



# Jewish Foundation Launches 'One Happy Camper' Program

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### YIDDISH THEATER PERFORMS IN HAMDEN

Tony Award-winning troupe comes to Congregation Mishkan Israel on Feb. 3.

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### CHILDCARE CENTER NAMED FOR BEVERLY LEVY

The JCC's childcare center will be named in honor of Beverly Levy.

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### MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME AT JCC'S NEW CAFÉ 360

The JCC's new food marketplace will offer everything from artisan coffees to salads, sandwiches and pastry.

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Jewish Federation  
OF GREATER NEW HAVEN

FROM THE DESK OF  
**JUDY ALPERIN**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER | jalperin@jewishnewhaven.org

## Looking Forward to a New Beginning

As I write this column, it is Chanukah and we are wrapped in the glow of the menorah's light and the inspiration of the miracles that occurred 2,000 years ago. Those miracles took place in Jerusalem when a small band of rebels struck back against the Syrian-Greeks to reclaim the Temple, and as if that itself wasn't a miracle, a single cruse of oil lasted eight days—long enough to clean and rededicate the Temple so that Jewish life could resume in our holy city.

Jerusalem. The city at the heart of the Jewish world. The place we turn to in prayer. The place our people have yearned for while living in exile. The modern expression of our Jewish homeland reimagined; at once ancient and current. And yet, Jerusalem is still at the center of controversy and angst rippling to the emotional surface most recently with the proclamation of the United States government to both recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and to make preparations to relocate the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem in the coming years ahead—an historic moment.

As if that was not enough, recently, we have experienced other events of historic proportions. Natural disasters befell the communities of Houston, Texas, Southern Florida, Puerto Rico, St. Thomas, Mexico City and California.

In each case, the Jewish Federation system was there to respond, both in the immediate aftermath, bringing needed supplies, grants to synagogue communities, medical assistance, construction supplies, and generators to Puerto Rico, trauma counseling and financial assistance, as well as now, continuing to provide support. While the waters have receded in Houston, the Jewish community suffered more than \$30 million in damages to critical infrastructure.

The worldwide Jewish community responded with funds, including a \$1 million contribution from the Government of Israel. However, that was not enough, and so the efforts to fundraise and rebuild will continue. JFNA is holding its professional conferences in Houston to bring some economic support and volunteer assistance to the beleaguered city. Our Development Director Amy Holtz will be part of that mitzvah corps in early February.

In California, we saw decimating wildfires wreak havoc, resulting in mass Torah evacuations for Los Angeles synagogues, the multi-day closures of Jewish community institutions and schools, and burning of the lands up to the very edge of Camp Ramah. But a great Chanukah miracle happened, and the camp grounds were spared from the fire. Here in New Haven, we breathed an extra sigh of relief, as we

know a little something about the damage fire can do to beloved community structures.

Miracles happen every day in our Greater New Haven Jewish community. Some are huge and heartwarming like the adult b'nai mitzvah held at The Towers where 14 adults had the opportunity to become sons and daughters of the commandments. It is never too late for Jewish learning and engagement. And some miracles go unseen, when small acts of tzedakah and kindness result in support for the vulnerable, scholarships for camps and school, food and emergency assistance for someone whose lifeline is their connection to the Jewish community, and the rebirth of our community building almost ready to fill up with vibrant programming, activities and you.

As we begin 2018—the chai year of the millennium—let us rededicate ourselves to the miracle of Jewish community as we come together in unity to strengthen all that is cherished and beautiful. This is a new beginning, and I cannot wait to celebrate what will be a memorable year ahead.

Chag sameach and a happy and healthy New Year to all!



## SHALOM NEW HAVEN

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- March 30 for May/June issue
- May 25 for July/August issue
- July 27 for September/October issue
- Sept. 28 for November/December issue
- Nov. 23 for January/February issue

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

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## The Towers Residence Association Dedicates Foundation Endowment Fund in Honor of Hyla & Barry Vine

By Cynthia Mindell  
Special to SNH

In honor of The Towers' 50th anniversary, their Residents' Association has dedicated a new endowment fund at the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven, named for Towers' supporters Hyla and Barry Vine. Starting with a \$10,000 gift, association members will work to grow the fund and will determine how to use the interest to benefit seniors at The Towers.

With a reputation for active senior living, The Towers works to foster resident engagement, most notably through the Residents' Association. An independent 501(c)3 organization, the association is guided by its own bylaws and board and touts more than 200 voting members—a majority of The Towers' population.

At its heart, the Residents' Association is a social-action organization, raising money not only for social activities for Towers residents and visitors, but also for local philanthropic efforts and distant humanitarian needs like the devastating hurricanes Harvey and Maria.

To seed the endowment fund, the association raised money through activities like raffles and Bingo, and

at the Towers' Vine Gift Shop, which is overseen by 94-year-old resident Fran Wallnau and staffed by a volunteer force of some 30 fellow residents.

### Other News at The Towers

In November, some 200 former residents of the once-thriving Jewish neighborhood of Oak Street in New Haven gathered at The Towers for a reunion, replete with entertainment and nostalgic treats like mile-high deli sandwiches and black-and-white cookies.

Fourteen Towers residents were honored at a B'nai Mitzvah Celebration on Dec. 17, with 13 women called to the bimah—most of them as first-time b'not-mitzvah—and 93-year-old Herb Mermelstein delivering the same speech that he presented 80 years ago as a bar mitzvah.

Since its inception, The Towers has seen itself as a community center for all seniors—residents and visitors alike—with programs and activities provided through the fundraising efforts of The Towers development team. For its part, the Greater New Haven community nurtures The Towers by patronizing the Vine Gift Shop (named for benefactors Hyla and Barry Vine), raffles, Bingo, and other exciting events.

"What happens here is special and unique; the thriving, exciting vibe is not present at other assisted-living or senior-housing facilities that I have visited," said The Towers Interim CEO Jackie Curl. "We really have a community and we're able to continue to foster that community and provide opportunities for residents to learn new things, to have fun, and to build friendships with each other because of these life-enriching programs and activities. If it weren't for the support of the community at large, we'd be just another senior apartment complex or assisted-living facility."

As The Towers enters its next half-century, those who run and support this vibrant hub of senior life continue to inspire Greater New Haven with a simple invitation: help grow the unique community resource that brings hope and engagement to those in their later years. To learn more about how you can help to make a difference in the lives of both current and future residents contact Vivian at (203) 772-1816, x 290, [Vivian@towerone.org](mailto:Vivian@towerone.org).



## Tired of being snowed in this winter?

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

## Correction

In the last issue of *Shalom New Haven*, the founders of the New Haven Holocaust Memorial were listed incorrectly. The original founders of the New Haven Holocaust Memorial were: Mayor Frank Logue and his then City Hall staffers Rosa DeLauro and Doris Zelinsky, the two site visionaries - architect Augustus "Gus" Franzoni and expert nurseryman Marvin Cohen, as well as Jewish community leaders Herb Setlow and Arthur Spiegel, Dr. Phillip Felig, Bernice Brand, Louise Etkind, Congressman Robert Giaimo, Holocaust survivor leaders Lew Lehrer, Michael and Shifra Zamkov and Willy and Helene Rosenberg, Rae and Mal Webber of the ADL, the Skolnick family of builders and many other volunteers, neighbors and friends.

In 2006, Eric Epstein, Fay Sheppard and Doris Zelinsky created a new organization, the Greater New Haven Holocaust Memory, to care for this memorial. Marvin Cohen, an original founder and creator of the memorial, joined these three together to lend his landscaping expertise and love to the renovation of this memorial.

# SCSU Establishes New Hillel Chapter



Federation CEO Judy Alperin visited with the new Hillel chapter at Southern Connecticut State University. Also present, Rabbi Mendy Hecht, who shared in the Chanukah festivities.

The Jewish community has always stressed the value of youth programs. It is easy to think that the older generation is more engaged, looking at the populations that attend our synagogue services. Yet there is far more to Judaism than worship. Programs like USY, BBYO, Birthright, and HaZamir have shown that American adolescents today are still willing to embrace their Jewish roots, even if in a more social setting than the synagogue.

To capitalize on that youth energy, Hillel: the Foundation for Jewish Campus Life was founded in 1923. Named after the Jewish sage, Hillel has quickly grown to be a modern and relevant advocate of Jews on more than 550 college campuses across the United States, United Kingdom and Canada.

Now, a seed has been planted to grow another chapter in New Haven at Southern Connecticut State University. An endowment fund has established a position for an advisor of Hillel to start up the club from the ground up.

Benjamin Atwater is the advisor of the new organization. Having interned for the marketing department at the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, Atwater has also staffed Birthright as a madrich twice, while being involved in a plethora of Jewish agencies.

The population at Southern is a unique one. With about 8,000 students, a few students have shown interest already. One such student is Sarah Helfand, a senior. "I always wanted to be a part of a Jewish community on campus, but never knew how to start one up. I hope we can do more and more activities to reach more people."

