Preparation for Reopening of Our State, Our Building and Our Lives

Page 4-5

The family business’ fourth-generation owner shares Abel Caterers’ story in the community PAGE 11

FAMILY SPIRIT AND STRONG JEWISH VALUES AT ABEL

Local rabbi offers inspiration to help “light up” our connections and communities PAGE 14

‘KEEPING THE LIGHT BURNING BRIGHT’ WITH RABBI IMMERMAN

Through a collaborative effort, 50,000 more masks were given out to those in need at Yale’s West Campus PAGE 12

MASKS FOR CT CONTINUES MASK DISTRIBUTION
Tell Us What is Important to You

Springtime brings renewal and the re-awakening of dormant plants and animals that have hibernated through the long winter. Here in Connecticut, after a somewhat mild winter, spring felt more like a continuation of winter compounded by the isolation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

While we necessarily heeded the governor’s order to stay at home and shield our Jewish community to a fully online community. Prior to COVID, our community embarked on a strategic planning process in order to help drive the changes necessary to create a sustainable future for our Jewish community. Those plans were halted mid-March. Our Jewish community to thrive. Those plans were halted mid-March.

The pandemic has illuminated—and in many cases exacerbated—issues, concerns and needs of our Jewish community. Prior to COVID, our community embarked on a strategic planning process in order to help drive the changes necessary to create a sustainable future for our Jewish community. Those plans were halted mid-March.

Following several focus groups and one-on-one interviews led by Major Group of Philadelphia, we are launching an online community survey designed to understand your thoughts, feelings, wants and desires for our Jewish community. We are pleased that the survey will be online for most of the month of June, giving ample opportunity for all to participate. We understand that some of us may require a little extra help to complete the survey; we have plans to help. Since we cannot visit in person, our expert team of sociology professors is reaching out to households throughout our Jewish community to offer special assistance.

In addition to our helping those who need help to complete the survey, we are asking for your help. Not only is it highly important that you take those 15 minutes to share your opinions, but it’s also helping us to connect the survey link to your community. While we have a robust database of 10,000 households, we know we have not captured everyone. With your help, we will get the most accurate understanding of what is most important to our Greater New Haven Jewish community.

This process would not be possible without the investment of resources from the Seidling Foundation. In collaboration with the dedicated leadership of Chairman Dr. Steven Newkirk and the excellent professional support of Banner Consultant Judith Teplitzky, I want to offer our deepest appreciation to them and Virtual Group and the David Kaplan Panoramic Strategies, who will guide Jewish Federation leadership in the important process that will activate the data gathered during phase 1.

Thank you for answering the call and lending your voice. Everyone counts. Everyone matters. With your help, we will chart the course to a strong and vibrant future for our community. With my best for your strength and good health.

JUDY ALPERIN
FROM THE DESK OF
Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven

Copy deadlines:
- Copies of all content prior to COVID-19 pandemic.
- Special edition: June issue.
- July 10 for August online issue
- Aug 20 for September online issue
- Sept 10 for October online issue
- Oct 20 for November online issue
- Nov 30 for January/February 2021 issue
- Feb 20 for March/April 2021 issue
- March 20 for May/June issue
- May 20 for July/August issue

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

SHALOM NEW HAVEN STAFF:
Judith Alperin
Director of Marketing & Communications
Sydney Fine
Jewish New Haven Editor
Hendy Buxes
Senior Graphic Designer
George Hauer
Advertising Sales Manager

EDITORIAL BOARD:
Cherie Horowitz, Chair
Jim Duggan
John Oppenheimer
Emily Pap John

LEADERSHIP:
Dr. Jeffrey Hosni
President
Judith Alperin
Chief Executive Officer
Scott Cohen
JCC Executive Director
Lisa Dangio
Foundation Executive Director

Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven
360 Avery Road, Woodbridge, CT 06525
(203) 387-2424
donate@jewishnewhaven.org
jewishnewhaven.org/SHALOM

The Community Foundation Awards Grant to Jewish Federation

The Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven is grateful to be awarded a 3-year grant in the cumulative amount of $50,000 to provide general operating support for community-wide programming that helps people in need in the Greater New Haven area. The funds will also be used to nurture and sustain programs that enrich the local community including grantmaking support.

