



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



**Shabbat**  
*Shalom*

## **A Message from Gary Jones, Executive Director**

The year 2020 is now over, and there are not many of us who are mourning its loss. As difficult as the year has been in so many ways, your Jewish Federation of Western Connecticut and all of you who support its work can look back with pride on what we have accomplished in unusually difficult times.

Under the leadership of Federation President Pauline Zimmerman, we were able to adjust to the virtual world, while

continuing to provide our traditional financial support, services, and programming to all those who depend upon us here in Western and Northwestern Connecticut, in Israel, and elsewhere. Just as important, we also pivoted to address the increased needs resulting from the pandemic by providing much-needed COVID-19 specific support to Jewish and non-Jewish community members in our part of Connecticut.

As we look ahead to the year 2021, our Federation Board and staff believe that we can be even more impactful in the cities and towns we serve. To accomplish that goal, we are committed to working hard to fulfill the following Resolutions for the New Year:

1) Greater Outreach to our Members and Constituents.

Our Federation has pockets of Jewish communities spread throughout a relatively large geographical area in our State. We want to do more to ensure that all of these Jewish communities feel connected with our Federation. **We Resolve to make a more concerted effort to reach out to all of the Jewish Communities and Institutions in Western and Northwestern Connecticut.**

2) Cultural and Educational Programs. **We Resolve to do an even better job of providing a diverse array of cultural and educational programs to enrich Jewish life in our communities.**

3) Focus on Jewish Security. We are all too aware that antisemitism is on the rise in our country, and we have seen too many recent manifestations of hate targeting the Jewish community and its institutions. In recognition of the threats to our community and to other vulnerable religious and nonprofit organizations, both our State and Federal governments will be providing security enhancement funding to these vulnerable organizations. This funding is limited, of course, and our community's institutions will have to follow various application requirements in order to receive support. However, we have a rare opportunity and we must do the best we can to take advantage of the support being offered to us. **We Resolve to be a reliable resource for advising and providing information to all of our synagogues and educational institutions so that they can be informed and equipped to take advantage of all security enhancement funding opportunities.** Our community deserves to be able to worship and learn in as safe and secure an environment as possible. Your Federation will help make that

happen.

4) Advocate for the Jewish Community. As our sage Hillel has directed: If we are not for ourselves, who will be for us? **We Resolve to be a lead voice in advocating and standing up for our community.** We will support victims of antisemitism and Jews in need in our Federation catchment area, in Israel, and around the world. We will work to make sure that Israel continues to enjoy the support of our great nation and to stand up for Israel against those who treat it unfairly. After all, if your Federation doesn't take a lead role in protecting and defending the Jewish people, who will?

5) Be an Ally to All Victims of Hate and Discrimination. As our sage Hillel also directed: If we are only for ourselves, what are we? We all understand that being Jewish requires us to be part of the effort to make this world a better place. Given our history, we have a special obligation not to be silent in the face of injustice. **We Resolve to stand shoulder to shoulder with, and speak out on behalf of, any group that is being victimized in our society.** After all, if we as Jews don't stand up for others, what are we?

6) Listening, Learning, and Responding. Our Federation has a small staff. As a result, we rely on our Board leaders and you, our members and constituents, to let us know what the community needs and how to do our job better. **We Resolve to listen to you, to learn from you, and to respond to you when you take the time to reach out to us.** Whether advice, direction, or criticism is being offered, we will always strive to be available and transparent with the people who care enough to help guide us.



## **Gary Jones**

Executive Director

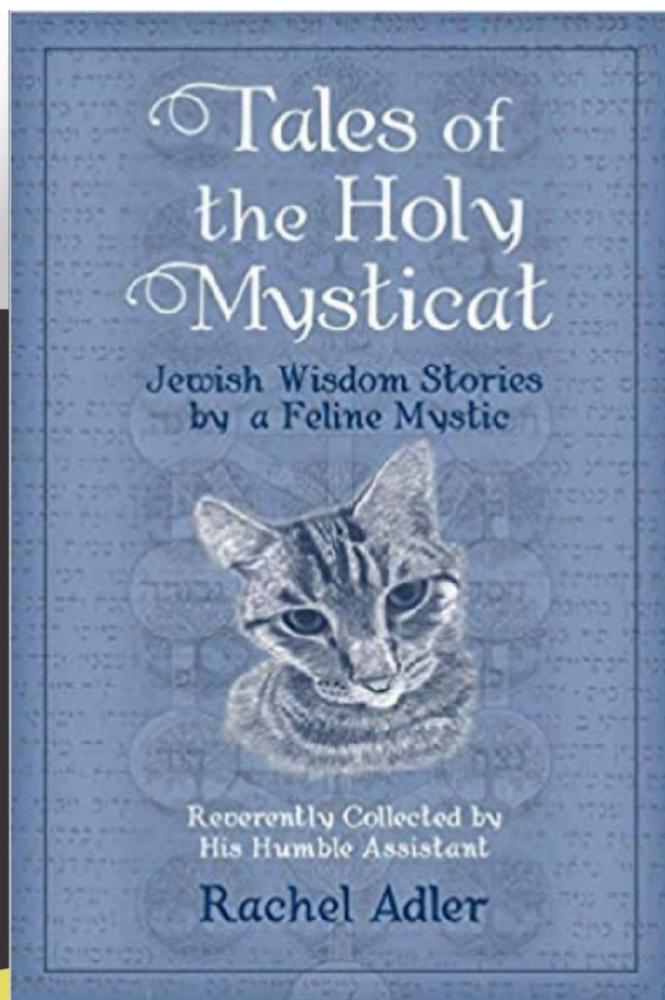
The Jewish Federation of Western Connecticut