Helfand, like many other Jewish students, has yet to go on a Birthright trip, one goal of Hillel in general, and especially a long-term goal of Southern CT Hillel. The first event of the semester was a Hanukkah party in December. The party was intended to not only give Jews on campus a chance to observe traditional culture, but also a chance to announce the new organization to campus by giving a taste of more programs celebrating Jewish culture to come.

The Hanukkah celebration was sponsored by several other agencies. Yeshiva of New Haven provided menorahs as take away gifts, while Quinnipiac University Hillel provided festive decorations, courtesy of Rabbi Rena Judd.

The most exciting partnership the group has is with Yael Adventures, a Birthright Israel trip provider. Atwater is going to be a madrich for Yael Adventures on an upcoming trip to Israel, and pursued the partnership to help both Hillel and Yael. A long term goal of SCSU Hillel is to plan a Birthright trip in the summer of 2018, certainly with Yael Adventures given the current and future sponsorships.

For more information about SCSU's Hillel, visit their Facebook page, email the group at hillel@owls.southernct.edu or call (203) 392-6615.

# New Haven Mom Grateful for Camp Scholarship



Jayvon, 8, is a very happy camper since his experience last summer at the JCC Summer Camp program. Jayvon, who lives in New Haven, was able to attend camp, thanks to a generous scholarship provided by the Barry Vine Send a Kid to Camp Scholarship Fund.

His mother, Veronica, wrote a heartfelt letter of thanks recently to the JCC Summer Camp Committee. "Unfortunately, many moms these days struggle, living paycheck to paycheck, and currently, that is my reality," she wrote. "However, I did not want the high cost of camp to be a deterrent of the type of high quality camp my son attended."

Every morning, Jayvon woke up excited to attend camp and take part in the many activities offered. This put his mom at ease with having to leave him to go to work. "Jayvon's excitement and love for the camp and friends he made gave me a sense of comfort, while at work, because I knew he was safe and happy at the JCC," she admitted. "I felt like Jayvon was on vacation every day that he went to camp." Veronica added that Jayvon also learned about Jewish culture and she sees how he respects traditions from other cultures, thanks to his JCC camp experience. "I am a native of New Haven and I have always

heard wonderful things about the JCC," Veronica said, "but now, we consider ourselves a part of a family with a great history. All of the staff was fantastic and willing to work with us and they always had Jayvon's best interest at heart."

Veronica said the JCC is "truly a summer camp like no other," and they are honored to be a part of the JCC family. Mother and son didn't just come for camp and leave; they stayed at the campus and enjoyed the warm and welcoming family atmosphere at the Jewish Community Center.

"Before the fire, we would spend every Tuesday and Thursday evenings there," Veronica said. "I would do Zumba, Jayvon would play with his friend, and then we would have dinner in the café and complete his homework assignments. I miss that."

She offered a special thank you to all of the generous donors who made this scholarship possible for her son. "My son would never have been able to attend camp if it was not for the assistance I received through these awesome scholarships," she said. "The words 'thank you' do not seem like enough to say to share our gratitude."



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**CAMP DATES & HOURS:** June 25 - August 10  
M-F | 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Before/After Camp options available.

**S'MORE CAMP:** August 13 - 24

\*Transportation provided, excludes S'More Camp

**CAMP LOCATION:** 360 Amity Road, Woodbridge



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Donate: [jccnh.org/SAK](http://jccnh.org/SAK)

Early Bird rates end  
**FEBRUARY 16**



Camp Reunion for campers and staff on Saturday, January 20 | 6 p.m. at the JCC

**SAVE THE DATE:**



**SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 2018**



Mitzvah Day allows volunteers of all ages the opportunity to participate in meaningful mitzvah projects. A mitzvah is an act of kindness, and collectively we will do our part to improve our community through these acts of kindness.

- TOWER ONE/TOWER EAST ● CAMP LAURELWOOD
- JCC ● JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE ● EZRA ACADEMY
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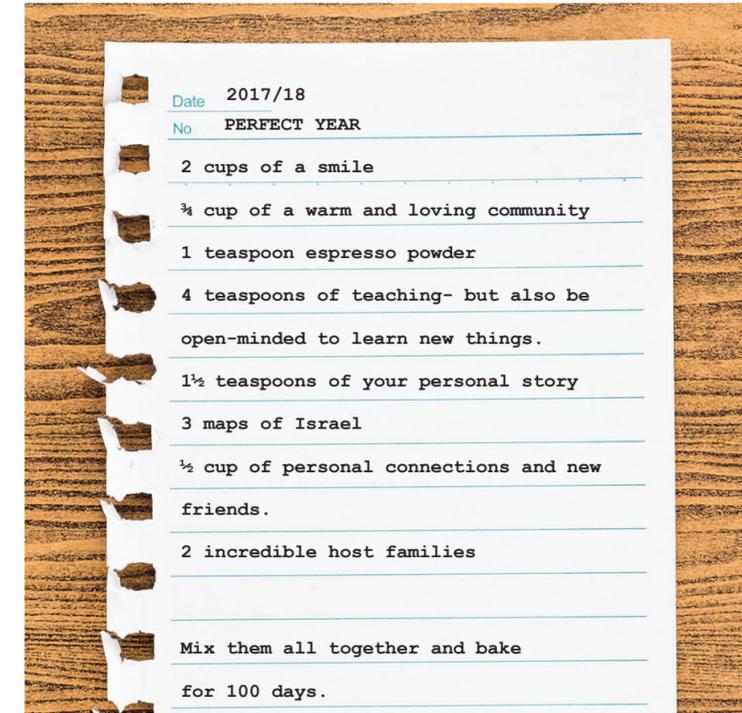
## Young Emissaries Celebrate 100 Days with Recipe, Thanks

Recently, the new Young Emissaries from Israel, Rotem Linchevski and Talya Machpood celebrated 100 days since they have joined the Greater New Haven community. Rotem is from Moshav B'nai Zion, near Ra'anana, and Talya hails from Eliat, Israel's southernmost city.

By Rotem Linchevski & Talya Machpood  
*Our Young Emissaries from Israel*

To mark this special occasion, we decided to use all that we've learned in these first 100 days to write a recipe for a "Perfect Year" as emissaries.

And on a serious note- we wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you. In our journey of trying to help build bridges between Israel and the Jewish community around the world, we learned so many new things about American families, Jewish identity, and about living our life together - as one Jewish nation. All of that happened because of you- you listened to our stories, shared your own personal experience and made us feel a part of



the Greater New Haven community. That made the difference! We are so lucky to be in such a wonderful community that we can now call our second home."

If you didn't meet us yet, please contact us on our Facebook page! We want to meet and get to know as many people as possible. We encourage you to follow us on our Facebook page "Young Emissaries of Greater New Haven" and see updates from our daily work! We're looking forward to the next 100 days of this year.

The Young Emissary Program is a 10-month-long volunteer service experience that is jointly sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and the Southern New England Consortium (SNEC). This is our community's 17th year of participation in the program. If you are interested in hosting, contact Amalya Brownstein, our Young Emissary Coordinator, at (203) 387-2424, x385, or by email at: amalyab@jccnh.org.



## IDF Paratrooper Speaks to JHSC Students

By David Giver  
*Administrative Associate  
Jewish High School of Connecticut*

The Jewish High School of Connecticut recently hosted Zach Okun, a new graduate of the IDF's Paratrooper School. Zach is the older brother of JHSC sophomore, Jakob Okun.

While home on leave from the IDF, Zach came to the school to speak to the students about his love of Israel, the need to not take for granted how easy life is right now, and the experiences he has had as a Lone Soldier.

Zach described what it was like growing up in Stamford, being a student of the Bi-Cultural Day School, and how he was sent to learn Hebrew before he even had the chance to become a soldier.

Zach explained how most IDF recruits in the Hebrew program were from former Soviet republics, so they did not speak English, which made getting to know them the best way for him to practice his Hebrew skills.

Zach told students he had to go through entrance exams first to be able to even go to IDF Paratrooper School, and he wasn't sure if he would be accepted.

Zach described how excited he felt getting accepted and knowing he would be able to make his dream of becoming a paratrooper a reality. The students listened to his stories of paratrooper training and of the first few jumps he made from a plane.

"The plane was about to take off and printed on the inside wall of the plane was Tefilat HaDerech," said Zach, who related that he said the prayer as he was getting ready for this first jump. He also described the unique uniform of the paratrooper, which includes a red beret, red boots, and a "skirt" shirt, which is belted around the waist, untucked. Zach told the students about his appreciation for the State of Israel and how he is ready to serve in the IDF.

Before opening the floor to questions, Rabbi Elisha Paul, JHSC Head of School, thanked Zach for coming to speak with the students and presented him with a JHSC travel pouch with the Tefilat HaDerech printed on it, "just in case the next plane does not have it printed inside."

"In an era of BDS and anti-Israel sentiment becoming more common, it is important to remind our youth about how heroic IDF soldiers are who volunteer to protect the Jewish people from harm," commented Rabbi Paul.



Recent IDF Paratrooper graduate Zach Okun, and his brother, Jakob Okun, JHSC sophomore.