Shabbat Shalom

Jewish Community COVID-19 Response/Maimonides Fund because Kol Yisrael Arevim Zeh La’zeh “All Jews are responsible one for another”

The Jewish Federation and the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven have launched the COVID-19 Responsiveness/Maimonides Fund, seeding it with $108,000 to support the immediate needs of the local community. As of June 8, the fund has distributed $186,000 in emergency grants—and another $51,600 pending—for critical human needs to synagogues, Jewish Family Service (food assistance and social services), JCARS, the Towers at Tower Lane (Food assistance) and the Jewish Federation.

Your support of this fund will enable us to make grants to Jewish agencies and synagogues to help provide services related to food insecurity, unemployment and mental health support.

We are facing unprecedented times. United as one Jewish community, we will meet the rising needs in our community and overcome the great challenge before us.

jewishnewhaven.org/covid

The COVID-19 Responsive/Maimonides Fund, because Kol Yisrael Arevim Zeh La’zeh “All Jews are responsible one for another”

Jewish Community COVID-19 Response/Maimonides Fund, because Kol Yisrael Arevim Zeh La’zeh “All Jews are responsible one for another”

The Jewish Federation and the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven have launched the COVID-19 Responsiveness/Maimonides Fund, seeding it with $108,000 to support the immediate needs of the local community. As of June 8, the fund has distributed $186,000 in emergency grants—and another $51,600 pending—for critical human needs to synagogues, Jewish Family Service (food assistance and social services), JCARS, the Towers at Tower Lane (Food assistance) and the Jewish Federation.

Your support of this fund will enable us to make grants to Jewish agencies and synagogues to help provide services related to food insecurity, unemployment and mental health support.

We are facing unprecedented times. United as one Jewish community, we will meet the rising needs in our community and overcome the great challenge before us.

jewishnewhaven.org/covid

The COVID-19 Response/Maimonides Fund because Kol Yisrael Arevim Zeh La’zeh “All Jews are responsible one for another”

The Jewish Federation and the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven have launched the COVID-19 Responsiveness/Maimonides Fund, seeding it with $108,000 to support the immediate needs of the local community. As of June 8, the fund has distributed $186,000 in emergency grants—and another $51,600 pending—for critical human needs to synagogues, Jewish Family Service (food assistance and social services), JCARS, the Towers at Tower Lane (Food assistance) and the Jewish Federation.

Your support of this fund will enable us to make grants to Jewish agencies and synagogues to help provide services related to food insecurity, unemployment and mental health support.

We are facing unprecedented times. United as one Jewish community, we will meet the rising needs in our community and overcome the great challenge before us.

jewishnewhaven.org/covid
Reopening Updates from Our Committees

General Operations, Facilities and Security
Evan Blutrich, Chair
We support the operational aspects of all programs and services, and are dedicated to protecting our staff, campers, and visitors. The JCC members will be permitted in the building by appointment only. As a safety measure, all JCC members will be required to wear masks at all times. They will be logged after their temperature is checked. A new smartphone app is in development to allow members to more easily reserve a spot for their favorite activity.

COVID-19 PREVENTION

Touchless Thermometers

TOUCHLESS THERMOMETERS FOR RECEPTION AREAS

Protective Enclosures for Reception Areas

Flor Stickers Facilitating Safe Distancing

PLUS...
• Upgraded air filters for HVAC systems
• Hand sanitizing stations
• Door locks indicating restroom occupancy, allowing us to free our campers of worry
• Signage facilitating one-directional walking

Beverly Levy Early Learning Center
Shannon Lane, Chair
While considering the ongoing and fluid pandemic circumstances, the Beverly Levy ELC task force made the very difficult and partial decision that, for the safety of our children and teachers, we will remain closed for the summer. Since safety is and always has been our number one priority, we will be spending the summer making necessary changes to the classrooms and implementing protocols that include staff training that will ensure the children’s and teachers’ safety when we do reopen in September.

Health and Wellness
Bob Felice, Chair
We are working closely with the human resources department to develop the employee health protection and policy and mask policy for staff and members. We are also providing essential medical advice for all departments and subcommittees to ensure the highest standard of health and hygiene practices.

Legal
Jeffrey Shlizar, Esq, Chair
Careful consideration is given toward all new policies and protocols that will be implemented affecting members and staff. These include preparation of necessary documents and workarounds to create a safe environment.
Jumpstart Your Career and Own Your Future

A 3-week online leadership experience, July 6-24, for Jewish students and recent graduates, 20-25, built for career development, networking and making a difference in the community.

