

The Voice of the Greater New Haven Jewish Community

# SHALOM



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## NEW HAVEN

WINTER 2020 • TEVET/SHAVAT 5780

# Ezra Academy Students Connecting to Nature

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### CELEBRATING TU B'SHVAT

Planting seeds of respect for nature by protecting our trees and appreciating their fruit **PAGE 26**



### AND THE HONORABLE MENSCHEN AWARD GOES TO...

Recognizing Allan Greenberg's 45 years being the heart and soul of the JCC of Greater New Haven **PAGE 5**



### ESTHER GAS HOOS' PAINTINGS TO BRIGHTEN THE JCC

Pioneer teacher and painter's vibrant artwork will add color and life to the JCC's corridors **PAGE 7**

## Starting the New Year with Gratitude

Each January I take the opportunity to reflect on my time leading our Jewish Federation. This marks my 4th anniversary. While there is much to celebrate in our accomplishments together over these past years, my reflections at this moment are a bit more personal.

Being a Jewish woman has its perks. We follow a long line of proud and accomplished heroines (although not talked about enough in our texts) like Miriam and Deborah, Gloria Steinham, and Ruth Badger Ginsburg. We learn from our mothers, our sisters and our daughters; we carry on traditions, customs, recipes and inspiration from generation to generation.

When I was 13, I lost my grandmother to ovarian cancer. At the time, we didn't talk about the fact that her two sisters had died of breast cancer. We never mentioned that the previous generations of four sisters had lost two to breast cancer and two to ovarian cancer. It shouldn't have been a surprise when, at the age of 50, my mother was diagnosed with breast cancer.

That began an awakening of awareness in our family as my mother fought and won her battle; she then went on to participate in a confidential study at Dana Farber Cancer Center. Those were the days when the slightest mention of a pre-existing condition in a medical record could jeopardize insurance. Although we were very cautious speaking about our situation, my sister and I began our immersion in cancer culture, screening and consultations. We were in our 20s and assured that while we should be monitored, we really didn't have to worry until a decade before Mom's diagnosis in our 40s. So when my sister, then in her early 30s and the mother of two young children, happened to brush

the side of her breast one morning while making pancakes and felt something odd, she didn't worry too much. That proved to be premature as she was diagnosed with breast cancer. She began the same arduous travails our mother had gone through with surgery, chemo and radiation.

At about this time, Dana Farber revealed that our mother was BRCA 1 positive. Being a Jewish woman of Ashkenazic descent, that was not such a perk. I was, as a very young mother of two myself, confronted with a choice; I knew I had to know for myself if I carried the gene. As I waited for results that I had convinced myself would be negative, I also researched my options should that not be true. Ovarian cancer scared me the most. There was no good screening mechanism and diagnosis often came too late to do anything. But if I were to remove my ovaries and begin hormone replacement therapy as such a young woman, couldn't that stimulate tumor growth in my breasts? Yes was the answer.

My children were so young at only four and six. I wanted to watch them grow up. I wanted to see them graduate from college. I wanted to walk them down the aisle and hold their children. I knew what I had to do. It was January 2000 and I was happily working as the campaign director for the Jewish Federation of the Lehigh Valley. I resigned my position and, over the course of the next two months, underwent a hysterectomy followed by a double mastectomy. I chose life.

It's now 20 years later. My life took wonderful twists and turns, including a stint as a baking entrepreneur, volunteer, coach and return to my first love, Jewish communal service. My children are grown. I saw them graduate high school and college. I

walked my son down the aisle. I am about to welcome my first grandchild. I am so grateful and I want to share my gratitude with you, my community, my extended family.

I had planned to talk this month about the power of the collective that is so central to our Jewish Federation. I wanted to share incredible stories of the lives we are saving, changing and helping overseas. I wanted to thank you for your support, which enables us to leverage your donations to make miracles happen for home-bound elderly existing on \$2-a-day pensions in Kiev and Tbilisi. I wanted to thank you for investing in our Jewish future as we witness a reawakening of Jewish spirit in young people across the former Soviet Union. But I will reserve some of these stories for a later column.

Thank you for all that you do for the Jewish people; but really, thank you for all you do for me personally. I am honored to helm this incredible organization. I am beyond grateful to be healthy and strong, which enables me to share myself with you as we do this most holy work, together. May you enjoy a happy and healthy New Year and may we all go from strength to strength.

In celebration of this milestone, I am hosting the musical brunch-and-learn with my son Noah. He is a rabbinical student at Hebrew Union College and a musician who is set to inspire Jewish living through his music. This event is open to all donors to the 2020 Annual Campaign. Please join me on Sunday, January 12, at 11 a.m. at the Beckerman Lender Jewish Community Building.



## SHALOM NEW HAVEN

SHALOM NEW HAVEN is published six times per year and delivered free of charge to the Greater New Haven Jewish community by the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven.

**COPY DEADLINES**  
Copy deadlines for the upcoming Shalom New Haven issues are:  
• Jan. 27 for March/April issue  
• March 30 for May/June issue  
• May 29 for July/August issue  
• July 31 for September/October issue  
• Sept. 30 for November/December issue

**SUBMISSIONS**  
To submit an article or photo, please email shalomnh@jewishnewhaven.org. Please include your contact information when submitting.

Space is limited; submission does not guarantee publication. All articles are subject to approval by the editorial board.

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# From Czechoslovakia to Connecticut: Teens at Temple Emanuel Study the Origins of a Nazi-confiscated Torah Scroll

by Edén C. Stein  
Ph. D

Every year, the seventh-grade religious school class at Temple Emanuel of Greater New Haven in Orange learns about the Holocaust. In 2019, the teens were tasked with researching the origins of the Holocaust Memorial Scroll on loan to Temple Emanuel from the Memorial Scrolls Trust in Westminster, London. The class was supported by the Barbara Rosenthal Memorial Fund, created by the Weber family.

The class examined the scroll, learning that it was Number 1178 and was originally from Horazdovice, which was part of Czechoslovakia before World War II. They learned that the Westminster Synagogue also has a Horazdovice scroll, which prompted learning about life in Horazdovice from the time Jews first settled there in 1618.

"It was just like any other normal town in Europe. Just like in other towns, the amount of Jewish families was limited," recalled Matt. "Jews were disrespected and not treated like other people until the mid-1800s when they were given more rights."

"Then they became more successful," Lila noted. "For

example, the Eisner Sewing Company was founded and a wealthy business person purchased a framed Ferris wheel for the community."

"During the Holocaust, the Nazis came in and took all the scrolls...[they] held on to them, perhaps because they were going to create a museum to an extinct race," Matt said. Jews from Prague convinced the Nazis to allow them to catalog the scrolls, giving each a number and noting its community of origin.

As part of the Holocaust unit, survivor Andy Sarkany shared his story in a moving visit.

"Everything that Andy shared with us was very impactful," Beyla wrote. "He had so many messages about helping each other and people who helped him survive...The thing that struck me most was his story about Rose, a non-Jew who took him out of the ghetto to get medical care. He said to love, not hate."

During the 1960s, the scrolls were brought to Westminster and the Memorial Scrolls Project commenced.

"We found out that the rabbi in charge of the project was the great uncle of one of our members, Melissa Perkal. Melissa came to our class and told us about



this special connection," Lila explained. "Our scroll is written on expensive parchment made from a cow's hide. It is lighter than other large scrolls...The calligraphy is a combination of both Ashkenazi and Sephardic writing."

Temple Emanuel is in the process of having the scroll restored to a level of kashrut. The students created presentations about Horazdovice and the Memorial Scrolls Trust for the congregation. They hope to read from it as they become bar and bat mitzvah later this year.

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**Events**

<b>FRI., JAN. 10, 7:30 P.M.</b> Shabbat service Temple Emanuel of Greater New Haven 150 Derby Avenue, Orange Open for all	<b>SAT., JAN. 11, 9:45 A.M.</b> Shabbat morning service Congregation B'nai Jacob 75 Rimmon Road, Woodbridge Open for all	<b>SAT., JAN. 11, 7 P.M.</b> Havadallah & Concert with the TE Band Temple Emanuel of Greater New Haven 150 Derby Avenue, Orange Open for all	<b>SUN., JAN. 12, 11 A.M.</b> Musical Brunch & Learn Beckerman Lender Jewish Community Building 360 Amity Road, Woodbridge Open for all donors to the 2020 Annual Campaign Hosted by Judy Alperin, CEO
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**To RSVP, go to: [jewishnewhaven.org/rsvp](http://jewishnewhaven.org/rsvp) or call (203) 387-2424 for more info.**

# Women's Philanthropy Sets Its Heart on Social Action

by Talya Hyman  
Shalom New Haven Staff Writer

Participants painted from their hearts at the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven's Women's Philanthropy opening event on September 24, 2019. In a partnership with Hearts of Hope, a nonprofit organization focused on compassionate outreach, the kickoff event's mission was to offer support to individuals facing personal challenges through the creation and distribution of art.

"In addition to being generous, the women involved in Women's Philanthropy are compassionate and concerned about the world around them," said Amy Holtz, Chief Development Officer of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven. "Getting involved with the Hearts of Hope organization was a social action project of *tikkun olum* acts of kindness and repair."

As event participants hand-painted hearts and penned in personal messages of encouragement for recipients, Women's Philanthropy was able to put its own stamp of love on the Hearts of Hope movement.

"We chose this project because it allowed us to make an impact nationally with and for people we do not know...to bring them hope and let them know someone, somewhere, is thinking of them, cheering them on," Holtz explained.

With love, the heart art reached people near and far. A portion of the decorated pieces was distributed to uplift individuals at Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale New Haven and the Jewish Family Service of Greater New Haven's Foster Care Program, while some of the art was sent to the Hearts of Hope center to be delivered to individuals throughout the country.



"Both groups were so excited when they got the hearts," shared Betsy Flaherty, the event's co-chair. "To provide someone who is already facing a challenge or adversity with a message of hope and a feeling that they are not alone was why I agreed to chair this Hearts of Hope event."

Dana Schwartz, President of Women's Philanthropy, shared the inspiration

behind the collaboration with Hearts of Hope, and how the Women's Philanthropy hoped to impact event participants, long after the paint brushes were put down. "We were excited to have our kickoff event be a community service project—and timed it to coincide with the beginning of the Days of Awe—in the hope that this work, our holy work, would help open our hearts in the coming year."