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**HIGHLIGHTS**

<b>WARSAW</b> Jewish Cemetery Warsaw Ghetto Warsaw JCC	<b>OLD TOWN KRAKOW</b> Children's Forest Zbylitowska Gora Aushwitz-Birkenau Schindler Factory Majdanek Concentration Camp	<b>ISRAEL</b> Jerusalem Afula-visit with P2G Carmel Winery Tel Aviv
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**Community Foundation Awards \$30,000 for JCC Programming**



New Haven— Against a backdrop of state budget reductions and federal policy shifts, The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven has awarded \$3,007,356 in grants to Greater New Haven nonprofits, including a \$30,000 grant to the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven to fund cultural arts, senior, and family programming, as well as the new MakerSpace area in the JCC.

**Welcome New Women of Vision**



**New Women of Vision:**

- Caron Alderman
- Gloria Cohen
- Emily Resnik-Conn
- Liz Edelglass (*An additional commitment to the fund*)
- Linda Greenhouse
- Amy Holtz
- Susan E. Jacobson, *In loving memory of my mother, Rebecca Govrin Jacobson*
- Ruth Lesser
- L. Faith Miller
- Lynn Rudich
- Gayle Slossberg
- Marcia Witten

The Women of Vision Society was created in 1996 by area Jewish women eager to join together to enhance and improve the lives of fellow women and girls in our community.

The Women of Vision Society is a permanent, restricted endowment with the goal to make philanthropy accessible to all women in our area through a manageable one-time gift given in perpetuity. The result has been tremendous. The Society now has over 200 members. Since its founding, Women of Vision has distributed \$180,000 in grant money to organizations across our community and addressed issues from literacy and acculturation to health and domestic violence. Organizations that have benefitted from the endowment include, Jewish Family Service, Jewish Coalition for Literacy, Ezra Academy, Jewish Women's Circle, Food4Kids, Tower One/Tower East, local synagogues, organizations in Israel, and many others.

For additional information please contact Jennifer Bayer, Assistant Director of Development at [jbayer@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:jbayer@jewishnewhaven.org) or (203) 387-2424 x320

**CMI Hosts Community Purim Celebration Feb. 25**

The community is invited to join Congregation Mishkan Israel for a fun-filled Purim celebration for all ages.

On Sunday, Feb. 25, the synagogue's youth group, MITYOR, will sponsor the annual Purim Carnival from 10 a.m. to noon. The event features favorite games and many activities.

On Wednesday, Feb. 28, the community is invited come in costume to the Erev Purim Service at 7 p.m. to hear the story of Esther in the most hilarious manner possible.

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

**International Holocaust Day Program**

In honor of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, Voices of Hope invites the public to attend the Eighth Annual International Holocaust Remembrance Day program honoring local Holocaust survivors on Sunday, Jan. 28, from 12-2 p.m. at the Emanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford. Cost is \$18 and includes a dairy brunch. The program is free for Holocaust survivors, their families, and for students. Call (860) 470-5591 for more information.

**Yiddish Musical Theatre Coming to Hamden**

On Saturday, Feb. 3 at 8 p.m., Congregation Mishkan Israel offers a fun and engaging taste of Yiddish musical theatre with the National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene.

The traveling ensemble will perform Mama's Loshn Kugel, a collection of classic Yiddish humor and theater songs.

The program offers local Jewish audiences a wonderful opportunity to see some of today's most talented Yiddish theatre performers.

"Folksbiene" means the "People's Stage," and the company preserves, promotes, and develops Yiddish theatre for current and future generations.

Founded in 1915, the National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene is the oldest continuously-producing Yiddish theatre company in the world.

NYTF was a producer of the Tony Award-winning Broadway play "Indecent," and has been the recipient of numerous awards.

**Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Audiences should arrive early to get the best seats. The concert takes place at Congregation Mishkan Israel, located at 785 Ridge Road in Hamden. This is a family-friendly event. Tickets are \$40, with a special price of \$10 for children and college students. Tickets can be purchased online at [cmihamden.org](http://cmihamden.org).**

**Annual Kristallnacht Commemoration**



On Nov. 5, Congregation Or Shalom in Orange honored Marion Pritchard at the synagogue's annual Kristallnacht commemoration. Pritchard, who passed away in December 2016, was involved in the rescue of over 150 Jewish children in Holland during WWII. From left to right: Brian Pritchard (Marion's son), Erica Polak (raised by Marion in hiding), Marion Pritchard (Marion's granddaughter), Senator Richard Blumenthal and Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus.

**CMI Tot Program Celebrates Tu B'Shevat**

Congregation Mishkan Israel invites families with children six years old and under to a Tot Program Tu B'Shevat on Sunday, Jan. 29, at 9:30 a.m. Congregation Mishkan Israel is a reform synagogue located at 785 Ridge Road in Hamden. For more information, call (203) 288-3877.

**Food4Kids Event Honors Senator Kennedy**



On Nov. 9, JFS and the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven's Women's Philanthropy Group were pleased to honor Senator Ted Kennedy, Jr. at its annual FOOD4KIDS New Haven Celebration at LoRiccio Tower in New Haven. FOOD4KIDS New Haven is a program which provides weekend supplemental food to New Haven school children who are food insecure. Senator Kennedy discussed the importance of helping hungry children in our community. From left are: Federation Assistant Director of Development Jennifer Bayer; Jonathan Garfinkle, JFS's CEO/Executive Director; JFS Social Outreach Service & Community Outreach Coordinator Rachel Scolnic Dobin; Federation CEO Judy Alperin and JFS President Linda Caplan.



Jody Ellant, Ari Reiter and Jessica Savik joined Judy Alperin, CEO of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, in Los Angeles for the 2017 Jewish Federations of North America General Assembly in November. This year's General Assembly will be held Oct. 22-24 in Tel Aviv.

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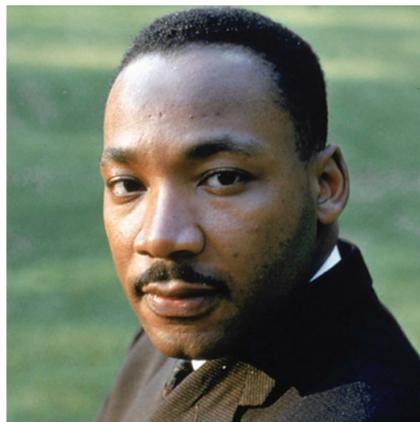


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# SHORELINE HAPPENINGS

## CBSRZ Hosts Program, Film to Honor King

Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek and the social action committee will host a program to honor and remember Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Saturday, Jan. 13.



After the 10:30 a.m. Saturday Shabbat service, there will be a showing of the 50-minute film "Joachim Prinz: I Shall Not Be Silent." The remarkable documentary film is about Rabbi Joachim Prinz, the leading rabbi in 1930's Berlin, who immigrated to the United States and became one of Dr. King's closest confidantes. Rabbi Prinz spoke just prior to Dr. King at the march on Washington at the Lincoln Memorial in 1963.

After the film, there will be a discussion. A light lunch and refreshments

will be served. This event is open to the public and will be held at Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek, 55 E. Kings Highway, Chester.

For more information, visit [cbsrz.org](http://cbsrz.org) or call (860) 526-8920.

## Two Top NY Comedians Come to CBSRZ Stage

As part of the Music & More series, the stage of Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek (CBSRZ) will be transformed into a New York comedy club on Sunday, Jan. 27, at 8 p.m. The show will feature comedians Alexandra McHale and Johnny Lampert, both veterans of Comedy Central, network TV, casinos, and the NYC comedy club circuit. There will be a pre-show reception serving wine, beer and seltzer. This show is for 18 years old and older.

Advance tickets for Comedy Tonight! can be purchased at [cbsrz.org](http://cbsrz.org) or through the Music & More at CBSRZ

Facebook page. A season subscription is still available for purchase at a 14 percent discount for all three shows in the Music & More series including this Comedy Tonight! Show on Jan. 27, the Macca-beats on March 11 at 4 p.m., and The Lonely Heartstring Band on April 15 at 4 p.m.

For more information, call the CBSRZ office at (860) 526-8920 or through email at [office@cbsrz.org](mailto:office@cbsrz.org). Performances are held at Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek, 55 E. Kings Highway, Chester.

## Gallery Features Two Distinctive Artists

The art of Ashby Carlisle from Old Lyme and Rick Silberberg from Ivoryton will continue to be shown through April in the Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek Art Gallery. This extraordinary art exhibition brings two very distinctive artists together in one exhibition.

Ashby Carlisle creates sculptural landscapes with an impressionist flair. Rick Silberberg's landscape paintings have been described as both peaceful and disquieting.

The art gallery is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at CBSRZ, 55 E. Kings Highway, Chester. To learn more about this exhibit visit [cbsrz.org](http://cbsrz.org) or call (860) 526-8920.