[gjones@jfed.net](mailto:gjones@jfed.net)

(203) 267-3177 X304

**DONATE TODAY!**

# UPCOMING EVENTS



**Rabbi Rachel Adler**

**AUTHOR APPEARANCE  
BOOK DISCUSSION**

**This engaging book is a guide to Jewish literacy, using the behaviors of Adler's most peculiar cat to lead readers on a journey through thousands of years of Jewish thought, history, and practices.**

Sunday, January 10, 2021 • 7:00 PM

Via Zoom

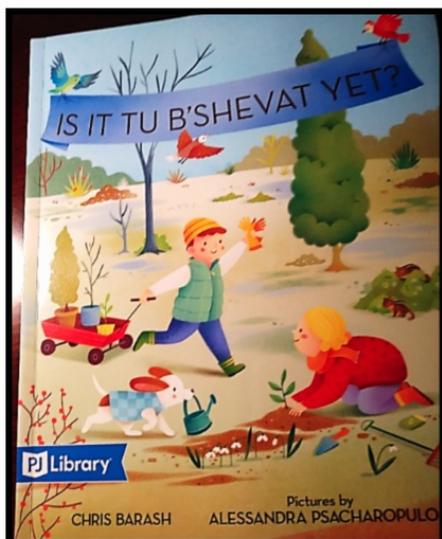
email: [bnaisisters@gmail.com](mailto:bnaisisters@gmail.com) for zoom link



## Mark your calendar for PJ Library *Tu B'Shevat* Pajama Party

January 24<sup>th</sup> - at 6:00 p.m.

Come one, come all, in your pajamas as we share a story, do a craft and sing a song or two with you on Zoom. Please RSVP by email to [cconti@jfed.net](mailto:cconti@jfed.net) to receive an email with the Zoom Link prior to the event.



Materials needed for our **special** craft project:

- 8 1/2x11 sheet of paper
- Black crayon
- Brown crayon
- Green paint
- Purple paint
- Q-tip
- Wet paper towel

A PJ Library event for the community at large facilitated by  
Rabbi Nebel of Congregation B'nai Israel, Danbury, CT  
and The Jewish Federation of Western CT  
Questions??? 475-329-2611



The Jewish Federations<sup>®</sup>  
OF NORTH AMERICA

FEB 1-2, 2021

# VIRTUAL MISSION

TO WASHINGTON

UNITING TO  
SECURE A BRIGHT  
JEWISH FUTURE

# TOGETHER, WE WILL

**Ensure** government resources for the institutions that keep Jewish life flourishing.

**Advance** laws that fight antisemitism and uphold a strong U.S.-Israel relationship.

**Partner** to help us maintain safe, inclusive and resilient communities.

**Make it your mission and join us today.**

Election day may be behind us, but our work in Washington D.C. is just gearing up. This February, make it your mission to come together in our nation's capital with political leaders and policymakers for the first-ever virtual mission to D.C.

**Together We Will:**

- Ensure government resources for the institutions that keep Jewish life flourishing.
- Advance laws that fight antisemitism and uphold a strong U.S.-Israel relationship.
- Partner to help maintain safe, inclusive, and resilient communities.

**CONTACT:** [dcmmission@jfna.org](mailto:dcmmission@jfna.org)

**Register Now**

# Co-Chairs



**Jill Deutch**

*Board Member, Federation of  
South Palm Beach County*



**Kevin M. Paillet**

*Secretary, Federation of  
Greater Dallas*

---

**MAKE A CONTRIBUTION 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.



**CURRENT COVID-19 PROTOCOL FOR  
VISITORS OF THE WALZER FAMILY  
JEWISH COMMUNITY CAMPUS**



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

While our staff has begun working within the building for a few hours per week, our campus is still not open to the public for larger gatherings.

If you are a member or volunteer that needs access to our campus, please call and arrange this with our facility manager, Maria Cruz 203.267.3393.

We can, on a case by case basis, accommodate a group of less than five for short term projects to use spaces in our building that are conducive to social distancing.

As a reminder, persons who enter our building may be asymptomatic for Covid-19. For your safety, and the safety of every other person, you must wear a mask properly at all times. You will be met at the door by our facility manager, Maria Cruz, who will supervise the sign-in process. any signs of illness.