# Honorable Menschen: Allan Greenberg

by Jeannette Brodeur  
Shalom New Haven Staff Writer

For 45 years, Allan Greenberg has been the JCC of Greater New Haven's heart and soul, according to his dear friend, Martha Weisbart. This makes Greenberg, who served as the JCC's Health and Physical Education Director, the perfect choice for *Shalom New Haven's* Honorable Menschen award.

Weisbart served as Associate Executive Director of the JCC, and worked on different committees at the JCC and the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven for over 40 years.

"He's a very special, kind, unique person," Weisbart said. "He's got a heart of gold."

"Allan's skills as a teacher, coach, counselor and friend have inspired hundreds, and perhaps thousands, of young boys and girls to experience enormous joy, and witness through his words and action, the highest values of integrity, sportsmanship and respect," said Mark G. Sklarz, a past JCC President. "For over 40 years, Allan has extended himself to every person he meets and does so with ultimate sensitivity, sincerity and goodwill. He is to me the epitome of a mensch and has, in every respect, been the best ambassador our Center could possess."

Scott Cohen, the JCC's Executive Director, declared that, "Allan is 'The Mayor'...he knows everyone and their extended families...for thousands of people he IS the JCC."

Greenberg's roots to the center go far deeper than just his time working there. His grandparents owned the first kosher restaurant in New Haven; it was sadly torn down when the highway came through. His grandparents then opened the first restaurant at the JCC when it was on Chapel Street in New Haven. As a child, Greenberg remembered participating in many of the JCC's programs.

He got his first official job at the JCC as a part-time employee in 1971 when Len Margolis, who was the JCC's Athletic Director for many years, asked him to run Biddy Basketball. Greenberg then graduated from Southern Connecticut State University in 1973 with a degree in recreation and leisure education with a minor in physical education.



Greenberg first started as a basketball coach at Hopkins Day Prospect School and Hamden High School. He began working full time at the JCC in 1974. He served the JCC's Health and Physical Education Department as Assistant Director (1975-1976), then Associate Director (1976-1977) and finally Director since 1978. For 10 years, he also served as the Chairman of the New England Jewish Community Center Athletic Director Association.

The JCC honored Greenberg after his 25 years of service with a roast. At the event, he told them that when first hired, he was told he was on probation for six months and that he would get a letter when he was officially hired. "I never got my letter," Greenberg said. "I still haven't!"

"What he is most known for is the care he lavished on the kids he came in touch with through basketball," Weisbart noted. "He headed up Biddy Basketball and made sure that every child played. Good sportsmanship, fair play, being a member of a team and the consideration of others were important to Allan. He was more focused on every kid playing than winning games."

Bruce Jacobs, Greenberg's good friend and a former JCC President, agreed. He noted that Greenberg made it clear that everyone on the team had to play and

that winning was secondary to participation and enjoyment of the game.

Jacobs has known Greenberg since 1978 when he moved back to New Haven and began playing in the JCC adult basketball leagues. "Allan was responsible for getting me involved in volunteer work by urging me to be on the JCC board, which turned into 4 years as president of the JCC board and other volunteer positions over the years," he said.

Cohen, who has known Greenberg for 25 years, was just 17 and playing basketball for the Worcester JCC in Massachusetts when they first met.

"Little did I know that 11 years later, we would be colleagues. Allan has one of the strongest moral compasses of any person I have ever met," Cohen admitted. "His integrity and sense of fair play are unmatched."

Weisbart revealed that most people know Greenberg has a messy office. However, she said, **CONTINUED ON PG. 27**

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**SAVE THE DATE**  
JCC OF GREATER NEW HAVEN  
**May 3, 2020 | 10:30 a.m.**

**JCC's First Annual SPORTS BANQUET**

**Join us for our first Annual Sports Banquet to relive the glory days of your youth and honor Allan Greenberg for all he's done for so many in our community over the years.**

**Sponsorships, table captains, and tribute-book ads for Allan are available\***

Kosher Brunch will be served | Vine Family Auditorium  
JCC of Greater New Haven | 360 Amity Road, Woodbridge

*"A good coach can change a game; a great coach can change a life." — John Wooden.*

\*Contact Lindsey Barger, (203) 387-2424 x276

# 2019 Highlights for BBYO Connecticut Valley Region



BBYO Connecticut Valley Region had a great start to 2020 while also celebrating its 2019 successes. Highlights from 2019 included the BBYO Connecticut Valley Region Kickoff, which welcomed more than 400 Jewish teenagers to Quassy Amusement Park in Middlebury. Another stand-out event was the 2019 Fall Convention, which brought over 200 Jewish teenagers together for a weekend. In addition to participating in peer-led programming and services, they heard from Israeli Olympic bronze medalist Yarden Gerbi, BBYO Connecticut Valley Region's keynote speaker for the weekend.

Find out more about BBYO Connecticut Valley Region at [bbyo.org/bbyo-near-you/regions/connecticut-valley-region](http://bbyo.org/bbyo-near-you/regions/connecticut-valley-region).



BBYO Connecticut Valley Region invites you to attend an intergenerational women's seder and BBG celebration on March 29, 2020, from 1-4 p.m. BBYO alumni, parents, grandparents, members and friends will come together to celebrate 75 years of the B'nai B'rith Girls. The seder will be held at Congregation Rodeph Shalom in Bridgeport.

To register, visit [bbyo.org/cvrseder](http://bbyo.org/cvrseder). For more information, email [cvr@bbyo.org](mailto:cvr@bbyo.org).

## Hoos Family Art Gallery Brightens the JCC

For nearly two years since returning after the 2016 fire, the walls along the main corridor of the Beckerman Lender Community Building have stood empty. That will soon change. The Hoos Family Art Gallery will grace the corridor walls, made possible by a generous donation from Jeffrey and Betsy Hoos in honor of Jeffrey's mother, Esther Hoos.

Esther Gass Hoos (December 26, 1919-February 25, 2004) grew up on a farm in Orono, Maine, the second to youngest of 11 children. Passionate about education, she obtained her master's degree, specializing in the literacy of young readers. At a time when few women obtained these credentials, Esther became both a teacher and reading specialist in Maine's public school system while raising her two children, Robin and Jeffrey. Although she always dabbled in painting, she spent her later years perfecting her technique in both oils and watercolors. Throughout her life, Esther was an avid gardener with a love for planted flowers; they were often the subjects of her paintings. The gallery space celebrates her artistic accomplishments in the year of what would have been her 100th birthday.

The Hoos Family Art Gallery, opening in early 2020, will feature art from all over Connecticut. Interested in having your art featured? Themes and artists will be selected by a gallery committee.

For more information, contact Kayla Bisbee of The Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven at [kbisbee@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:kbisbee@jewishnewhaven.org).



## New Kollel Opens in New Haven



The starting of a new Torah scroll in honor of the Borenstein and Vail families (left to right: Yakov Borenstein, Chaim Vail)



Celebrating the opening of a kollel in New Haven (left to right: Rabbi Schneur Kessler, Yakov Borenstein, Chaim Vail)

**THEATRE**

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Thursday, February 20, 2020 | 7 pm  
 Friday, February 21, 2020 | 7 pm  
 Saturday, February 22, 2020 | 2 pm & 7 pm

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2019 | 2020

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## Honored for 50 Years of Legal Practice



At its annual dinner in October 2019, the New Haven County Bar Association recognized four attorneys as honorary members for their 50 years of legal practice, including Mark

Sklarz, a partner of Green & Sklarz LLC. The law firm handles litigation, transactions, restructuring, tax and other business legal issues. For nearly 50 years, Sklarz has advised companies of all sizes through complex business transactions.

At this 112th annual dinner event, two judges, the Hon. Lubbie Harper Jr. and the Hon. Brian T. Fischer, were honored in addition to holding the installation of the organization's new officers. The other attorneys recognized as honorary members included David Belt of Hurwitz, Sagarin, Slossberg & Knuff; Howard Kantrovitz of Gesmonde, Pietrosimone & Sgrignari; and Mario Zangari of Zangari Cohn Cuthbertson.

# Reflecting on My Trip to Israel

by Aliya Dworkin  
Amity High School Junior

This summer, I had the amazing opportunity to travel to and through-out Israel with Camp Young Judaea's Gadna program, and it was the best five weeks of my life. Throughout my time there, I got to see and learn so much. We traveled all through the country and got to experience new things in each of those places. We stayed on kibbutzim and in cities. We volunteered with an amazing organization called Save a Child's Heart and swam in the Dead Sea. From Jerusalem to Tel Aviv and Eilat, there was never a moment without learning and fun.

This trip meant the world to me. My camp friends are my best friends. We have been talking about this trip since our first year at Camp Young Judaea at age eight. Being able to go on this trip was such an amazing opportunity and I am so grateful to the Jewish Foundation for assisting me in this with their generous scholarship. This trip was life-changing, and I am so thankful that I was able to go and have this experience.

Aliya Dworkin is a student at Amity High School. To find out more about the Jewish Foundation's Israel Experience Scholarship program, visit [jewishnewhaven.org/scholarships](http://jewishnewhaven.org/scholarships).



# Anti-Semitism NEWS

## Lauder declares \$25 million effort to fight anti-Semitism in American politics

JNS.org - Amid the rise of anti-Semitism in the United States, former U.S. Ambassador to Austria and philanthropist Ronald S. Lauder announced on Monday the launch of the Anti-Semitism Accountability Project (ASAP), investing \$25 million in political campaigns against federal, state and local candidates who support or normalize anti-Semitism.

The group will focus on candidates from both parties who are on the ballot before or on Election Day in November 2020.

ASAP will produce and run television and digital advertisements, opposition research, grassroots and grassroots outreach, on-campus organizing and rapid response to defeat candidates supporting anti-Semitic ideas.

"Anti-Semitism has become fashionable again and for too long, American Jews have been silent. It's time to make our voices heard. It's time to confront our haters, without fear or apology," said Lauder in a statement. "ASAP will finally add real teeth in the fight against anti-Semitism in American politics and culture. All candidates and American cultural leaders who traffic in hatred against Jews should consider themselves on notice." The launch of ASAP comes in response to a documented surge in anti-Semitism across America.