## Celebrating Hanukkah at Latkes & Vodka Event



It was a beautiful community celebration of Hanukkah at the Latkes & Vodka event in Guilford, with Rabbi Yossi Yaffe and Rabbi Stacy Offner in attendance and live music by the David Chevan Quartet. Above, Deborah Ruddy, of CBSRZ, chatted with Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven CEO Judy Alperin and Brian Levy, the Federation's Director of Outreach, Engagement and Community Relations.

# SHORELINE HAPPENINGS

## Reading Together, Asking Questions Opens Doors for Inclusion

By Stacey Battat  
PJ Library professional  
[Pjlibrary@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:Pjlibrary@jewishnewhaven.org)



"As Good as Any," by Richard Michelson, is an award-winning illustrated book on the PJ Library list of recommended books, geared toward young readers with values we can all embrace as we enter the new year and commemorate Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

The book introduces Martin Luther King Jr., a Baptist preacher from Atlanta, together with Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, a rabbi born in Poland. Their names came to stand for the struggle for justice and equality. Martin put out a call for others to join him and Abraham knew he must answer Martin's call. This story is about how two men formed a remarkable friendship and turned their personal experiences of discrimination into a message of love and equality for all.

Reading books with your children allows you to learn from their questions and opens new doors for inclusion. We foster the opportunity to engage in a dialogue where we can model asking someone about their culture, gender, race, or differences with genuine curiosity.

Please join us to hear a diverse Ladino Jewish singer/author Sarah Aroeste who will be reading a preschool book and discussing/singing songs from her ancestral roots of Greece and Medieval Spain. Aroeste works to preserve the Ladino (Judeo-Span-



ish) culture. Her award-winning original Ladino children's project "Ora de Despertar," has helped transform and revitalize a tradition.

Here are our two upcoming events where you are invited to bring your young children:

- Guilford Free Library, Sunday, Jan. 14, at 2 p.m. or
- JCC of Greater New Haven, Monday, Jan 15, from 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the JCC Vacation Camp. A caregiver is required for all events.

For questions or to RSVP, contact Stacey Battat at [pjlibrary@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:pjlibrary@jewishnewhaven.org).

## Online and On Main Street



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Saturday evening

March 3, 2018 at 7:00 pm

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Silent & Live Auction

Costumes encouraged

Dietary laws observed

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

## JCARR Contributes to Hurricane Relief Efforts

On Sept. 20, Hurricane Maria struck Puerto Rico, causing catastrophic damage and a major humanitarian crisis on the island. In the following weeks, many of the most vulnerable hurricane survivors – elderly, people with disabilities, some in need of urgent medical attention – came to Connecticut, where they have friends and family. The city estimates that 4,000 Puerto Ricans will arrive in New Haven in the next year.

The Jewish community has responded with compassion and generosity to relief efforts for survivors of the hurricane. Normally, JCARR (the Jewish Community Alliance for Refugee Resettlement) and IRIS (Integrated Refugee and Immigration Services) work with refugees. But when JCARR Coordinator Jean Silk and Chris George, the Executive Director of IRIS,

heard about the influx of hurricane evacuees in New Haven, they agreed, “let’s figure out what we can do to help.”

JCARR has collected carloads of warm winter clothing, new socks and underwear, personal care items, and much-needed funding to help Junta for Progressive Action provide food cards, bus passes and transportation for medical care to those in need. The Jewish Federation put a collection box out in the newly reopened JCC in December.

### HELP IS STILL URGENTLY NEEDED!

Greatest need is for blankets, NEW/UNOPENED socks and underwear in all sizes, personal care items—toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, bars of soap, toilet paper, child and adult diapers.



**Brian Levy, Director of Outreach, Engagement and Community Relations for the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, and JCARR Coordinator Jean Silk collected donations at the JCC's Holiday Gift & Craft Fair in December.**

Donations can be made through JCARR's synagogues, at the JCC, or take them directly to JUNTA at 169 Grand Ave. in Fair Haven. To donate funds, send checks made payable to Temple Emanuel JCARR with Hurricane Relief in the memo line to Peter Stolzman, 20 Peddlers Drive, Branford CT 06405, or donate online at [crowdrise.com/jcarrp](http://crowdrise.com/jcarrp).

## Shalom Group Helps Developmentally Disabled Adults

by Amy Pressman  
JFS Director of Marketing

Serving developmentally disabled Jewish adults, the Jewish Family Service of Greater New Haven's Shalom Group offers Jewish educational, holiday, cultural and other social events for people to learn more about Judaism, feel connected to it and develop social relationships with their peers. Shalom Group also helps participants gain further independence and life skills.

Rachel Scolnic Dobin, MSW, leads the Shalom Group. She schedules and coordinates events that are meaningful to participants in the community. According to Scolnic Dobin, “it’s a safe, fulfilling place to see friends and to celebrate holidays.” Holiday celebrations include Passover seders, and gatherings for Rosh Hashanah, Hanukkah and Sukkot.

Shalom Group events are not just held at JFS. The JCC has been the site for many Shalom Group events as well. The group has participated in Zumba classes, movie and pizza nights and the Grill 'N Chill events at the JCC.

Temple Beth Tikvah, Temple Beth Shalom, Orchard Street Synagogue and Beth El-Keser Israel have also been recent Shalom Group venues, particularly for Shabbat celebrations. Shalom Group participants have also enjoyed Temple Emanuel's Shabbat Under the Stars.

Prior to her work at JFS, Scolnic Dobin worked at a residence for people with developmental or mental health disabilities. Working with this population of individuals, including with the Shalom Group, has been life changing for her. Rich has been attending Shalom Group events since the group's inception, roughly 30 years

ago. He attends both holiday celebrations and social events, such as Shalom Group bowling parties.

According to Heni Schwartz, a long-time social worker with JFS, “people come together in ways they can’t do anywhere else. They make ongoing connections. People are with their peers, where they can be Jewish in an atmosphere of acceptance.”

JFS's CEO/Executive Director Jonathan Garfinkle adds, “The Shalom Group promotes community inclusivity and enhances the lives of these individuals as well as the whole community.”

One community organization that benefits from the Shalom Group is the Chapel Haven School. Located in New Haven, close to JFS, Chapel Haven has both residency and non-resident community programs and services for developmentally disabled adults of all faiths and backgrounds.

Harriet, a parent whose son lives at Chapel Haven and participates in Shalom Group events, is grateful for the group and the JFS staff members involved with the program.

JFS also provides Shalom Group participants with supportive group services, including social skills, life skills and problem-solving skills groups. JFS also offers vocational services. Group members have also volunteered at JFS, helping in its Food Pantry & Nutritional Health Center and assembling marketing and fundraising mailings.

The next Shalom Group event will be a bowling night on Jan. 11. The JFS Shalom Group is always looking for new participants. For more information, contact Rachel Scolnic Dobin at (203) 389-5599 x109 or [rsdobin@jfsnh.org](mailto:rsdobin@jfsnh.org).

Jewish Federation  
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[orchardstreetshul.org](http://orchardstreetshul.org)

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

**BETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE**  
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**CONGREGATION BETH EL-KESER ISRAEL**  
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[beki.org](http://beki.org)

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

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# Welcome to the NEW JCC

## Café 360 Creates Diverse Food Marketplace

By Jeannette Brodeur  
SNH Editor

After a four-alarm fire devastated and closed the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven, what members said they missed most was a sense of home...a community.

The fire forced the entire organization to pause, reassess, realign and strengthen its goals to offer a new space that offers a warm sense of welcome to the entire community.

In January, the newly revitalized JCC campus opens with a fresh, new layout, welcoming design and a whole new mindset to match.

The JCC is a destination, a place to linger before and after workouts, classes or cultural programs, a spot to share a meal, chat with friends and stay a while.

This attitude is reflected in the JCC's exciting new Café 360, which is set to open in mid-January.

Custom cabinetry, stone-surfaced countertops and subway tiles create a modern, welcoming vibe in the café with an expanded seating area boasting banquettes and bar height stools as well as traditional seating.

Improved WiFi, plentiful outlets for phone charging and computers and great coffee make Café 360 the perfect spot for meeting friends or for telecommuters to stop and grab a coffee and catch up on work.

The name Café 360 doesn't merely signify the JCC's address on Amity Road. After the fire, Café 360 also symbolizes the JCC coming full circle, returning



home again.

"We hope that Café 360 will be just that - a meeting place where people truly feel at home," said Judy Alperin, Chief Executive Officer of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven.

The new café will be overseen by Abel Caterers, a family-owned company that has offered exceptional kosher cuisine to the Northeast for more than 30 years. Abels looks forward to providing the best possible customer experience along with thoughtful menu selections.

Café 360 will be a true, diverse food marketplace, offering everything from artisan coffees, smoothies, New York bagels, sandwiches and pastries to sushi,

holiday specialties, challah and catered Shabbat dinners to go. All offerings will be strictly kosher, with a dairy or vegetarian focus, to ensure that everyone in our community feels welcome.

Alperin noted that many local vendors are represented in this new marketplace concept, which further strengthens the sense of community at the new JCC.

Willoughby's Coffee & Tea will be served at the café. The freshly roasted and ground, small batch, unique coffees are custom blended to appeal to every palate.