The Jewish community needs visionaries, dedicated leaders as the engine of Jewish growth, visibility and innovation. Recognizing that millennials and Gen Z connect to Jewish life differently than their parents and grandparents, now is the time for an entire generation to connect and engage. Fellows earn credits for scholarships, volunteering and more. Cohorts develop projects to address a local challenge caused by the global health pandemic. Participants can earn a certificate of completion and a $500 stipend.

The curriculum covers professional development, service and advocacy, and the global Jewish community.

For more information, visit jewishchangemakers.org

Coronavirus has changed the landscape of summer 2020. Changemakers creates an opportunity to transform #summersummer into #bestsummersever

For more information, contact Camp Director, Debra Kirschner at summercamp@jccnh.org or (203) 387-2424 x253.
COVID-19 Fund

The Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven COVID-19 Response/Mitvah Fund

As of June 4, we have raised $259,413 and we have distributed $186,000 for critical human needs.

Grants for the Jewish Elderly

Grants available again in the spring of 2021.

Jewish Overnight Camp Grants and Scholarships

For the Jewish Elderly

One Happy Camper

The Jewish Foundation offers need-based incentive grants for first-time campers as well as need-based aid for first-time and returning campers.

Syonagogue School Scholarships

Due October 15, 2020.
JCARR Participates in Global Refugee Sponsorship Summit

By Joel Silb

Co-founder of the Jewish Alliance Community Refugee Resettlement (JCARR) in New Haven, Connecticut, JCARR is one of 50 community-sponsored resettlement agencies with the Jewish refugee sponsorship initiative (JRSI). For attendees in Geneva, it was late in the evening, but we were all very much awake. The room was filled with participants from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, recipient countries, and donor countries. The atmosphere was electric.

On May 6, I joined more than 250 people from 19 countries participating in a Global Refugee Sponsorship Summit organized by Jean Silk, the former Director of the United States Conference of Jewish Community Relations Council (USCCR). For the attendees, the event was a chance to learn about the work of JCARR and other refugee sponsorship initiatives around the world.

The Summit was co-hosted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the event included keynote speeches by Bob Rae, the former Canadian prime minister, and Jean Silk.

Bob Rae was Ontario’s 21st Premier from 1990 to 1995, and served as interim prime minister of Canada during the Mulroney era. He has also served as the UN Special Envoy to Burma and as the UN Special Representative for International Organizations. In 2004, Rae was appointed as the first Canadian envoy to the United Nations, where he served as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General.

Jean Silk, who was previously the Director of the United States Conference of Jewish Community Relations Council (USCCR), has been a leader in the field of refugee sponsorship for many years. She is known for her work with JCARR and other refugee sponsorship initiatives around the world.

Bob Rae and Jean Silk both emphasized the importance of refugee sponsorship and the role of communities in helping to resettle refugees into new homes. They highlighted the challenges of the current global refugee crisis and called for increased support and involvement from communities around the world.

One of the key themes of the Summit was the importance of partnerships and collaboration in refugee sponsorship. Rae and Silk emphasized the need for coordination and cooperation between governments, donor countries, and recipient countries.

The Summit also featured discussions on the role of communities and faith-based organizations in refugee sponsorship. Rae and Silk discussed the importance of faith-based organizations in supporting refugees and helping them to integrate into their new communities.

Overall, the Summit was a powerful reminder of the importance of refugee sponsorship and the role of communities in helping to resettle refugees into new homes. The event provided a valuable opportunity for participants to learn about best practices and to develop new partnerships and collaborations. It was a clear indication of the growing importance of refugee sponsorship and the need for continued support and involvement from communities around the world.

The Summit ended with a call to action for communities to continue to support refugee sponsorship initiatives. Rae and Silk concluded the event by encouraging everyone to take action and to be a part of the solution to the global refugee crisis.
Health Opportunities During This Isolating Time

by Susan Donovan
Director of Fitness & Wellness Services
JCC of Greater New Haven

The pandemic lockdown has given us the opportunity to learn many lessons if we choose to look at it that way. Among the fear and isolation, there is some light and positivity from all of this that we should keep in mind. Certainly, a plausibility can be found in the calm and slower lifestyle that has been pushed upon us in the lockdown. Mother Nature had a well-intended “time-out” with the environment definitively benefiting from less cars being on the road and pollution being pumped out. And, for some, working from home has removed the hustle and stress of the daily hour.