According to a poll commissioned by ASAP and conducted by Douglass Schoen of Schoen Consulting, anti-Semitism—as defined by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance—has doubled over the past five years. Today, 14 percent of Americans hold anti-Semitic beliefs, as compared to 7 percent from a survey released by the Anti-Defamation League in 2014.

ASAP will partner with existing organizations working throughout the country to combat anti-Semitism. ASAP will also respond and take action against institutions and cultural figures who support anti-Semitism.

The ASAP campaign will be managed by Tusk Strategies, and its founder and CEO Bradley Tusk.

World Jewish Congress president Ronald S. Lauder



PHOTO CREDIT: Wikimedia Commons

**The Deadline is January 15: Don't miss out!**

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**As a Friends of the J donor, enjoy our special Thank You Event on January 26**

ELM CITY Winds January 26, 2020 | 12:30 p.m. JCC, 360 Amity Road, Woodbridge

As a thank you for all those who donated to Friends of the J, we are hosting the Elm City Winds. The Friends of the J raffle drawing will follow the concert. Refreshments will be served. RSVP required: [jewishnewhaven.org/events](http://jewishnewhaven.org/events)

Jewish Federation OF GREATER NEW HAVEN | Women's Philanthropy | Sabra Society

**COME COOK (SYRIAN CUISINE) WITH US!** Open to all women!

Join us for a hands-on cooking demo highlighting Chef Khadija, a Syrian refugee who came to Connecticut with the support of JCARR, and who has recently opened her own local catering service. Kashrut observed.

**Wednesday, January 22, 2020 | 7-9 p.m.**

Beckerman Lender Jewish Community Building  
360 Amity Road, Woodbridge

\$36 per person, includes supplies and sampling | \$72 event sponsor  
SPACE IS LIMITED | REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED  
[jewishnewhaven.org/rsvp](http://jewishnewhaven.org/rsvp)

Questions? Contact Kayla Bisbee, Senior Development & Program Associate (203) 387-2424 x300  
Participants will have an opportunity to support the 2020 Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven Annual Campaign

## Combating Anti-Semitism on a Federal Scale



PHOTO CREDIT: Wikimedia Commons

On December 11, 2019, President Donald J. Trump signed the Executive Order on Combating Anti-Semitism at the White House Chanukah Party. Aimed at addressing anti-Semitism on college campuses, the order codifies the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Association definition of anti-Semitism. When reviewing possible Title VI violations, the U.S. Department of Education will be required to consider an individual's actual or perceived shared Jewish ancestry or Jewish ethnic characteristics as part of its assessment of whether the alleged practice was motivated by anti-Semitism.

For more information, links and statements from Jewish organizations, visit [jewishnewhaven.org/jcrrc](http://jewishnewhaven.org/jcrrc).

Jewish Federation OF GREATER NEW HAVEN | Jewish Community Relations Council | Center for Jewish Life & Learning | JTE Jewish Teen Education BY TEENS. FOR TEENS.

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**JCC, 360 Amity Road, Woodbridge**  
**Tuesday, January 7 | 7-8:30 p.m.**  
For teens, students, parents and grandparents

**RSVP at [jewishnewhaven.org/rsvp](http://jewishnewhaven.org/rsvp)**

For more info, contact: **Eliraz Shifman-Berman**  
[eshifman@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:eshifman@jewishnewhaven.org)

## Jewish Foundation 2020 Scholarship Opportunities

### SYNAGOGUE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS:

The Jewish Foundation offers needs-blind incentive grants for first-time campers to Jewish overnight camp as well as needs-based aid for first-time and returning campers. There are over 195 traditional and specialty Jewish overnight camps from which to choose.

### COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS:

There are needs-based as well as needs-blind scholarships for high school seniors from Jewish households. All applications must be completed online by May 15, 2020. All applications are confidential and anonymously reviewed. Awards range from \$500 - \$3,000. This is a competitive application process and often times there are more applicants than money available. Therefore, awards are based on the strength of the application. See online for application requirements for individual scholarships. College Scholarships: *Mary Taylor Friedler Memorial Scholarship Fund, Stuart J. Drell Scholarship Fund, Emma Kohn Podoloff Scholarship Fund* of the

*National Council of Jewish Women's Greater New Haven Section.*

### ONE HAPPY CAMPER:

The Jewish Foundation offers:

- Needs-blind incentive grants for first-time campers to Jewish overnight camp as well as

- Needs-based aid for first time and returning campers. There are over 195 traditional and specialty Jewish overnight camps from which to choose.

### ISRAEL EXPERIENCE SCHOLARSHIPS:

The Jewish Foundation Israel Experience Scholarship Program affords local Jewish students ages 14-19 the opportunity to participate in an Israel experience to enrich their Jewish education and reinforce their Jewish identity. The Israel Experience Scholarships are needs-blind.

The scholarships are for both short-term (minimum of three-week program) and long-term organized Israel

educational programs. For 2020 summer trips, applications are due by March 9, 2020. For the 2020 gap or academic year programs, applications are due by May 15, 2020.

This is a competitive application process and often there are more applicants than money available. Therefore, awards are based on the strength of the application. An essay and two recommendations are required. All applications are confidential and anonymously reviewed by the Israel Experience Scholarship committee. Israel Scholarships: *Bloch Family Fund for Israel Travel by Congregation Or Shalom Youth, Esther Gold Milikowsky-Copelon Fund in memory of Matthew Milikowsky, for Teen Travel to Israel, Marvin S. Pisetsky Israel Scholarship Endowment Fund, Arthur Spiegel Israel Scholarship Fund, and Lawrence & Florence Winer Israel Scholarship Fund.*

For more information and applications, visit [jewishnewhaven.org/scholarships](http://jewishnewhaven.org/scholarships).



## The Goldsteins' Love Grows

Last year, Sarah Goldstein and her family hosted Noa, an Israeli emissary to the Greater New Haven community. The experience had an enormous effect on Sarah; when it came time to choose a bat mitzvah project earlier this year, it didn't take long to figure out what she wanted to do.

"Sarah and Noa got so close," said Tanya Goldstein, Sarah's mother. "It was an amazing experience for our whole family, especially her."

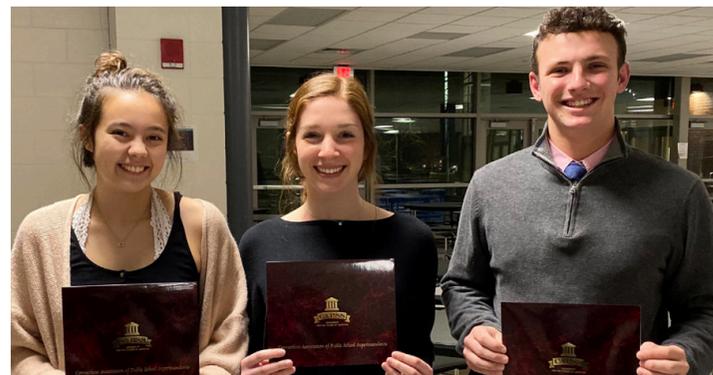
Sarah Goldstein is advertising her project through Temple Beth Shalom, the JCC of Greater New Haven, and through friends and family. She is selling hand-made versions of popular Israeli games, and all proceeds are benefiting the program. The Goldsteins say the community response has been positive, and they're grateful for everyone who's helped so far.

For more information on the Young Emissary Program, contact Amy Holtz, Chief Development Officer, at [aholtz@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:aholtz@jewishnewhaven.org).

## Recognizing Local Exemplary Jewish Students

Emily Kline, Sarah Milner and Adam Ginsberg, a trio of Jewish students and members of Congregation B'nai Jacob, were the recipients of the 2019 Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents' (CAPSS) Certificate of Excellence. The awards were presented at the Amity Board of Education meeting on December 9, 2019.

The award is presented to outstanding students in Connecticut who provided exemplary service to schools and the greater community while demonstrating strong academic achievement.



Emily Kline, Sarah Milner and Adam Ginsberg (left to right) proudly hold up their Certificates of Excellence.

## What will your Jewish Legacy be?



### The Auerbachs are Leaving a Legacy for Jewish Family Service of Greater New Haven

*"Jewish Family Service is a great and welcoming organization. Their Food4Kids programs, their adoption and foster care programs, are part of the great work they do. We have always been involved in the Jewish community and we have both served on the JFS Board. This is a confirmation of our dedication to the community and all things Jewish."*

Photo, Hillel and Sara Ann Auerbach with their granddaughter, Eleanor



[newhavenjewishfoundation.org](http://newhavenjewishfoundation.org)



[jewishlegacynewhaven.org](http://jewishlegacynewhaven.org)

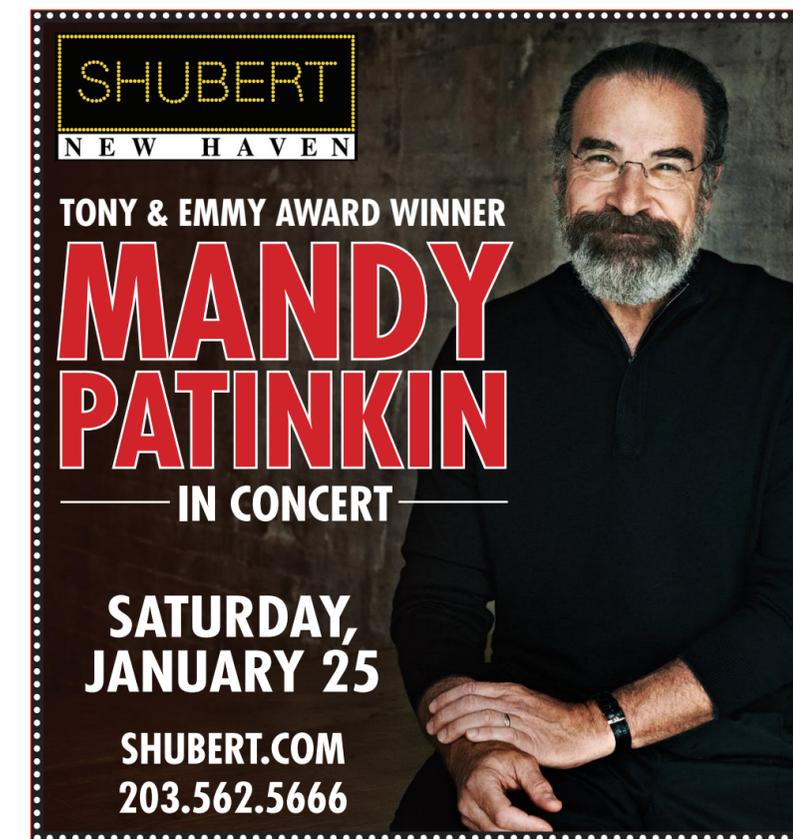
For more information about Create A Jewish Legacy, contact Lisa Stanger, (203) 387-2424 x382, [lstanger@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:lstanger@jewishnewhaven.org)



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## PJ Library Joins Bagels & Babies

Bagels & Babies is a place to meet other families with babies and plant seeds of belonging and friendship by building small communities with shared values. Together, we will share the imperfections and joys of being a parent.