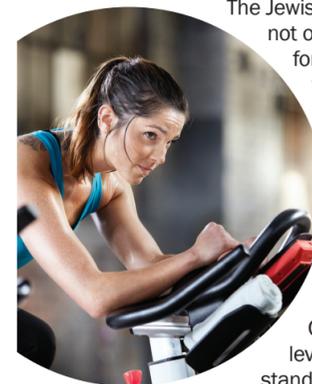
Barry Levine, co-founder of Willoughby's, has served as a pro bono consultant for the JCC throughout the process of creating Café 360, assisting with the marketplace layout, sourcing the equipment and training the staff. Willoughby's delicious coffee will also be available for all JCC events and conferences.

Abel's will serve its popular signature soups. Cookies and baked goods are provided by Sweet Seidner's Bake Shop and Revi's Food will prepare fresh, unique and flavorful Middle Eastern and Mediterranean salads.

More than just a spot to eat, Cafe 360 will serve as a true gathering place, a resource for the whole community.

The marketplace concept reflects the vibrant, welcoming and innovative environment that the JCC has created throughout the campus with new fitness programs, updated equipment, new creative spaces, full-service business center, and expanded cultural classes and activities. The new JCC is THE place to be...a true home away from home.

## JCC Adds New, Upgraded Schwinn Cycles for Classes



The Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven has not only invested in a new, larger, and cooler space for its indoor cycling area, it is also making room for 30 new Schwinn bikes. JCC Fitness Services Director Susan Donovan is excited to have the new bikes, which can now accommodate 29 participants in classes. Donovan said the upgraded Schwinn cycles feature computer consoles with technology that will "allow us to add another layer of fitness coaching to better help our members reach their goals."

Indoor cycling classes are free for members. Classes are designed to accommodate all cycling levels. Classes for new riders help them to understand the basic setup of the cycles, work on proper technique and focus during a 30-minute ride while more advanced cyclists can sign up for 45-minute and 60-minute classes. There's also a 30-minute gentle ride class offered.

All of the JCC's instructors attended an extensive nine-hour training with the new cycles. "My goal is to offer the best quality indoor cycling program and studio in the area," Donovan said.

For the latest information on classes and times, go to [jccnh.org](http://jccnh.org).



## New Business Center Capitalizes on Coworking Movement

Imagine a space where you can work for yourself, but not by yourself...that's the concept behind the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven's brand new Business Center. The JCC envisions it as a gathering space for members who want an alternative to a home office.

The Business Center echoes the JCC's new philosophy that their upgraded campus should offer the community a true home away from home. Use of the Business Center is complimentary to all adult JCC members, adding even more value to a JCC membership.

According to Debbie Brander, JCC Director of Member and Community Engagement, the welcoming space will feature a large communal work table

with plenty of places to plug in a laptop computer or phone charger as well as comfortable chairs in a lounge-type setting. The Business Center is beautifully outfitted with new carpet and walls and high-end finishes. For a small fee, members can use the JCC's commercial copier for black and white as well as color copies, and scanning. A small private room can also be reserved for conference calls or video conferencing.

The space capitalizes on the coworking movement, a rapidly growing trend among entrepreneurs and groups who want the structure or social atmosphere of an office but value the independence of working for themselves. It also allows people who are self-employed to have a more conducive workplace and share ideas and knowledge with other

## Come Scale New Heights on Our New Climbing Wall



The Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven will soon have a new climbing wall installed for members of all ages to enjoy. There will be Kids Climb classes on Sunday afternoons for

children in grades 2-6 as well as Adult Climb classes on Monday mornings and Early Bird Climb classes on Thursday mornings for adults. In addition to fitness classes, climbing classes and open climb times, the area can also be utilized for birthday parties.

JCC's Health & Physical Education Associate Director Nicolle Camara is excited about the new climbing wall because it will not only allow the JCC to offer something new and exciting to the community, it will also elevate the center's fitness and children's programs. "We will also be able to offer new and exciting birthday party packages," Camara added.

The wall is a 36 by 20 foot L-shaped structure that will include three custom-built overhangs. It will include a custom-built crack climb feature that enables climbers to follow a crack in the rock and use specialized climbing techniques. It will also feature a 32 foot by 8 foot area with a 10-degree slope children's traverse wall with two ledge features. The system also includes three perfect descent auto belays and four regular top rope belay systems and safety harnesses.

The wall was created by Corporate Challenge, which has its corporate headquarters in Wimberley, Texas, and its East Coast division, doing business as Adventure Más East, located in East Hampton

The company was founded by a group of hard-core adventure enthusiasts who love building ropes challenge courses, canopy zip line tours, aerial adventure parks and military/reaction obstacle courses. Collectively, they have more than 100 years of experience in the industry, which includes building and training internationally.



# YELADIM NAMED IN HONOR OF Beverly Levy

By Jeannette Brodeur  
SNH Editor



who had so much compassion for people. Pastor Morris remembered when Levy bought all new furniture for a struggling local family. "They had no couch. No beds. No furniture. Beverly took the mother to the furniture store in West Haven and let her pick out whatever she needed. She blessed that household with such a gift."

Pastor Morris said he looks forward to attending the dedication of the Yeladim/JCC/Beverly Levy Early

Learning Center in March. "To have this learning center named after her is wonderful," he said. What a great legacy she left. She was always looking to bless someone else."

Family friend, Stacey Perkins, said Beverly was not only a wonderful leader in the community, she was also a wonderful wife, a loving mother, and a devoted daughter

JCC President Scott Hurwitz has known the Levys since he was a child. Hurwitz and his wife, Jocelyn, have always thought of them both as role models. "John's gift in memory of Beverly is meaningful and important," Hurwitz said. "As a friend, I'm excited that her name and memory will live on in our community for generations. As the JCC President, I believe Beverly's reputation for excellence will set an example and expectation for everything we do."

According to Rabbi Rona Shapiro, of Congregation B'nai Jacob, Beverly's commitment to Jewish New Haven is legendary. Shapiro gave a touching eulogy for Beverly when she died in 2014. She mentioned Levy's work with Jewish Family Service of Greater New Haven and Ezra Academy, both of which she served as president for, as well as working with the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, Young Leadership of United Jewish Appeal, the New Haven Jewish Home for the Aged, the Jewish Cemetery Association of Greater New Haven, the Backpacks for Kids program and Chapel Haven.

At the same time, while giving her time to these organizations and raising their daughter, Beverly also had an extraordinary career and rose to become vice president of AT&T. After she retired, she taught at Quinnipiac University in Hamden.

In 2010 Beverly was diagnosed with ovarian cancer, and in 2013 she organized the Discovery to Cure Walk, which drew more than 700 people and raised more than \$150,000 for cancer research. "Bev was a force of nature," Shapiro noted in her loving tribute to Levy. Perkins agreed with Shapiro's description of Beverly. "When Beverly asked you to help, you signed on," she said, smiling. "She was such a unique person in terms of leadership. She brought people together."

Pastor Donald Morris, Life Kingdom Outreach Minister and Executive Director of the Christian Community Commission, called Beverly Levy a true humanitarian

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**WELCOME HOME JCC OF GREATER NEW HAVEN!**

We are so thrilled that friends, staff and members are able to "Come Home Again". We wish the entire community many years of fun, friendship, and community building to come.

SINCERELY,  
YOUR FRIENDS AT CAMP LAURELWOOD

**Mazel Tov and welcome home to the JCC of Greater New Haven!**  
We wish you all the best on your future endeavors and are thrilled for the community to once again have a home at this wonderful facility.

Your friends at Southern Connecticut Hebrew Academy

# Enrichment Programs Aid JCL Readers

An award-winning organization of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, the Jewish Coalition for Literacy (JCL) pairs volunteer reading partners with children in local public elementary schools, one to one, for an hour each week, fostering literacy, conversation and oral language skills.

While reading partners work independently with their assigned students, the program strives to give ongoing support through their team leaders at each school and by scheduling additional programs.

Each school has scheduled round table discussion groups during January for their reading partners to speak about their student sessions and offer an opportunity for volunteers to learn from each other, hear ideas and gain perspectives from the school's literacy specialist. Each volunteer has the opportunity to be heard and have support offered.

Small docent groups at the Yale Center for British Art have been arranged by Hyla Chasnoff for JCL reading partners at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, March 14, and Thursday, March 15, for about 60 minutes a session. This is a unique and interesting way of viewing art and having the opportunity to discuss it with well informed docents. Art can be used as a tool for increasing language development in students, one of the major goals identified at these schools. Not only will they learn how to engage students with art, if they choose, but they can also encourage them to use their observation skills while reading together with students. The goal is to slow the process of looking at a painting to receive as much out of it as possible. All New Haven third grade public school children are offered the oppor-

tunity to visit the museum, with their class, during the school year. Each group will have a maximum of 10 to 12 people.

RSVP to Hyla Chasnoff (hylachas@yahoo.com). Reservations will be on a first come basis.