In every experience, both good and bad, opportunities are presented to us that can lead to enhanced personal growth and help us realize what’s truly important in our lives. HEALTH leads the list as our most important asset. This coronavirus has certainly brought light to the importance of a healthy immune system. Most of us have gone through life not thinking much about our immune system. We’ve always just trusted it’s doing the best it can to protect us from infections and diseases. But we do have control over keeping our immune health strong and, by feeding our body good nutrition, choosing to be active, managing stress and getting enough quality sleep, to name a few.

We've always just trusted it’s doing the best it can to protect us from infections and diseases. But we do have control over keeping our immune health strong and, by feeding our body good nutrition, choosing to be active, managing stress and getting enough quality sleep, to name a few.

And, speaking of fitness, there may be a new fitness revolution on the back of this pandemic where there is a focus on healthy living in harmony with the environment. Activity and movement programs will be planned toward your health and wellness goals while virtual fitness programs will offer more options and variety along with live classes. The growth of health coaching alongside personal fitness training can offer guidance in sustainable lifestyle change.

Our new normal will find the JCC Wellness and Fitness Center transformed as well. We will be impacted by what we have gone through by being equipped with appropriate spacing procedures to keep our members safe as they resume some sense of social connection and camaraderie. We will all come back stronger, wiser and a bit more grateful.

For more information on joining a virtual class or an online healthy coaching session, contact susan@jccnh.org.

The pandemic lockdown has given us the opportunity to learn many lessons if we choose to look at it that way. Among the fear and isolation, there is some light and positivity from all of this that we should keep in mind. Certainly, a plausibility can be found in the calm and slower lifestyle that has been pushed upon us in the lockdown. Mother Nature had a well-intended “time-out” with the environment definitively benefiting from less cars being on the road and pollution being pumped out. And, for some, working from home has removed the hustle and stress of the daily hour.

In every experience, both good and bad, opportunities are presented to us that can lead to enhanced personal growth and help us realize what’s truly important in our lives. HEALTH leads the list as our most important asset. This coronavirus has certainly brought light to the importance of a healthy immune system. Most of us have gone through life not thinking much about our immune system. We’ve always just trusted it’s doing the best it can to protect us from infections and diseases. But we do have control over keeping our immune health strong and, by feeding our body good nutrition, choosing to be active, managing stress and getting enough quality sleep, to name a few.

And, speaking of fitness, there may be a new fitness revolution on the back of this pandemic where there is a focus on healthy living in harmony with the environment. Activity and movement programs will be planned toward your health and wellness goals while virtual fitness programs will offer more options and variety along with live classes. The growth of health coaching alongside personal fitness training can offer guidance in sustainable lifestyle change.

Our new normal will find the JCC Wellness and Fitness Center transformed as well. We will be impacted by what we have gone through by being equipped with appropriate spacing procedures to keep our members safe as they resume some sense of social connection and camaraderie. We will all come back stronger, wiser and a bit more grateful.

For more information on joining a virtual class or an online healthy coaching session, contact susan@jccnh.org.

Of Yearning and Encounter

by Eliraz Shifman Berman
Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council and Center for Jewish Life and Learning

To live in a pandemic is obviously a very challenging experience for us all. Our lives have changed; we are trying to cope with our new reality. Some say that we live in a time where the virtual sphere can compensate a bit for some of the difficulties imposed by social distancing. The Jewish Federation and the JCC of Greater New Haven have adjusted to the new reality and provide many online opportunities to learn and meet.

Martin Buber, the great Jewish philosopher (1878-1965) wrote in his magnum opus “Thou: ‘No purpose intercedes between I and Thou, no greed and no anticipation...Only where all means have disintegrated, encounters occur.” Buber contends that relationships are the basis of the human existence. “The ‘I and you’ relationship is where we see each other as subjects, where we don’t only experience others but truly encounter them.

With all the benefits of the virtual world, many of us do yearn for this Buberian “I and you” type of encounter nowadays. The virtual world is an object-the-screen—between us, and it may hide some of the essence of encountering each other.

Referring to a different kind of encounter, it is said in the Talmud that Rabbi Nachman ben Iliahan (Mishne’s sage of the first century CE) would recite a brief prayer upon his entrance into the Torah study hall and upon his exit. His friends didn’t understand it. Is the study hall a dangerous place that requires a prayer? Nachman replied that, “Upon my entrance, I pray that no mishap will be caused by me and, upon exiting, I give thanks for my portion.”