Stacey Battat, PJ Library's educator and mindfulness teacher, will facilitate discussion around the winter season, the challenges and other things parents want to discuss at Bagels & Babies. The free meetings will take place on alternate Wednesdays this winter. The dates are January 15 and 29, February 12 and 26, and March 11 and 25.

"Because true belonging only happens when we present our authentic, imperfect selves to the world, our sense of belonging can never be greater than our level of self-acceptance," says Brene Brown, Ph.D., LMSW, a popular Ted Talk speaker and, most importantly, a mother.

Battat hopes that the program's circle of participants will increase in the springtime when parents host Bagels & Babies in their homes around their schedules, including weekends. These free, intimate, in-home events will be co-sponsored by PJ Library.

Bagels & Babies is geared toward parents or caregivers with babies ages 0-18 months; older children are welcome and activities will be provided for the children. The winter Wednesday events will start at 11:00 a.m. in the Terrace Room of the JCC of Greater New Haven. At 11:30 a.m., families will move to the Fleischman Family Babysitting Room where toddlers can move about and play while parents gather.

Families raising Jewish children ages 6 months to 12 years can subscribe to receive free Jewish children's literature at [pjlibrary.org](http://pjlibrary.org) or [pjourway.org](http://pjourway.org). This local PJ Library program is run through the JCC of Greater New Haven and the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, both supported by local donors. PJ Library and PJ Ourway are national Jewish engagement programs.

For more information, email Stacey Battat at [pjlibrary@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:pjlibrary@jewishnewhaven.org) or call (203) 387-2424 x317.

## New Rose Infant Room at BLELC



The Beverly Levy Early Learning Center at the JCC of Greater New Haven is excited to announce its new Rose infant room. The name is inspired by a rosebud being symbolic of our youngest children.

With a maximum capacity of eight infants (over the age of three months), there is an optimal teacher-to-child ratio in this play-based program with experienced staff with early childhood backgrounds. Parents may choose three, four or five full days with the program open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

For more information and an application, visit [jccnh.org/beverly](http://jccnh.org/beverly).

## 2020 CAMP GUIDE FOR THE GREATER NEW HAVEN AREA



Jewish Foundation  
OF GREATER NEW HAVEN

# Why Should Your Child Attend a Jewish Overnight Camp?



Jewish overnight camps have evolved tremendously over the years. There are now many styles and specialty options, including science and sports camps. More importantly, these camps have a proven track record of strengthening children's Jewish identity and connection to the Jewish community.

### JEWISH CAMP WORKS!

Did you know that, as adults, Jewish campers are:

**21 percent** more likely to feel that being Jewish is very important;

**26 percent** more likely to be members of a synagogue; and...

**55 percent** more likely to feel very emotionally attached to Israel.

Did you know that one out of three Jewish professionals (rabbis, cantors, teachers) started out as counselors at Jewish camp? Did you know that one out of five Jewish educators cited Jewish camp as a key experience that caused them to enter the field ([jewishcamp.org/campopedia](http://jewishcamp.org/campopedia))

Jewish overnight camps create an immersive environment where children can explore and celebrate their Jewish identity together.

Camp Laurelwood Director Louis Lasko named a few examples of their Jewish activities. "We keep a strictly kosher kitchen, sing Hebrew songs, have Shabbat every Friday and read stories from the Torah on a weekly basis," he said.

"Jewish camp provides an incredible, informal opportunity of engaged Jewish life," Rabbi Farbman of Temple Emanuel of Greater New Haven said. "This is something that is difficult to replicate in a day-to-day environment."

Describing the entire experience as "organic," Rabbi Farbman used a metaphor of "The Bubble" to explain how camps work. "You see, overnight camping experience is a bubble that is driven not only by Jewish practice, but it is also driven by Jewish values every moment of every day," he concluded.

"A Jewish overnight camp provides a warm and celebratory community where children do activities that they really enjoy in a Jewish framework," said Rabbi Levy, Ramah Sports Camp's director. "This is extremely powerful and a real gift that Jewish families are able to give to their children."

Speaking to Stacy Dworkin, a mother of two campers, it became clear that overnight Jewish camp provided her children with a means to develop long-term friendships with other Jewish children. In discussing her now teenage daughters Aliya and Maya, Dworkin exclaimed how, "Their camp friends are their 'forever-friends.'" Despite being out of camp for years, Dworkin personally speaks to her camp friends three or four times a week.

If you are interested in your child learning what it is like being an active, ethical Jew in today's world, then overnight camp is the perfect place to start. You can also learn more about Jewish overnight camps online through the Foundation for Jewish Camp. The Foundation, with the support from the Jim Joseph Foundation and the AVI CHAI Foundation, has successfully established new business models for Jewish camps. It has created a forum to pilot new educational models by integrating Jewish learning with activities that kids are passionate about, including the environment, performing arts, science, sports and outdoor adventure.

For more information on camp scholarships, to: [jewishnewhaven.org/scholarships](http://jewishnewhaven.org/scholarships). To find out about 195 different Jewish overnight camps specializing in science and technology, movement, adventure, travel, special needs, and more, visit [onehappycamper.org](http://onehappycamper.org).



## PAY PJ FORWARD!



It's an exciting moment in a child's life when that package arrives from PJ Library each month with a Jewish storybook or music CD.

Help pay PJ Forward with a donation to help maintain and expand this FREE program in Connecticut.

For more information about PJ Library, contact Stacey Battat, at [pjlibrary@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:pjlibrary@jewishnewhaven.org) or call (203) 387-2424 x317.

For more information about how you can support PJ Library, contact Amy Holtz at [aholtz@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:aholtz@jewishnewhaven.org) or (203) 387-2424 x254.

## The Bennett Center for Judaic Studies

[fairfield.edu/BennettSpring20](http://fairfield.edu/BennettSpring20)  
LECTURES AND PROGRAMS: SPRING 2020



Joan and Henry Katz Lecture in Judaic Studies  
"Dueling Loyalties: Honor, Citizenship, and Nineteenth Century Germany"

**Dr. David Meola, PhD**  
Author, Bert and Fanny Meisler Chair in History and Jewish Studies, University of Southern Alabama  
Wednesday, February 26 at 7:30 p.m. | Kelley Center Presentation Room



Diane Feigenson Lecture in Jewish Literature  
"Guilt, Memory, and the Beta-God: Nathan Englander on kaddish.com"

**Nathan Englander**  
Bestselling author, *For the Relief of Unbearable Urges, What We Talk About When We Talk About Anne Frank* and *kaddish.com* (2019)  
Thursday, March 5 at 7:30 p.m. | Oak Room, Barone Campus Center



Adolph and Ruth Schnurmacher Lecture in Judaic Studies  
"Cotton Capitalists: American Jewish Entrepreneurship in the Reconstruction Era"

**Michael R. Cohen, PhD**  
Author, Sizeler Professor of Jewish Studies, Tulane University  
Thursday, March 19 at 7:30 p.m. | Kelley Center Presentation Room



Fairfield University

For Reservations: [Bennettcenter@fairfield.edu](mailto:Bennettcenter@fairfield.edu) or 203-254-4000, ext. 2066.

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# Camp Summer Dreams Come True

Camp Gan Israel (CGI) is a place where New Haven's finest coaches and instructors make their summer home, working with your children to learn new skills and develop their self-esteem.

They are committed to giving your children a fun, interesting summer as they strive to impart Jewish values and pride. The camp is for boys and girls, ages 3-12. It is centrally located at Barnard Magnet School in New Haven. CGI offers a full range of camp activities, including sports, swimming, martial arts, yoga, music, science, art and more.

The 2020 dates are June 29 through August 7. Registration opens January 30 at [ganisraelnh.com/register](http://ganisraelnh.com/register). There are early bird and sibling discounts, before- and after-care options, and available financial aid. For a fun look at what camp is like, see story highlights and follow CGI on Instagram @ganisraelnewhaven.



Come for summer fun, leave with forever friends. Fill your days with MakerSpace, music, cooking classes, fort building, STEAM activities and so much more! Explore the great outdoors and uncover new interests while highlighting Jewish values.

Register now & receive our **EARLY BIRD SPECIAL!** OFFER ENDS FEBRUARY 14, 2020

Camp Dates: June 22-August 7  
S'more Camp: August 10-21  
**FREE T-Shirt & Backpack with Early Bird Registration**

**REGISTER: [jccnh.org/camp](http://jccnh.org/camp)**

For more information contact Camp Director, Debra Kirschner, [summercamp@jccnh.org](mailto:summercamp@jccnh.org)  
203-387-2424 x253

**1. CLUB GETAWAY** The Club Getaway overnight is the highlight of the summer for the older campers with a variety of activities, late-night bonfire, team-building exercises and delicious food. CGI campers build character and confidence as they muster the courage to try new—and some very difficult—challenges and encourage and cheer on their peers as they do the same.

**2. GAME ZONE** One of the favorite spots at CGI is the on-site Game Zone. Fully stocked with Nintendo Wiis, arcades, a pool table, air hockey, foosball, a life-sized Connect 4 and Jenga, dance mats, and more, there's always something for everyone.

**3. CLUBS** Each summer, Sr. Division campers enjoy the iClub experience; they get to choose their favorite club for professional instruction twice a week. Campers get to try their hands at something new. Past clubs have included guitar, 3D printing, rain gutter regatta, skateboarding, pottery and fencing. This summer, campers can look forward to movie making, stained glass art, drumming and more.