Contact Brenda Brenner at (203) 387-2424 x308 or [bbrenner@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:bbrenner@jewishnewhaven.org) for further information to participate.

**JCL, a proud recipient of a 2015 TAPS award from the New Haven Public Schools, is a project of the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven. JCL continues to be included on each partner school's improvement plan.**



# CMI Welcomes Guests from Abraham's Tent

This coming winter marks the ninth year for Abraham's Tent, an interfaith program in which churches, synagogues and mosques partner to house individuals from Columbus House's overflow shelter.

This much needed New Haven program was founded when it became clear that the number of homeless, the "strangers" in the community, was growing while resources to provide for them were shrinking.

To address the problem, members of the religious community and staff from the Columbus House met to seek some solutions - at least in the immediate sense.

Rabbi Herbert Brockman of Congregation Mishkan Israel (CMI), one of the program's

founders, shared with the group the story of Abraham and the lessons rabbis derived from it. The group decided that focusing on the resources - synagogues and churches and their cadre of volunteers - would be a workable solution to house some of the overflow shelter. Abraham's Tent was born.

CMI has since been among the estimated 900 volunteers from 19 congregations from across New Haven's religious spectrum providing housing to alleviate overcrowding at the Columbus House Overflow Shelter during the winter.

This year, Congregation Mishkan Israel will host Abraham's Tent during the week of Jan. 8-15. During their stay, the stigma of homelessness disap-

pears as the group is welcomed as guests into a friendly and relaxed atmosphere of enjoying dinner, playing cards, watching TV and schmoozing with caring volunteers before going to bed. In the morning, they wake up to a hearty breakfast and then leave for the day with brown bag lunches decorated by children in CMI's religious school.

CMI's volunteers have found participating in Abraham's Tent to be so fulfilling that many 're-up' year after year and have even become regular volunteers at Columbus House year round.

Congregation Mishkan Israel is a reform synagogue located at 785 Ridge Road in Hamden.

For more information, call (203) 288-3877.



World-renowned Judaic artist Jeanette Kuvin Oren shows off a Torah cover she created. Kuvin Oren stopped by the Jewish High School of Connecticut recently to speak to students about following their passions and just how far that can take them.



JCC staff members, including the Welcome Desk Associates and babysitters, held a customer service and security training seminar on Sunday, Dec. 17 to prepare for the JCC's reopening.



From left to right: USY Board Officers Aaron Bruce and Noam Benson-Tilsen; Young Emissary Rotem Linchevski enjoyed a trip to Lyman Orchards in October.

## BEKI Kadima, USY Groups Offer Exciting Activities

By Gilah Benson-Tilsen  
BEKI Youth Group Coordinator

Congregation BEKI Kadima and United Synagogue Youth (USY) are youth groups that empower Jewish students in middle school and high school to plan and participate in educational, religious, community service, and social events. These activities provide opportunities to build future Jewish community leaders.

Congregation BEKI Kadima and USY are inclusive youth groups open to all Jewish youth, regardless of synagogue affiliation. Kadima and USY events are planned at the local (New Haven area), regional (CT, RI and MA), national, and international levels. For more information, see [beki.org/youth/kadima-usy/](http://beki.org/youth/kadima-usy/).

We started this September with kickoff events for USY and Kadima, at which we planned for this year's activities, snacked, played games, listened to upbeat Hebrew tunes courtesy of DJ Noam BT, and introduced our Israeli Young Emissaries, Rotem Linchevski and Talya Machpood. In October, we met our regional counterparts at the Hanefesh Regional Opening Event at the Sports Center of Connecticut, enjoying an afternoon of laser tag, bowling, mini golf, arcade gaming and birthday cake. We also

held a picnic and post-Sukkot apple harvest at Lyman Orchards and an Ice Cream Havdalah.

In November, USYers baked delicious, made-from-scratch challah, directed by a gracious USY parent. Our USY and Kadima volunteers then moved straight into an intensive Thanksgiving pie preparation marathon. The profits from this fundraiser were donated to recipients including our local Jewish Family Service Food Pantry.

Our USY Tikun Olam project on Sunday, Dec. 10, involved cleaning, organizing and taking inventory for the Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services (IRIS) storage room at BEKI. The furnishings stored in the large basement room are distributed to new refugee families when they are first resettled in New Haven. The group also plans to participate in snowtubing, hosting a movie night, and plan an exciting roster of activities for the winter and spring. Join us!

Our elected USY Board Officers for the year are:  
USY President: Noam Benson-Tilsen  
Communications: Aaron Bruce  
Religious/Education: Benjamin Birn  
Tikun Olam: Eitan Hirshfield

Membership/Kadima and Israel Affairs positions are still open.

## Teen Shamashim Direct BEKI Services

By Rachel Bashevkin  
BEKI member

When the ark needs to be opened and a Torah carried, who you gonna call? On Shabbat morning at Beth El - Keser Israel [BEKI], a group of teenagers decides. For the last 15 years, teen shamashim have selected people for all of the honors and have kept the service moving along. At a b'nai mitzvah, their job shifts to locating the family members selected for the honors and then patiently teaching those visitors what to do.

A teen was first trained in 2002 to fill in when adult male shamashim were unavailable, Rabbi Jon-Jay Tilsen said, "but what I did not expect was the quality of their work. They proved to be dedicated and quickly acquired the skills to run even the more elaborate services with poise and efficiency. They learn the names and tribal status (Jewish? Kohen? Levi?) of most of the regular attendees, as well as their interests and skills, and whom they can call on at the last minute to lead or read." "The position of shamash," Rabbi Tilsen noted, "requires the skills of an air traffic controller, a stage manager, and a White House social secretary." The shamash must know the order of the service, understand the peculiarities of the liturgical calendar, and deal with grumpy or anxious adults. The shamash sometimes has to work very quickly in a high-pressure setting, and has to have the courage to approach strangers – including visiting scholars – and invite them to take part in the service." The shamash also has to know when to ask for guidance. Although the shamashim are too discreet to reveal any details, they learn some rather intimate knowledge about congregants, including who is having a medical problem and cannot carry the Torah that day or who is a leftie and therefore best suited to lifting the Torah during the months when it's rolled to Genesis.

Although the current team is all boys, "the shamashim have sometimes included girls in a role that is still typically male in many congregations," Carole Bass noted. "The shamashim play an incredibly important role," she added, "not only helping the services run smoothly, but also greeting guests and visitors and helping people feel comfortable in taking on honors."

## Birthright Israel Expands Eligibility



NEW YORK—Birthright Israel, the largest provider of cultural trips in the world, today announces a decision to introduce a new age category for the first time since the organization's founding in 1999. A limited number of Birthright Israel trip options for 27 to 32-year-olds will be introduced this summer in addition to the standard programming available for 18 to 26-year-olds.

The increase in Birthright Israel's maximum eligible age reflects changing societal trends with young adults making life decisions – such as getting married and having children – later in life. Building off of Birthright Israel's most successful year in history with nearly 48,000 participants in 2017, this change will enable more Jewish young adults to develop connections with their heritage, the larger diaspora community and the State of Israel.

After 18 years in operation and after having sent over 600,000 Jewish young adults on trips, this change reflects Birthright Israel's commitment to constantly evaluating programming to match the needs of its participants. Birthright Israel has grown exponentially over the years in terms of total overseas participants.

Summer registration will officially open on Jan. 30 with an early bird option for pre-registered applicants on Jan. 29, 10 a.m. EST. Additional information is available at: <https://birthrightisrael.com>.

## Sandberg Hiked Through the Negev, Thanks to Jewish Foundation Scholarship

Recognizing the impact of Israel travel/experiences, the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven provides scholarships for both short-term (minimum of three-week program) and long-term organized Israel educational programs for Greater New Haven area youth, ages 14-19.

For 2018 summer trips, applications are due by March 9. For 2018-2019 gap or academic-year programs, applications are due May 4.

Here is part two of a three-part series where a young person who benefitted from a Jewish Foundation scholarship shares their experiences.

**Mia Sandberg, of Woodbridge | Israel Experience Scholarship Recipient**

This past summer, I experienced an once-in-a-lifetime journey. I was lucky enough to travel around Israel with all of my best friends through the Sam Cohen Foundation's Dor L'Dor program, I learned and experienced more than I ever imagined I would. I have anticipated this trip ever since I began sleep-away camp, seven years ago, as it's the last summer our group spends together before becoming counselors. I tried my best to prepare for every early morning hike, and the daily 100-degree weather, but nothing prepared me for the journey I embarked on. It is nearly impossible to share every small and incredible detail of my five-week trip, but I will do my best.

Our amazing and jam-packed day-to-day itinerary helped make sure we didn't waste a second while traveling around Israel. Our first stop was Jerusalem, which helped us get the initial feel of Israel, the place we all learned about throughout the years. I saw a significant number of rabbis, cats, and temples in this city!

As the journey continued, I was able to explore other aspects of Israel including



Mia Sandberg, at left, got to experience Israel, from the Dead Sea to the Negev, thanks to a Jewish Foundation Scholarship.



many amazing and inspiring museums and historical sites. I was also able to learn about and dive deeper into the history of my religion and people. To be able to stand on the Holy Land and recognize all of the sacrifices that were made for me to be here made the experience even more special and life-changing for me.

