coming early this year. After a year and a half of living with COVID-19, we are beckoned at this time of year to turn inward, assess what has happened, and look forward to new chapters in our lives.

It has been yet another challenging year for the state of Israel and the conflict in May with the terrorist group Hamas that runs the Gaza Strip was another reminder that we have an uphill battle to reach the goal of peace and tranquillity in our beloved land.

This summer has also shown us that ice cream can leave a bitter taste. Ben & Jerry's independent board of governors decided to boycott us and used their so-called social mission and values to join the BDS movement in bashing Israel instead of trying to help the two sides find ways to collaborate. How can peace possibly be achieved for Israelis and Palestinians alike through economic terrorism? Our efforts to push back on the decision are vital in order to defend the very legitimacy of the State of Israel, unfairly singled out for alleged human rights abuses in a world filled with totalitarian and truly brutal regimes.

In spite of this challenge, there are many positive developments to celebrate as the year draws to a close. A year ago we were living under the cloud of a global pandemic that constricted every aspect of our lives and caused the death of millions across the globe. Israel has been a leader in vaccinating its population and we are now in a drive to give booster shots to the population over 60.

Limiting travel to Israel has been a necessary means of controlling the spread of the virus. We know how frustrating this has been for so many of you, but it is my sincere hope that travel to Israel will soon get back to normal even though the spike in the highly contagious Delta variant of the virus makes this difficult to predict.

The Abraham Accords continue to spread a message of hope and mutual understanding in our region. It was a thrill this summer to welcome "Sharaka," a new NGO comprised of young Israeli and UAE social leaders of all religions committed to peace and normalization

through forging warm people-to-people connections.

The “2020 Olympics” in Tokyo offered another reason to rejoice. Israel sent its largest delegation ever, some 90 Olympians, including baseball Team Israel, that included many American Olim. We even had a chance to see them play in Hartford Connecticut before leaving for Japan.

Israeli Olympian Artem Dolgopyat made us all proud by winning a gold medal in gymnastics for the men's floor exercise this was only the second Olympic gold in our sporting history!

Avishag Semberg received a bronze medal in taekwondo as did the Judo team.

Team Israel kept hope alive by defeating Mexico and advancing into the second round of the Olympics, defying expectations and serving as emissaries for baseball in Israel.

But the most important thing of all for us was that for the first time, after ignoring the fact for 49 years, the Olympic committee publicly memorialized the Israeli athletes who were victims of terror in the Munich Olympics of 1972. May their memories be blessed.

Another positive note was struck recently when Israel regained its observer status to the African Union, after a nearly 20-year hiatus. The irony of this is not lost on us in light of the massive media coverage of the Ben & Jerry's debacle. I presume that positive news about Israel does not sell.

So, all in all, we have a lot to be grateful for as we leave 5781 and go into 5782. I have had a very challenging yet exciting 9 months in New England and hope to meet many more members of the Jewish community in person (and not on zoom) this coming year.

May the new year bless us all with peace and good health.  
Shana Tova U Metuka a good and sweet New Year to everyone.

***Meron Reuben***



# Shabbat *Shalom*

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE - DONATE TODAY!**

*Louie Armstrong's music performed by  
Larry Gareau Quartet*



Left to Right: Executive Director Gary Jones Federation President Pauline Zimmerman then Board Members Jill Schoenfuss, Lisa Miller, Marci Durnell, and Program & Event Manager Cathy Conti with the Larry Gareau Quartet



Larry Gareau Quartet performing live!



Left to Right: Pauline Zimmerman and her daughter Alexis Zimmerman.

On Wednesday, August 4th the atmosphere in the Community Function Hall was enchanting as we celebrated Louis Armstrong's 120<sup>th</sup> birthday and his music with the Larry Gareau Quartet. The melodious notes of Louie's well-loved music evoked fond memories of the past.

The Social Hall was alive with foot-tapping, bodies moving and heads bobbing to the tunes of Larry's trumpet and cornet, with the wonderful band playing in support.

---

# love & knishes luncheons

*Return, Live and In-Person.*

*Meg Capen accompanied by  
Dawn Marie Conroy*



Left to Right: Gary Jones, Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Western CT, Program & Event Manager Cathy Conti, Meg Capen musical performer, and Dawn Marie Conroy Pianist.

On Thursday, August 5th our Senior Luncheon Program was enjoyed by all. Great Kosher Food with magnificent music of a variety of songs from Opera to Show Tunes which included Rogers and Hammerstein. It is always an enjoyable afternoon with our Seniors as they feast on great food while listening to a spectacular musical program.

## SAVE THE DATE!



**Sunday, October 3, 2021**-Annual Campaign Kick-off Breakfast  
9:30 AM, Jewish Federation of Western CT - 444 Main Street North, Southbury  
06488



**Wednesday, October 27 - Women's Philanthropy Luncheon**  
Time TBD - Jewish Federation of Western CT - 444 Main Street North, Southbury  
06488

[SEE ALL EVENTS](#)

## COMMUNITY EVENTS!

---

### **Third Live Consular Q&A with Answers on Entry Permits to Israel & Consular Services**



Mark your calendars for August 10th at 4 PM! Daniel Agranov, will be streaming live on our Facebook to answer your all of questions on consular services and entry permits to Israel.

[Learn  
more!](#)



This October 10, you can walk together. Roll together. Run together. Pedal together. Join together!

There are so many ways to speak up together as part of **ADL's annual Walk Against Hate**. It's a great opportunity to move toward a future without antisemitism, racism, and all forms of bigotry.

Join people from across the country in stepping up — solo, with your family, with your classmates, co-workers, congregations or community group — to make your voice heard in challenging antisemitism and all forms of hate.



**Register  
Now!**

Be a part of the movement to show solidarity against antisemitism, bias, bullying, and bigotry.

alzheimer's  association®

**Connecticut Chapter**



### **Connecticut IN-PERSON Programs**

**August 12 at 7 PM - [10 Warning Signs at Mystic/Noank Library](#)**

**August 25 at 10:30 AM - [10 Warning Signs at Canton Community Center](#)**

**DONATE TODAY!**



**Jewish Federation<sup>®</sup>**  
OF WESTERN CONNECTICUT

**DONATE TODAY -  
IN CHALLENGING TIMES  
WE ARE GRANDER TOGETHER**

With the uncertainty in our world it is imperative now more than ever that we join together as a Foundation of strength for each other.

Please consider a donation today. Our Federation may be closed nonetheless we are still working. Working to support our community.



**DONATE TODAY!**

## **COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS FOR 2021-2022 ACADEMIC YEAR**



*College  
Scholarships*

*The College Scholarship Applications for 2021-2022*

*the academic year is now available on our website.*

*There are a limited number of scholarships that will be awarded.  
Please click on the button below to be directed to the  
College Scholarship Application form.*

[Click here for the Scholarship Application](#)

## WEEKLY WISDOM



**THE CHILD WHO ASKS BECOMES  
A PARTNER IN THE LEARNING  
PROCESS. TO ASK IS TO GROW.**

Rabbi Lord  
Jonathan Sacks z"l



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GARY JONES

The Federation's vision is to seek to be the place, both in real and in virtual settings, for thriving Jewish life, community, and values in the Western and Northwestern parts of the state.



**Gary Jones**  
**gjones@jfed.net or**  
**203-267-3177 Ext. #304**

**Jewish Federation of Western CT - [www.jfed.net](http://www.jfed.net)**