**4. TRIPS** Each year, CGI campers get to experience a full range of educational, extreme fun and challenging field trips. Exploring nature is always a highlight, as are the annual trips to Lake Compounce and Quassy, Mystic Aquarium, roller skating, Urban Air, It! and other popular Connecticut destinations made it to the list last summer.

**5. IT'S A FAMILY!** At CGI, camp is not just a place that entertains children; it's a warm, welcoming family. Summer events—such as the Talent Show Night and Family Festival—have camp families gathering together for evenings full of good memories.

**6. JEWISH IDENTITY AND PRIDE** The hallways at camp are alive with cheering and singing, and campers learn and appreciate their Jewish heritage. Holidays, Jewish heroes and mitzvot are taught through fun activities and theme days. JCrafts hands-on workshops include the Kosher Chocolate Factory, Mezuzah workshop, Havdallah factory and Shofar factory to make learning interactive and exciting. Tzedakah and kindness are a focus at camp with activities for good causes. Every Friday, the entire camp bakes challah and celebrates with a Shabbat party.

**7. INNOVATION!** STEM aviation workshops, CGI Avalanche, 9 Square in the Air, AiroSport, foam machine and Imagination Playground are several fun programs at CGI. There are innovative theme days such as Safari Day with rides on life-size mechanical animals, Space Day featuring rocket launching and Israel Shark Tank.

**8. LITTLE SCIENTISTS** The Little Scientists hands-on, fun workshops help the little ones explore marine life, seeds, plants, light and more. Along with Animal Embassy animal encounter workshops, campers are exposed to nature and animals, and learn to respect the environment.

For more information, visit [ganisraelnh.com](http://ganisraelnh.com) or call Chanie Wilhelm at (203) 701-9386.



# 2020 CAMP GUIDE FOR THE GREATER NEW HAVEN AREA

## 54 ACRES OF OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

**Archery**  
Archery – This summer, become a real life Robin Hood, tackle new challenges and step into new experiences. When someone asks you what you did this summer, tell them you shot a bull's eye.

**Ball Field**  
Ball field – Get a kick out of every day! Whether you score that goal, hit that homerun, or dodge that ball, summer memories are made out on the field.

**Gaga**  
Gaga – Go gaga for Gaga! Once you enter the pit, you'll never want to leave. Gaga is the fast paced, high energy sport, you'll be talking about all summer.

**Drama**  
Drama – Take center stage, embrace a creative outlet, and bring on the drama! Theater isn't just about putting on a show; learn how to work with others, build self-confidence, and leave it all on the stage.

**Swim**  
Swim – Stay cool and take a deep dive into summer. Whether you're learning to swim or just swimming for fun, the pool is always the place to be.

**Dance**  
Dance – Kick, twirl, and leap your way through summer. Strut your stuff to the year's top pop songs, learn to follow choreography, and dance to the beat of your own drum.

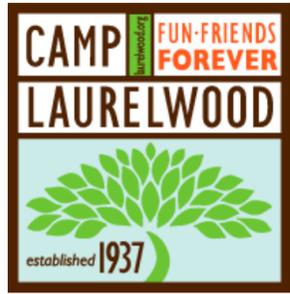
**Climbing Wall**  
Climbing wall – Spend this summer climbing to new heights! Ascend our rock wall and see the world from a different perspective.

**Arts & Crafts**  
Let creative juices flow and get your hands dirty with woodworking, jewelry making, tie-dying, and so much more.



# 2020 CAMP GUIDE FOR THE GREATER NEW HAVEN AREA

## Digital Media Adventures at Camp Laurelwood

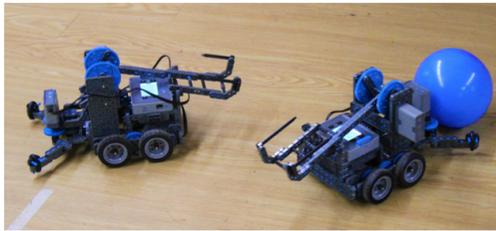


From devoted and caring staff to a variety of fun activities, Camp Laurelwood in Madison is a top Jewish summer camp in the Northeast for a variety of reasons, said Louis Lasko, Camp Laurelwood's director.

"We keep a strictly kosher kitchen, sing Hebrew songs, have Shabbat every Friday and read sections from the Torah on a weekly basis," he said of the camp's Jewish activities.

This year, Camp Laurelwood is launching its new digital media center, a state-of-the-art computer and photography lab. It includes a robotics program made possible with the donation of a series of versatile and user-friendly VEX Robotic kits.

"Over the course of the summer, I had the absolute privilege of introducing close to 100 kids to the exciting world of programming and building robots. The robotics specialist camp, which lasted for a week, was an immersive deep dive," said Lasko.



"First, the kids built the robots, using a system of parts very similar to Legos...to encourage creativity. The kids were able to build the robot that they wanted to build. Next, it was on to programming. Using a very intuitive software, and the camp's Apple desktop computers, all of the campers who participated in robotics were able to program their own robot to follow commands, move in certain ways, pick up items and use sensors. Doing this was easy enough that even the youngest campers could participate, and there were enough options that their interest was kept throughout the individual session," explained Lasko.

A popular activity was "robot racing" with teams competing to see which of their robots was fastest. After each race, each team would have time to modify their robots. Another activity was a robot obstacle course.

Perhaps the best thing about the new robotics program at Camp Laurelwood is how focused it is on what the campers want to do, Lasko said. They can spend time redesigning or rebuilding their robot, focus on programming the robot, make a movie about the robot using the camp's cameras, or other activities. What Camp Laurelwood, and the robotics program as a whole, offers is a personalized, fun experience for its campers.

For more information and to register, visit [camplaulwood.org/prospective-families](http://camplaulwood.org/prospective-families).

## Caregivers Also Need Care and Support

The stress that family caregivers feel is understandable to those familiar with this role. While caregiving can have numerous rewards, it can be easy to forget about the emotional, physical and mental well-being of the person providing that care.

Our community created a special new group just for those in caregiving roles. The Community Caregiver Group offers meaningful connection, an opportunity to recharge, and ways to find balance while caring for a loved one.

The Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, Jewish Family Service of Greater New Haven (JFS) and the Towers at 18 Tower Lane in New Haven are proud to fund and offer a Community's Caregiver Group.

"The demand of being a caregiver is 24/7," said Liz Davenport, a licensed social worker who facilitates the group. "You don't really just ...stop being a caregiver. There is often constant concern and worry, which takes a toll and can lead to isolation."

These meetings, hosted by The Towers, provide an opportunity for caregivers throughout our community. "Reducing social isolation, providing meaningful connection, educating the community and helping people live their best lives is at the heart of what we do.

"We are grateful that the Jewish Federation generously supported this joint venture and partnership." Dr. David Hass, chair of the Jewish Federation's Planning and Allocation Committee, sees this new group as an opportunity for Jewish agencies to work together. "We want to provide an efficient use of our funds, to foster relationships between Jewish agencies that otherwise might not have the chance."

The meetings take place on the second Wednesday of each month. They will be held on January 8 and February 12 at The Towers in New Haven from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. A light kosher meal will be provided.

For more information, visit [jfsnh.org/2019/10/24/communitys-caregivers-group](http://jfsnh.org/2019/10/24/communitys-caregivers-group).

The Towers at Tower Lane and Jewish Family Service of Greater New Haven Are Pleased to Offer a New Group for Our Community's Caregivers

Do you care for a loved one or family member?  
Do you find yourself isolated from others because of your role?  
Join us for meaningful time together as we take a break and recharge.  
Learn how to find balance in your life as you support your loved one.  
Facilitated by a licensed social worker.

This group meets once a month on Wednesdays:  
November 13, December 11, January 8, and February 12  
5:30-6:30 pm - Kosher nosh provided

The Towers at Tower Lane  
18 Tower Lane  
New Haven, CT

Please RSVP to Liz Davenport, LMSW  
203-389-5599 x117



This program is made possible through a generous grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven



**THEY SEE TUG-OF-WAR. YOU SEE TEAMWORK.** Up to \$1000 off Jewish Camp! **one happy camper**

**One Happy Camper Program Offers Grants, Financial Aid**

The Jewish Foundation's One Happy Camper New Haven program provides incentive grants for first-time campers and returning as well as financial aid to over 195 different Jewish overnight camps. Campers must reside in the Greater New Haven catchment area.

**To learn more or apply, please visit:**  
[jewishnewhaven.org/one-happy-camper](http://jewishnewhaven.org/one-happy-camper)

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'IMAGINE JOHN OLIVER IN A VARMULKE' New York Post  
'A SPECIAL VEIN OF COMIC MATERIAL' Financial Times ★★★★★  
'HAS AUDIENCES ROLLING ON THE FLOOR' Jerusalem Post  
'RELENTLESSLY FUNNY' Jewish Chronicle ★★★★★

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\$250. Couple VIP Sponsor  
Havdallah, Open Bar & Dinner at 7:15pm  
Comedy Performance at 8:45pm

Paid for by a grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven



# Wellness • Culture • Jewish Life

## Motivating Yourself to Succeed with Fitness Goals

by Susan Donovan  
JCC of Greater New Haven's Director of Wellness Services

Back by popular request, Sherri Sosensky will be offering an adult Jewish-inspired yoga class on Tuesday nights at the JCC of Greater New Haven at 7 p.m.

If you find it difficult to get yourself motivated, several simple tips can help. Self-motivation is key if those "excuses" arise when your new fitness goals becomes challenging or inconvenient.

Self-motivation is what fuels you to accept and conquer the challenges of growth. It drives you to complete a task without needing reasons or a push from someone else. Defined in the spirit of wellness, self-motivation is the ability to do what you know is right for you, despite a lack of energy, time, or other perceived or real barriers. It's the ability to do what is good for you—even if you don't feel like doing it—because you know that the future rewards will be great.

We all have a natural sense of self-motivation; for some, it is more difficult than for others. But it's possible to enhance your level of determination and ambition by practicing specific behaviors and actions.

### THERE ARE A NUMBER OF WAYS TO INCREASE SELF-MOTIVATION.

**CLARITY:** Be clear about your goals. When you clarify your destination, you set yourself up for a smooth(er) ride.

**DEFINE REASONS:** It's vital to be clear about why you want to accomplish something as this gives more purpose to your actions.