This trip allowed me to get the full experience of Israel. I went from bartering at shuks, to swimming in the Dead Sea and being covered in mud, to waking up at 3 a.m. to hike through the Negev. I was able to meet different types of Jews, like Ethiopian Jews who traveled thousands of miles on foot just to reach the Holy Land. I volunteered with children in need of heart surgery and had many conversations and instruction on becoming an effective leader in my community.

Overall, this indescribable five-week journey helped shape me to become the proud Jew that I am today. With my new knowledge about my culture and history, I am excited to share all of my experiences with the people around me. I can't thank the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven enough for their generosity and for helping make my dream to visit Israel a reality.

For more information on Foundation scholarships, go to: [jewishnewhaven.org/scholarships](http://jewishnewhaven.org/scholarships).

## Cohen Recalls the Thrill of Competing in Maccabiah Games

As Israel celebrates 70 years of independence, we are delighted to share in the celebration by highlighting its important contributions to the world in technology, medicine, science, music, art, sports, and culture. Look for interesting stories about the State of Israel in each issue of Shalom New Haven in 2018.

Marcy Cohen, of Shelton, still gets emotional when she remembers the thrill of seeing 8,750 Jewish athletes from 80 countries all in one place during the opening ceremonies of the 20th anniversary of the World Maccabiah Games in Israel last summer. The Maccabiah Games are the third largest sporting event in the world.

Cohen represented the United States in tennis, competing in the Masters Team Tennis Division for ages 45-60. She runs Marcy's Tennis Academy in Shelton.

"Opening ceremonies were held at



the Teddy Kollek Stadium in Jerusalem and there were 50,000 spectators and soldiers cheering for Team USA as 1,200 of us walked into the stadium," she said. "The emotions were overflowing. It was so amazing to see all Jewish athletes in one place."

Cohen played four singles matches against players representing Chile, Argentina, Israel and Brazil. She also

played doubles with a teammate from California against players from Chile and Israel. "It was so much fun to play before a crowd," she said. "There was so much spirit and cheering among the countries."

She said the most difficult part of competing was playing tennis in the heat and staying focused and competitive with so much going on all around her during the matches.

Cohen said it was so rewarding to compete in the sport she loves (tennis), for her country, her culture and her religion. "It was such an inspiring experience for me," she said.

Cohen is the proud mom of two sons, Joshua, 24, and Jesse, 21. In addition to running the tennis academy, she also teaches tennis in Barbados at two resorts throughout the year.

For more information on the 2018 Maccabiah Games to be held July 22-August 1, go to: [maccabiusa.com](http://maccabiusa.com).



Marcy Cohen and Dudi Sela, a professional tennis player from Israel.

# Jewish Foundation Launches 'One Happy Camper'

The Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven is pleased to announce the launch of the One Happy Camper program in partnership with the Foundation for Jewish Camp (FJC).

The initiative includes needs-blind incentive grants of up to \$1,000 for first-time campers to Jewish overnight camp, as well as needs-based scholarships for first-time and returning campers. Campers must reside in the Greater New Haven catchment area and attend an overnight Jewish camp in North America.

Greater New Haven is the newest community to make Jewish camp a priority in their area. Since 2006, FJC has partnered with more than 100 North American federations, foundations, camp movements, and camps, as well as the Jim Joseph Foundation (JWest), and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation (PJ Goes to Camp) to provide more than 70,000 grants totaling almost \$70 million. One Happy Camper grant recipients, just like all campers, are being infused with Jewish education, awareness, and identity while having fun; returning to Jewish camp summer after summer.

The challenge of passing along Jewish connection and commitment to the next generation has become one of the most important concerns of the American Jewish community. Based on CAMP WORKS, the 2010 study by FJC studying the long-term impact of Jewish overnight camp, there is com-



PELLING evidence that camp is a proven means of building Jewish identity, community, and leadership. It found that adults who attended Jewish overnight camp are 30 percent more likely to donate to a Jewish federation, 37 percent more likely to light candles regularly for Shabbat, 45 percent more likely to attend synagogue at least once a month, and 55 percent more likely to feel very emotionally attached to Israel.

"We are thrilled to be able to partner with One Happy Camper," said Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven Executive Director Lisa Stanger.

"Jewish overnight camps are a life-altering experience. This is a major priority for our community and an important investment for us. We want

to enable more children to experience Jewish camp and we are excited we can help our local families to do this." Stanger added, "We hope to spread the word so that many families take advantage of this opportunity."

First-time campers attending one of more than 155 non-profit Jewish overnight camps, including Camp Laurelwood (Connecticut's only overnight Jewish camp) can receive an incentive grant, regardless of need. In addition, campers can apply for needs-based aid for camp regardless of whether they are first-time or returning campers.

Families can find camps and apply for first-time camper incentive grants by visiting OneHappyCamper.org. Families can apply for needs-based aid for overnight Jewish camp as well as view

the Greater New Haven catchment area at [jewishnewhaven.org/scholarships](http://jewishnewhaven.org/scholarships).

"The Jewish summer camp experience affects children in countless ways and opens their hearts to the joy of being Jewish," said FJC CEO Jeremy J. Fingerman.

"We are passionate about making that experience possible for every Jewish child and deeply grateful to all of our partners who share our commitment to that goal."

*The Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven is a trusted and expert resource for charitable gift planning and endowments and serves as a partner and resource for synagogues, local Jewish agencies, professional advisors and donors.*

*The Foundation for Jewish Camp (FJC) builds a strong Jewish future through transformative Jewish summers.*

*FJC BUILDS LEADERS, helping camp professionals and other camp talent develop the skills to lead their camps to exceptional outcomes operationally and educationally. They AMPLIFY JEWISHNESS, developing and supporting programs that deepen campers' and counselors' connection to their Jewish roots and culture. And they EXPAND THE FIELD, continuously expanding the number and variety of summer experiences to attract more—and more diverse—participants. [jewishcamp.org](http://jewishcamp.org)*

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Bar & Bat Mitzvahs, Weddings and Family Portraits

## Religious School Concert at Tower One/Tower East

Kol Shira: a celebration of Jewish music with the next generation. Greater New Haven area Hebrew schools will come together at 10 a.m. on Jan. 28 (snow date Feb. 4) to celebrate the power of Jewish music with a very special concert. Congregations Mishkan Israel, B'nai Jacob, Or Shalom, BEKI, Temple Beth David, Temple Beth Tikvah and Temple Emanuel will bring their Hebrew school students together to perform at this once a year musical extravaganza held at the Towers. Temple Emanuel and Temple

Beth Tikvah will combine their musical bands together for this event, and the students, their families and residents of The Towers are in for a great treat! The event is free and open to the community, please RSVP to The Towers if you plan to attend.

*This annual event is dedicated to the memory of Debbie Friedman z'l, a Jewish musician who inspired and trained many generations of Jewish musicians, and continues to inspire the love of Jewish music, a true legacy.*



The Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven was filled with the joyful sounds of happy children and adults at the Hanukkah party held Dec. 18 in the building. DJ Charles Rosenay!! served as DJ/MC of the celebration.



For more information on Weddings and Events for all seasons, please contact Libby Ruttly.

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# Tributes & Remembrances

## JEWISH FEDERATION

*In honor of* MADELINE BRAFFMAN'S BAT MITZVAH  
Alan & Judy Cooper

*In honor of* SCOTT GELL'S BAR MITZVAH  
Belle Greenberg

*In memory of* JAMIE LICHTMAN  
Mark & Amy Holtz  
Judy Alperin  
David & Stacey Trachten

*In memory of* BARBARA GREENBERG  
Jeffrey & Barbara Orell  
Endre & Aniko Sarkany  
David & Susan Sharnoff

*In memory of* BOB HERSKOWITZ  
David & Stacey Trachten

## JEWISH FOUNDATION

### FRIENDS OF THE JEWISH COALITION OF LITERACY

*In memory of* Kathleen P. Harris  
Norma Jean Mitchell

*In memory of* Thalia Gandelman  
Lauren Sepowitz

*In honor of* Hedda Kopf's birthday and the birth of Mara Balk's son  
Brenda Brenner

### GEORGE AND SUSAN KRALL FAMILY PACE FUND

Wishing Alan Alpert a speedy recovery  
George and Susan Krall

### SYDNEY A. PERRY FUND FOR JEWISH LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP

*In honor of* Sydney Perry  
Barbara & Andy Hodes

### BECKERMAN FAMILY SUPPORTING FOUNDATION PERPETUAL ANNUAL CAMPAIGN FUND

*In memory of* Barbara Greenberg  
*In memory of* Michael Vlock  
David & Ruthann Beckerman

*In memory of* Barbara Greenberg  
Lindsay Borenstein

### MARY LOU & EDWARD WINNICK ENDOWMENT FUND OF THE JEWISH FOUNDATION OF GREATER NEW HAVEN

*In memory of* Mary Shemitz  
*In memory of* Mark Kamm  
Mary Lou & Edward Winnick

### ISRAEL ENDOWMENT FUND

*In honor of* Dr. Stan Friedman's birthday  
Rise & Ed Siegel

### HAHN SILBERBERG FAMILY FUND FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE JEWISH FOUNDATION

*In honor of* Judith Hahn's birthday  
Betty Lou Blumberg

*In honor of* Judith's milestone birthday  
Sue Cohen

*In honor of* Judith Hahn's birthday  
Carole Greenbaum

### WOMEN OF VISION SOCIETY

*In memory of* Barbara Greenberg  
Debbie Polivy

To purchase a tribute card:  
jccnh.org, jewishnewhaven.org, newhavenjewishfoundation.org  
\*Tributes listed are up to Nov. 30, 2017.