As we exit, we are not the same as when we entered; that is why we need to give thanks each time. I feel those ideas of encountering are very applicable to me personally. After a year and a half as a professional at the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, I felt I’m going back to Israel this summer. I leave our community with mixed emotions. This time here was meaningful for me in ways that words can hardly express. The wonderful people I got to know, the community I love and the meaningful encounters all changed my essence. I will miss them all very much. Upon my exit, I express the deepest thanks to my portion, and pray that we will be able to meet again, in person, face-to-face, soon.

For more information on the Jewish Community Relations Council and Center for Jewish Life and Learning, connect with Eliraz Shifman Berman at eshifmanberman@jewishnewhaven.org or jewishnewhaven.org/jewish-community-relations-council.
Keeping the Light Burning Bright

RABBI BRIAN P. IMMERMAN

Even though we have not been in our synagogue buildings for several weeks as a community, there is one light that is always on. It is the light of ner tamid, the eternal light. We place this light in front of our door or in our homes to remind us of the importance of keeping our lights burning always. It is a symbol of our connection to our heritage and our commitment to keep the light of Judaism shining bright.

We nourish our souls when we find opportunities for gratitude and hope. Take time to care for yourself, whether that means joining your synagogue community for worship on Friday night, learning on Shabbat morning or reading the growing stack of books on your nightstand. It can mean walking around your neighborhood or park, calling a family member or friend, or going for a run on a bike ride. Perhaps you will find that this is more challenging than ever before. It is essential that we all keep this light burning within ourselves and others.

We encourage you to find ways to bring joy into our daily lives. Perhaps you will join the growing ranks of Jews who are finding joy in making dandelion paintings or printing with leaves. We encourage you to find opportunities for gratitude and hope.

We nourish our souls when we find opportunities for gratitude and hope. Take time to care for yourself, whether that means joining your synagogue community for worship on Friday night, learning on Shabbat morning or reading the growing stack of books on your nightstand. It can mean walking around your neighborhood or park, calling a family member or friend, or going for a run on a bike ride. Perhaps you will find that this is more challenging than ever before. It is essential that we all keep this light burning within ourselves and others.

We encourage you to find ways to bring joy into our daily lives. Perhaps you will join the growing ranks of Jews who are finding joy in making dandelion paintings or printing with leaves. We encourage you to find opportunities for gratitude and hope.

We nourish our souls when we find opportunities for gratitude and hope. Take time to care for yourself, whether that means joining your synagogue community for worship on Friday night, learning on Shabbat morning or reading the growing stack of books on your nightstand. It can mean walking around your neighborhood or park, calling a family member or friend, or going for a run on a bike ride. Perhaps you will find that this is more challenging than ever before. It is essential that we all keep this light burning within ourselves and others.

We encourage you to find ways to bring joy into our daily lives. Perhaps you will join the growing ranks of Jews who are finding joy in making dandelion paintings or printing with leaves. We encourage you to find opportunities for gratitude and hope.

We nourish our souls when we find opportunities for gratitude and hope. Take time to care for yourself, whether that means joining your synagogue community for worship on Friday night, learning on Shabbat morning or reading the growing stack of books on your nightstand. It can mean walking around your neighborhood or park, calling a family member or friend, or going for a run on a bike ride. Perhaps you will find that this is more challenging than ever before. It is essential that we all keep this light burning within ourselves and others.

We encourage you to find ways to bring joy into our daily lives. Perhaps you will join the growing ranks of Jews who are finding joy in making dandelion paintings or printing with leaves. We encourage you to find opportunities for gratitude and hope.

We nourish our souls when we find opportunities for gratitude and hope. Take time to care for yourself, whether that means joining your synagogue community for worship on Friday night, learning on Shabbat morning or reading the growing stack of books on your nightstand. It can mean walking around your neighborhood or park, calling a family member or friend, or going for a run on a bike ride. Perhaps you will find that this is more challenging than ever before. It is essential that we all keep this light burning within ourselves and others.

We encourage you to find ways to bring joy into our daily lives. Perhaps you will join the growing ranks of Jews who are finding joy in making dandelion paintings or printing with leaves. We encourage you to find opportunities for gratitude and hope.
"Ensuring Continuity Through Crisis"

You Power Jewish Life

Our Jewish Federation is optimally positioned to ensure a comprehensive and coordinated approach to tackling the greatest challenges facing our community. The importance of a strong and vibrant Jewish community has never been clearer than it is today. The Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven is proud to play a role in safeguarding the most vulnerable among us, and to help coordinate and communicate the efforts of our community partners. Make your gift today so we can come together as a community, tomorrow.

www.jewishnewhaven.org/give