**SIMPLIFY:** Defining small, simple goals easily within reach means you are more likely to achieve them. When you do, it will offer a great opportunity to jump start your internal motivation.

**POSITIVITY:** Surround yourself and your environment with positive people and messages that build you up. The better you feel, the more you'll prioritize your motives.

**VISUALIZE THE OUTCOME:** By envisioning the outcome, you recognize that there will be results beyond what you feel in the moment. Harness the power you have and believe you can accomplish what you set out to do!

Here are some additional tips from JCC of Greater New Haven's personal trainers and health coaches: "One of the biggest roadblocks to getting results is

that we tend to get overzealous and want what we want now! Just remember those extra pounds did not appear overnight, and they will not go away overnight either. Stay strong and take it one-step at a time." ~ Alex L

"It is so important to find something you enjoy doing and find time for you. Work out, walk, bike take a class with a friend. This can help motivate both of you, encouraging each other on your journey." ~ Debra F

"Exercise is a natural elixir to the mind, body and soul. Without exercise, the body and mind can prematurely rust and die." ~ Beth H

"For the body, motion is lotion, (too much) rest is rust. Know that if you invest in your body, it will pay you back in full... with interest!" ~ Steve F

"Find a dream or goal truly worth changing for...a dream that will inspire you at every moment of choice, and keep your commitment level high. Create a healthy support system around you with friends, family, coach, or a group." ~ Betsy O

Let the JCC of Greater New Haven's fitness professionals help you be the best "you" can be in 2020.

Contact Susan Donovan at [susand@jccnh.org](mailto:susand@jccnh.org) for a free wellness consultation.



## Join the JCC

Take family time to the next level at the J. There's something for everyone - from basketball to rock climbing to splashing around in the pool. With free babysitting on site, there are no excuses for not getting your workout done. Pick your favorites from over 50 weekly classes, or get your me-time at our top-tier cardio and weight center featuring the latest TRX equipment, indoor cycling, and more. It's all under one roof, here at the JCC of Greater New Haven.

# 50% OFF

your first month\*



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(203) 387-2424 | [www.jccnh.org](http://www.jccnh.org)

\*Promotional rate is valid for first month only. Normal rates apply in the second month with a secured payment plan. New members only. Must have not been a member in the past six months. Cannot be combined with other offers. Offer expires 2/29/20.

## Supporting Haifa Rape Crisis Center

The support of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven has enabled Haifa Rape Crisis Center's (HRCC) Afula satellite office to continue to make a difference in the lives of hundreds of people in the Afula/Gilboa area in Israel.

The Afula branch raises the awareness of the Jezreel Valley's inhabitants about the subject of sexual violence and prevention in addition to encouraging youth and adult survivors of sexual abuse to contact HRCC for support and consultation. The center also facilitates an educational and training outreach program within the area's educational, health and social services and the criminal justice systems in both Arab and Jewish communities.

"Thanks to my participation in the support group at Afula HRCC, I have tools to support my daughter," says Dalia, a mother of a sexual violence survivor. "These meetings encouraged me to start a personal treatment at HRCC to deal with the sexual abuse I suffered in the past."

The Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven is part of the Southern New England Consortium (SNEC) of Partnership2Gether, which supports HRCC to help heal individuals and, ultimately, generations in the Afula/Gilboa region. The Afula branch is the only rape crisis center in this northern district located outside of Haifa, making it accessible for people that wouldn't or couldn't find a place to ask for healing help and resources.

The center is located at 5 Mitzpeh Street, Giv'at Ha'moreh, Afula, Israel.

## 2020 Genesis Prize Laureate: Natan Sharansky



Natan Sharansky's advocacy for human rights, drive for political and religious freedoms, his heroic struggle as a refusenik, and tireless efforts as the Jewish Agency for Israel's chairman were being recognized by The Genesis Prize Foundation. On December 10, 2019, the organization named Natan Sharansky as the 2020 recipient of the Genesis Prize from a list of 250 nominees.

By honoring him, we have the opportunity to celebrate his achievements and teach a new generation about the Soviet Jewry movement—including the Freedom Sunday for Soviet Jews in Washington on December 6, 1987—and how it galvanized Jews around the world and changed the face of Israel and world Jewry.

The Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven community can take pride in its partnership with Sharansky over the years. One meeting in particular stands out. On April 8, 2013, Sharansky met privately with Sydney Perry, a former CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven; Rabbi Joel Levenson, a former rabbi for Congregation B'nai Jacob in Woodbridge; Rabbi Michael Farbman of Temple Emanuel of Greater New Haven; and other community members. They discussed insights and ideas about the controversy surrounding women wearing a tallit when praying at the Western Wall in the Old City of Jerusalem or reading publicly from a Torah scroll there.

The Genesis Prize fosters Jewish identity, inspires Jewish pride and strengthens the bond between Israel and the Diaspora. The annual \$1 million award celebrates Jewish talent and achievement by honoring individuals for their professional accomplishments, commitment to Jewish values and contribution to improving the world.

Read more at [genesisprize.org/laureates/laureate-2020](http://genesisprize.org/laureates/laureate-2020).



## FedLab Event Inspired Our Leadership

How can Jewish Federations across the U.S. and their partner organizations innovatively reach their communities? In November 2019 at the Jewish Federations of North America's new FedLab event in Washington, D.C., 850 Jewish leaders gathered to delve into three issues facing our Jewish communities: action for good and social services, Jewish engagement, and security. The goal was to begin laying the foundation for local action as well as networking for collaborative initiatives across Federations.

"The inspiring conference challenged us to think beyond our current model with our Jewish Federation as the center hub and local agencies and synagogues as the spokes," said Judy Alperin, the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven's CEO. She chose to attend the Jewish engagement track. "I returned with ideas about micro-opportunities to engage individuals in a way that is within and without the organization. We heard many fantastic speakers; I was particularly impressed by Sarah Hurwitz, the author of Here All Along, and her insightful rediscovery of Judaism."

Dr. Jeffrey Hoos, President of the Jewish Federation, and his wife, Betsy, a past president, attended the Action for Good track.

Disheartened by food insecurity issues among the

elderly in Greater New Haven and the Russian community in particular, Betsy Hoos wanted to shed light on this "invisible" crisis. Although there are wraparound services and social services agency protocols, there needs to be stronger outreach efforts to identify those that are isolated, or unwilling to come forward and "hiding in plain sight," Dr. Hoos said. The Hooses see the Jewish Federation as a catalyst to identify those in need, match them with appropriate resources and spotlight the food insecurity issue.

"There is a sense of urgency," emphasized Dr. Hoos. "For Holocaust survivors, time is running out; they need help now. One way the Jewish Federation can take the lead is by bringing people together to combat that loneliness and connecting young people with those living in The Towers. That can also indirectly help the elderly if the young person is trained to keep an eye out for issues."

With the Jewish Federation embarking on its strategic goal process in 2020, the FedLab event happened at an opportune time as the organization makes decisions about deploying resources, creating structures and putting our Jewish values into action, explained Alperin.

For more information on FedLab, visit [jfnafedlab.org](http://jfnafedlab.org).

## Festival of Jewish Life & Learning

### Taste of Limmud

Limmud, which means learning in Hebrew, is also the name of an exciting and innovative international charity, powered by learning and based on the values of diversity, community and voluntarism. It is an inspiration for over 80 Limmud communities across the world, and a step on each persons' Jewish journey.

On March 29, our Greater New Haven community will debut the Taste of Limmud – Festival of Jewish Life and Learning. The afternoon event with teachers and facilitators from our community and beyond is a re-imagined version of our past Taste of Honey. It will offer diverse classes, panels, workshops and discussions on topics from Talmud to Jewish yoga, interfaith to cooking, and parenting to politics. The program will be accompanied by a Jewish camp program for kids.

Want to be part of the steering committee, share from your knowledge and experience, or volunteer at the event? Contact Eliraz Shifman Berman, Director of the Center for Jewish Life and Learning, Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven at [eshifmanberman@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:eshifmanberman@jewishnewhaven.org), or visit [jewishnewhaven.org/limmud](http://jewishnewhaven.org/limmud).

## Gospel Shabbat to Celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day

In celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend, B'nai Jacob in Woodbridge welcomes back the Valley Soul and Shoreline Soul Choirs for the Gospel Shabbat service, concert and dinner on Friday, January 17, 2020.

The Valley Soul and Shoreline Soul Gospel choirs, under the direction of the incomparable Angela Clemmons, will join with Cantor Kanfer and the Sweet Singers of B'nai Jacob for a special Martin Luther King Jr. Day service.

Clemmons has worked as a professional singer for over 35 years, including as a background singer with Aretha Franklin, Michael Jackson, Justin Timberlake, Celine Dion, Steely Dan, Cyndi Lauper, Elton John and many others. Join in what promises to be a spiritual communal event.

The service and concert are open to the public and free of charge; the Shabbat dinner following the service requires registration and advanced payment.

For more information and dinner reservations, call B'nai Jacob at (203) 389-2111 or visit [bnaijacob.org](http://bnaijacob.org). Congregation B'nai Jacob is located at 75 Rimmon Road, Woodbridge, CT.



## Interfaith Service Honors Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Congregation Mishkan Israel's annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Service will be on Friday, January 17, 2020, at

7:00 p.m. The event is free and open to the community.

Congregation Mishkan Israel has celebrated Dr. King's legacy and his ties to the congregation since the 1970s. On October 20, 1961, Rabbi Robert Goldburg invited his friend, Dr. King, to speak at Mishkan Israel in celebration of his work and the congregation's commitment to social justice. The congregation wanted to preserve this historic moment following Dr. King's assassination and so began the annual service over 40 years ago. Since 2009, Rabbi Brockman has invited other local interfaith clergy to make this service a true community celebration. Faith leaders from the Jewish, Catholic, Christian, Muslim, Bahai and Unitarian Universalist traditions will join Rabbi Immerman in leading services.

For more information, contact the synagogue office at (203) 288-3877. Congregation Mishkan Israel is a reform synagogue located at 785 Ridge Road in Hamden.

## Celebrating Tot Shabbat



CONGREGATION MISHKAN ISRAEL

Congregation Mishkan Israel invites families with children 6-years old and younger to the first Tot Shabbats of

2020 on January 3 and February 7 at 5:30 p.m. These Friday celebrations of Shabbat are a wonderful opportunity for families with preschool-aged children to get to know each other and enjoy a morning of blessings, stories, food and fun.

Congregation Mishkan Israel is a reform synagogue located at 785 Ridge Road in Hamden. For more information, contact the synagogue office at (203) 288-3877.

## Jewish Family Service Welcomes New Employees



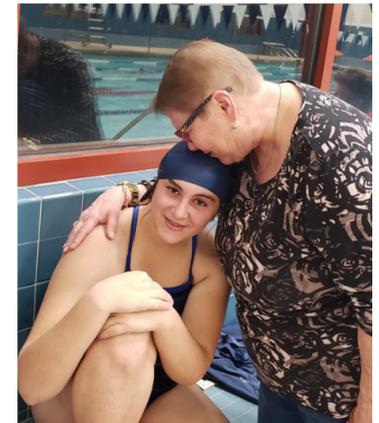
From left to right: Andrea Joseph, LCSW, Hannah Leiterman, LCSW, and Maria Gaudet, MSW

Chief Executive Officer Amy Rashba, LCSW, and the Jewish Family Service (JFS) of Greater New Haven announced new staff members who bring a diverse set of skills to the agency. A New Haven native, Andrea Joseph, LCSW, joins JFS as the Coordinator for Aging Adult Services. As the new Mental Health Clinical Director, Hannah Leiterman, LCSW, will be tasked with building the JFS' mental health program. In her new Therapeutic Foster Care Recruiter position, Maria Gaudet, MSW, will form new community connections and recruit more foster parents.

For more information on Jewish Family Service of Greater New Haven's programs, visit [jfsnh.org/programs-services](http://jfsnh.org/programs-services).

## Swim-a-thon Honors Emma Sundermann

On November 21, 2019, the JCC of Greater New Haven (JCC) held the 17th Annual Emma Sundermann Blue Marlins Swim-a-thon. Pat Sundermann, Emma's mother, has been volunteering in the JCC swim community and holding the JCC team together for over 24 years. Pat lost her daughter at 16 years of age to a rare infection. Emma loved being part of the JCC swim team; she was a competitor with a big heart who swam for the team for nine years.



In Emma's honor, the JCC Blue Marlins team holds the annual swim-a-thon to raise money for the aquatics program's swim equipment. This year, Pat spoke about how proud she was of each swimmer. Thirteen-year old Noga Kenigsztein swam a record of 208 laps over the course of two hours and 14-year old David Edwards did 196 laps. Eight-year old Phoebe Bartels swam 100 laps and six-year old Silvia Bartels finished 70 laps.

The JCC is proud and thankful to the swimmers, parents and coaches. The organization is grateful that the Sundermann family allows the community to keep Emma Sundermann's memory and spirit alive through the swim-a-thon.

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### Opening Minds Through Art

Opening Reception  
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Hors D'oeuvres and Wine  
Art for Sale to Benefit The Towers Foundation

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Please RSVP by January 27 to Nicole Merritt  
Executive Coordinator, 203-772-1816, ext. 180  
[nicole@towerone.org](mailto:nicole@towerone.org)



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Jan. 21 - May 12 | 7-9 p.m.

380 Amity Road, Woodbridge, (203) 387-2424  
New to JTE/JTA Parents and Friends? See page 26

# A Cup of Wine

by Yelena Gerovich  
New American Acculturation Coordinator

Shabbat and Jewish holiday meals begin with a blessing over a cup of wine. What does one do for kiddush if wine is off the menu because of the Prohibition Era or no access to grapes?

The Eighteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution was ratified 100 years ago on January 18, 1920, prohibiting the sale and supply of alcohol. In an attempt to curb violence and crime, the U.S. Congress enacted the National Prohibition Act. It defined intoxicating beverages and carved out three important wine exemptions. Wine could still be produced and sold for medical purposes, for use in religious services (sacramental wine), and households were allowed to make up to 200 gallons of wine per year for “non-intoxicating” family consumption. This federal act backfired greatly, leading to excessive crime rates and a much greater increase in violence. That period of time became known as the Prohibition Era.

From 1920-1933, the Orthodox Jewish community largely ignored the grape juice alternative. They stuck with wine produced under the “sacramental wine” exemption as well as with the legally permitted homemade raisin wine. The latter was already an age-old tradition throughout Eastern Europe where fresh grapes were often hard to obtain. In the former Soviet Union, Jewish religious families produced homemade raisin wine in the 20th century and continue to do so now in many different places due to the lack of kosher wine.

Between 1880 and 1920, about 2 million Eastern European Jews arrived in the United States. Many of them opposed the Prohibition Act from the start.

“Alcohol offered a way for American Jews to present themselves as the best sorts of Americans, as the ones who consume alcohol regularly but are not drunkards, who participate in the economy in ways that benefit communities and society at large,” said Marni Davis, the author of *The Jews and Booze: Becoming American in the Age of Prohibition*.

At the national level, the Prohibition Act cost the federal government \$11 billion in lost tax revenue while costing over \$300 million to enforce. Prohibition allowed crime syndicates who produced or smuggled booze to flourish; that, in turn, has inspired some of the greatest books and movies ever made. Step into the JCC of Greater New Haven’s library and enjoy the variety of its collection during the cold winter months.

The New American Acculturation Program offered many programs in the fall in both Russian and English to provide immigrants with opportunities and tools to become vested citizens and to feel at home within the New Haven community. They celebrated Jewish holidays and offered educational programs such as Preparing for the Citizenship Test and Community Building through Invention, Innovation, and Survival. Three generations of Russian-speaking families enjoyed the International Festival and Family Fun Day at the JCC of Greater New Haven while attending programs in Russian and English.

For more information about the New American Acculturation Program, including specific program sponsorships, contact Yelena Gerovich at (203) 387-2424 x321 or email [ygerovich@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:ygerovich@jewishnewhaven.org).

## Welcome to America

### Бокал вина

Еврейские праздники и суббота начинаются с благословения над бокалом вина. Но что делать если для благословения (кидуш) вина нет? Восемнадцатая поправка к Конституции США, запрещающая продажу и поставку алкоголя в надежде снизить насилие и преступность, была ратифицирована сто лет назад в январе 1920 года. В силу вступил сухой закон. Вступил с тремя исключениями: вино разрешалось производить и продавать в медицинских целях, для использования во время религиозных служб, домашним хозяйствам разрешалось производить лимитированное количество вина исключительно для семейного употребления. Все это привело к различного рода махинациям и расцвету преступности.

В 1920-1933 гг. американская еврейская община игнорировала советы использовать вместо вина виноградный сок и воспользовавшись лазейкой о производстве домашнего вина, готовила вино из изюма, используя вековую традицию и рецепты евреев из Восточной Европы, где свежий виноград часто был недоступен, а кошерного вина не было в продаже. Хотите верить, хотите нет, но в бывшем Советском Союзе еврейские религиозные семьи делали домашнее вино из изюма в 20-м веке и продолжают это делать сейчас.

Между 1880 и 1920 годами около 2 миллионов восточноевропейских евреев прибыли в Соединенные Штаты. Многие из них с самого начала выступали против сухого закона. Марни Дэвис, автор книги «Евреи и выпивка: статья американцем в эпоху сухого закона», считал, что «алкоголь дает американским евреям возможность показать себя лучшими образцами американцев, которые регулярно употребляют алкоголь, но не становятся пьяницами, которые приносят значимую пользу экономике и обществу.» Правительство США потеряло 11 миллиардов долларов на налоговых поступлениях и 300 миллионов долларов на исполнение и слежку за исполнением сухого закона. Запрет на алкоголь способствовал процветанию преступных синдикатов, росту преступных организаций, возникновению американской мафии, производству, перевозкам и продаже контрабандной выпивки. Написано огромное количество интересных книг и снято множество захватывающих дух фильмов об этом времени. Приходите в библиотеку нашего Еврейского центра и порадайте себя чтением и просмотром фильмов из его коллекции в холодные зимние месяцы. Программа New American Acculturation осенью предложила множество программ на русском и английском языках. Мы отмечали еврейские праздники, организовали образовательные программы под названием «Подготовка к экзамену на гражданство» и «Изобретения и судьба Джозефа Гербера». Три поколения русскоязычных семей посетили Международный фестиваль и День веселья для всей семьи в нашем еврейском центре в ноябре. С Новым годом! Пусть он будет радостным и полным интересных встреч и событий!

С вопросами и предложениями обращайтесь к координатору культурно-образовательных программ Елене Герович по тел. (203) 387-2424 доб.321 или по электронной почте [ygerovich@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:ygerovich@jewishnewhaven.org)

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## The Latest from Ezra Academy



There’s always excitement and innovation at Ezra Academy in Woodbridge. Here are some recent updates from fall 2019.

Ezra Academy held its 52nd annual Hanukkah production as an 80s-themed retelling of the triumph of the Maccabees and the Jewish people. Each class sang and danced while the eighth grade narrated the story dressed as historical characters like Theodore Herzl and Golda Meir.

The school donated nearly a thousand pounds of food to the Jewish Family Service of Greater New Haven’s food pantry through the second and third grade annual bagel breakfast fundraiser. The students sold breakfast and bagels (generously donated by Abel Catering) to their classmates. They then used the money raised to shop for food at Stop & Shop. Math skills plus gemilut chasadim are a winning match.

Fifteen fifth and sixth graders went to the Isabella Friedman Jewish Retreat Center in Canaan. The students learned about preserving the environment through a Jewish lens. They returned to Ezra Academy with ideas for local projects to implement.

Ezra Academy is a dynamic preschool through eighth-grade school with a focus on individual attention, innovative teaching methods, in-depth educational units and experiential learning.

For more information about Ezra Academy, contact Jessica Khazak at [jkhazak@ezraacademyct.org](mailto:jkhazak@ezraacademyct.org).

## Can Your Child Converse in Hebrew? Learn with Our Israeli Emissary



Give your child a chance to learn conversational Hebrew with the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven’s Israeli emissary, Li’on Avraham. She will help your children learn Hebrew words and phrases through conversation, interactive games and crafts. This beginner-level, small-group class is for children over 5-years old.

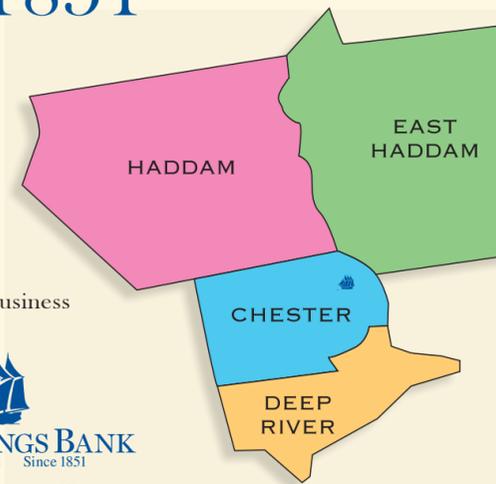
The six Monday classes, which run January 6 through March 2, will take place from 4:30 to 5:15 p.m. at the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven’s Center for Jewish Life and Learning. There will be no class on January 20, and February 10 and

February 17. The fee is \$50 per child for the series. There is limited space in the class so register soon!

For more information and to register, contact Eliraz Shifman Berman, the director of the Center for Jewish Life and Learning, Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, at [eshifmanberman@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:eshifmanberman@jewishnewhaven.org). The class will take place at the Beckerman Lender Jewish Community Building, located at 360 Amity Road, Woodbridge, CT.

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## Mitzvah Day



**SAVE THE DATE: March 15, 2020**

## RISE AGAINST HUNGER PROJECT

A fun, educational way for the Greater New Haven Jewish Community to join Temple Emanuel’s families and Religious School students by lending a hand to pack nutritious meals for people in critical need of food across the globe.

Help make a huge impact worldwide through meaningful learning and community bonding.



- Perfect for volunteers from ages 4 to 94
- One person can package 250 meals in two hours
- Volunteers also need to help unload and load the truck @ 8 a.m.
- Financial support is needed to help make this tikkum olam project possible. Donations can be made online.

We are committed to preparing over 10,000 meals in one day...won't you help us help others?

For more information, please email [tikkunolam@tegnh.org](mailto:tikkunolam@tegnh.org)

Please save the date and plan to join  
Temple Emanuel on March 15 from 10 a.m. - noon.  
150 Derby Avenue, Orange, CT | (203) 397-3000

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# SPIRITUALITY THROUGH MOTION: Gentle Yoga with Sherri Sosensky for Adults



New at the Federation, JTE (Jewish Teen Education) is now offering classes for parents and friends. Sherri Sosensky will be offering an adult Jewish-inspired yoga class on Tuesday nights at the JCC of Greater New Haven at 7 p.m.

The class will be spiritually based on the Jewish holidays, values and music. Following a warm-up time with stretching, breath work and several sun salutations, you will flow through different vinyasas, which focus on standing poses, balancing, twists, gentle inversions and more. Participants will explore the Jewish holidays and get in touch with Jewish values through yoga movement. You will gain balance, strength and better focus all while stretching and flowing through a vinyasa. In addition, you will learn stress management techniques, breathing and meditation exercises, and self-awareness and self-regulation supports. Wear comfortable clothes to class and bring your own mat if you prefer. Each class will end with a relaxing savasana and meditation.

Sosensky has yoga teachers certifications for adults, senior and chair yoga. She has been practicing yoga for over 15 years, and has been a JTE teacher for 4 years.

For more information and to register, contact Eliraz Shifman Berman, Director of the Center for Jewish Life and Learning, Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven at [eshifmanberman@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:eshifmanberman@jewishnewhaven.org) or (203) 387-2424 x308.

## Tu B'Shvat: A Hands-On Lesson in Jewish Environmentalism



by Sam Forman

No Jewish holiday is complete without a hands-on experience. Tu B'Shvat, the Jewish New Year for Trees, is no exception. Denoted in the Talmud as one of four "New Year" celebrations, the holiday is accompanied by traditions such as eating an eclectic sampling of tree-born nuts and fruits, conducting a Tu B'Shvat seder, and showing appreciation for trees by tending to green areas and planting new seedlings. Tu B'Shvat offers us some practical, profound learning when we engage with its meaningful traditions.

We don't have to look far today to see signs of humanity's neglectful stance towards nature, whether it is seeing serene nature wiped out by modern development, depleted natural resources, or ignoring considerations of sustainability. Tu B'Shvat teaches us that there is another way. Intentionally eating fruits and nuts from trees brings us a greater awareness of and gratitude for where many of our resources come from. The holiday ceremonies highlight our inseparable connection to nature with readings and rituals that urge us to keep the environment in our consciousness. And working the land by planting trees and caring for greenery reminds us of our responsibility to take action to protect the only nature we have.

To inspire the environmentalist spirit of Tu B'Shvat in an engaging way for families and children, the JCC of Greater New Haven will host a Tu B'Shvat STEAM Fair on February 9, 2020. The afternoon event will include science, technology, engineering, art and math activities connected to nature.

Sam Forman, a New Haven-based educator, also coordinates the JTE (Jewish Teen Education), Jewish Life and Learning, and Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven.

## AN IMMIGRANT'S SUITCASE Inspires Memories

For a few hours on December 8, 2019, friends of Jewish Community Alliance for Refugee Resettlement (JCARR) stepped back in time. Under the direction of Debbie Chasen, a professional talent agent and Temple Emanuel of Greater New Haven member, brave, non-professional models made their way down the staircase of the home of Risé Siegel and Ed Cantor. They wore outfits and accessories provided by Fashionista, a vintage fashion store in New Haven, showing the audience what might have appeared in an immigrant's suitcase. Jackie Chasen and Jesse Gosselin provided live musical entertainment, and Alan XYZ served as the emcee. Some of the guests wore vintage clothes and jewelry; they enjoyed sharing their stories about the grandmothers, great aunts and mothers who once wore them.



Aminah Alsaleh not only prepared the all-kosher Syrian food that delighted attendees, she also modeled two robes. One of the robes was what an urban woman in Homs, Syria, would wear, while the other was an abaya typical of the Bedouin culture of Alsaleh's husband.

Donations from the fundraising event enable JCARR to continue to resettle new refugee families and help them become integrated into the Greater New Haven community. JCARR was established in 2015 by five area synagogues and the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven.

To make an online donation, visit [JewishNewHaven.org/Refugee-Resettlement/Give](http://JewishNewHaven.org/Refugee-Resettlement/Give). Checks can also be sent to the attention of Amy Holtz, payable to The Jewish Federation, with JCARR in the memo line, to The Jewish Federation, 360 Amity Road, Woodbridge, CT 06525.

For more information, contact Jean Silk, JCARR's coordinator, at [jsilk@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:jsilk@jewishnewhaven.org) or visit [jewishnewhaven.org/refugee-resettlement](http://jewishnewhaven.org/refugee-resettlement).

# Honorable Menschen: Allan Greenberg

CONTINUED FROM PG. 5

not everyone would know that he always keeps a shirt and tie in his office in case he has to go to a funeral at the last minute. "Allan represents the core values of the Center—serving people and ensuring the safety and good health of everyone there," Weisbert said.

Judy Alperin, the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven's CEO, met Greenberg when she first came to the community from Pennsylvania four years ago. She felt even at that first meeting that she already knew him.

"There have been a few Allans in my life and I have the fondest memories of them," Alperin explained. "Just like Allan, they were warm, encouraging, kind and had a twinkle." She said she is constantly surprised by Greenberg's favorite foods, his expansive family members and his impressive closet full of plaid shirts.

Alperin said Greenberg's knowledge and networking skills proved invaluable after the four-alarm fire that severely damaged the JCC in December 2016, less than a year after she first arrived at the JCC.

"For many dealing with the aftermath from the fire and starting from zero, Allan's institutional memory from our days as a JCC 'without walls' kicked in immediately," Alperin noted. "Since Allan has strong relationships with colleagues across the Greater New Haven area, he quickly mounted our sports programs in multiple

locations to reduce the inconvenience and interruption to our members."

"Since I came on the scene later in Allan's career, what epitomized him as a mensch to me was the way he respected his father and helped him to have dignity, community and friendship in his later years," she said. Greenberg's father, Arthur, died in January 2019 at the age of 96. He too worked at the JCC for many years and was beloved by the community.

"The JCC's mission is to help people, to improve people," he said. "I'm just trying to make kids better people, better citizens with values." Greenberg said he has been blessed to see so many families grow up through his time at the JCC.

Join the JCC for the First Annual Sports Banquet to relive the glory days of our youth and honor Allan Greenberg for all he has done for so many in the athletics department over the years here at the JCC. The banquet will take place in the Vine Family Auditorium on May 3, 2020, at 10:30 a.m. Brunch will be served.

Shalom New Haven seeks to recognize people in our community who give their time and talents to improve our community. Who would you nominate for our Honorable Menschen? Send your suggestions, stories and photos to: [nkohl@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:nkohl@jewishnewhaven.org).

**ELM CITY Winds**

**MUSICAL SONG AND DANCE**

**JCC OF GREATER NEW HAVEN**

**January 26, 2020 | 12:30 p.m. | FREE**

JCC, 360 Amity Road, Woodbridge

Elm City Winds is an active woodwind quintet that performs frequently throughout the New Haven area, offering audiences a range of light favorites and serious classical chamber music. The quintet is comprised of dedicated musicians who represent a range of occupations – some of whom have played together for over 15 years. The group is particularly proud of its performances that support a variety of social causes in the community.

The JCC is proud to present the Elm City Winds as performers for our Friends of the J Thank You event. PLEASE JOIN US!

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# "Life-Changing Experiences"

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Like many interfaith couples, Joanna Romberg and Michael Bletchley have built their family's traditions around elements from their respective childhoods as well as new multicultural traditions. Finding a community where both felt comfortable was challenging; they ultimately found it at Ezra Academy and at the JCC of Greater New Haven. Joanna, who was born in Israel, is grateful for the opportunity to bring Israeli culture, Jewish holidays and the Hebrew language to 10-year-old Eli and six-year-old Ari's lives. "It's like having a [Jewish] family outside of Israel and a home away from home. That has been a life-changing experience for us," Joanna said. She and Michael are expecting another child. "When the new baby arrives, she will be welcomed by a caring and supportive Jewish community."

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