## BARBARA GREENBERG PHILANTHROPIC FUND OF THE JEWISH FOUNDATION OF GREATER NEW HAVEN\*

*In memory of* Barbara Greenberg  
Arminda D. Murtha  
Sydney Perry  
Thomas G. Prezioso  
Seymour & Harriet Shapiro  
Kristine J. Arbo  
James & Susan Millen  
William & Susan Hoffman  
Gary & Cherie Aviv  
Nancy Cohen  
Marcia & Stanley Reiter  
Sam Dressler  
Gloria J. Duhl  
Meredith Lefkoff  
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John & Barbara Lichtman  
Madeline & Arnold Potash  
Lisa Stanger & Gregory Colodner  
Judy Alperin  
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Deborah & Allison  
Ike and Dianne Goodrich  
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Doreen Testa  
Michale R. Thalberg  
Steven & Ana White  
Mary Lou & Edward Winnick  
Robyn & Jeffrey Teplitzky  
Steven David Tanzer  
Carol & Jim Shanbrom  
Jane (Kaplan) Serlin  
Elliott & Sandra Kerzner  
Lawrence & Susan Liebman  
Steven & Arlene Marcus  
Edith B. Schpero  
Arlene B. Winters  
David B. Margolis  
Alvin D. Greenberg, M.D.  
James Dorney & Marc Ciocrola  
Marilyn Margolis  
Ellen Chalef  
Carol & David Robbins  
Bertrand & Martha Weisbart  
Harold Stern, M.D. & Sandra B. Stern, M.D.  
Jennifer & Seth Stier

## Community Calendar

Event details subject to change. Please visit [jewishnewhaven.org/events](http://jewishnewhaven.org/events) or [jccnh.org/events](http://jccnh.org/events).

# jan.

**Kidding Around Yoga**, Jan. 8, 4:15-5:15 p.m., (every Monday until Feb. 5, except Jan. 15), \$35 members for series/\$45 community for series, Temple Beth David, 3 Main Street, Cheshire, Contact: Grace Koo, (203) 387-2424 x228, [gracek@jccnh.org](mailto:gracek@jccnh.org)

**Great Scientists**, Jan. 8, 4-5 p.m., (every Monday until Feb. 26, except MLK and Presidents Day), \$175 members/\$200 community, JCC of Greater New Haven, 360 Amity Rd., Woodbridge, Contact: Eliana Sugarman, (203) 387-2424 x306, [elianas@jccnh.org](mailto:elianas@jccnh.org)

**Kirtan at the Yurt**, Jan. 10, 7:15-8:15 p.m., (every other week on Wed. until Feb. 21) \$10 suggested donation, The Yurt, 550 Amity Rd., Woodbridge,

Contact: Grace Koo, (203) 387-2424 x228, [gracek@jccnh.org](mailto:gracek@jccnh.org)

**Flour Power for Kids**, Jan. 11, 4:30-6:00 p.m., (every 4 weeks on Thursday until Feb. 1) \$50 members/\$60 community, JCC of Greater New Haven, 360 Amity Rd., Woodbridge, Contact: Eliana Sugarman, (203) 387-2424 x306, [elianas@jccnh.org](mailto:elianas@jccnh.org)

**Sarah Aroeste Author Event at Guilford Library**, Jan. 14, 2-3 p.m., FREE, Guilford Free Library, 67 Park St. Guilford, CT 06437 Guilford, Contact: Stacey Battat, (203) 387-2424 x317, [pjlibrary@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:pjlibrary@jewishnewhaven.org)

**Women of Vision Society Presents a Dessert Reception and Talk with Michal Barkai Brody**, Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m., \$18, Contact: Jen Bayer, (203) 387-2424 x320, [jbayer@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:jbayer@jewishnewhaven.org)

**MakerSpace Preview Event**, Jan. 18, 7-9 p.m., Jan. 21, 2-4 p.m., FREE, JCC of Greater New Haven, 360 Amity Rd Woodbridge, Contact: Grace Koo, (203) 387-2424 x228, [gracek@jccnh.org](mailto:gracek@jccnh.org)

**Brush & Bordeaux**, Jan. 25, 7-9 p.m., \$35 members/\$40 community, Temple Beth David, 3 Main Street, Cheshire, Contact: Grace Koo, (203) 387-2424 x228, [gracek@jccnh.org](mailto:gracek@jccnh.org)

# feb.

**Cozy Crafternoon**, Feb. 4, 1-3 p.m., \$12/\$15, The Clay Date, 146 Amity Road, New Haven, Contact: Eliana Sugarman, (203) 387-2424 x306, [elianas@jccnh.org](mailto:elianas@jccnh.org)

**Dancing at the JCC: Salsa Night**, Feb. 8, 7-9 p.m., \$30 members/\$35 community, JCC of Greater New Haven, 360 Amity Rd., Woodbridge, Contact: Grace Koo, (203) 387-2424 x228, [gracek@jccnh.org](mailto:gracek@jccnh.org)

**Women's Philanthropy Winter Warm Up**, Feb. 15, TBA, \$36, Contact: Jen Bayer, (203) 387-2424 x320, [jbayer@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:jbayer@jewishnewhaven.org)

**PJ Library Mindfulness, Movement & Drumming**, Feb. 21, 1-2 p.m., FREE, JCC of Greater New Haven, 360 Amity Rd., Woodbridge, Contact: Stacey Battat, (203) 387-2424 x317, [pjlibrary@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:pjlibrary@jewishnewhaven.org)

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# A Taste at Temple Inspires the

By Jeannette Brodeur  
Shalom New Haven Editor

Joshua Hatton, of Guilford, first began his love affair with whiskey about 12 years ago at his synagogue, Temple Tikvah in Madison, when he tasted some from a bottle provided by one of his fellow congregants.

From that very first taste at temple, Hatton followed his bliss and helped create the very successful Jewish Whisky Company, which purchases single casks of one-of-a-kind whiskeys from distilleries all over the world and sells the product to its members, known as the Single Cask Nation, as well as to select retailers and bars in six different states, including Connecticut.

The Jewish Whisky Company is run by Hatton, and Jason Johnstone-Yellin, who hails from Scotland but moved to the United States 15 years ago and currently lives in Virginia. Johnstone-Yellin's wife is also Jewish and his sons are being raised in the Jewish faith.

So how does one become a whiskey expert? Hatton



said it's all about passion. "I think it's like music or cooking," he explained. "If you have the passion for it, then you want to learn everything."

After writing his own whiskey review blog online, Hatton had an idea to start a whiskey company in 2011. Now, seven years later, Hatton says business is booming. "It's going tremendously well," he said. The Single Cask Nation now boasts more than 3,000 members nationwide and a Facebook page with more than 3,700 followers. Hatton and Johnstone-Yellin even do a popular podcast now called "One Nation, Under Whiskey" that gets just under 14,000 downloads a month from whiskey aficionados all over the world.

If you're wondering why the company does not use an "e" in whiskey, Hatton explains that most of the world, except for Ireland and the United States, spells whiskey without an "e."

The Jewish Whisky Company offers whiskey from \$80 to \$240. The company also has a \$10 flat-rate for shipping, which Hatton said is the best spirits shipping rate in America. Hatton said the reason the company offers whiskeys as part of a membership is

# Jewish Whisky Company

because it is just like being a member of a synagogue. "When you fall in love with a synagogue, you join the community," he said. "You belong. It's just like that with the Single Cask Nation."

Because the company is called the Jewish Whisky Company, Hatton admits the question often comes up whether or not their product is kosher. First of all, he points out that when it comes to the kosher status of whiskey, to most of the United Kingdom, all whiskey is kosher by nature, but here in the United States, if the whiskey is matured in casks that previously held sherry, it can be considered unkosher. Hatton is able to defend his product by using a Talmudic argument. "If you are talking about kosher food and the tref component, the Talmud says that if less than 1/60 of the total is unkosher, everything is still good. If you can measure the amount of sherry in parts per million and our intent is not to make the whiskey taste like sherry, then that's okay. The reason we use those casks is because European Oak has a certain taste."

If people still argue that their product is not kosher, Hatton is fine with that and respects their decision,



although he pointed out that 50 percent of the Jewish Whisky Company products are not matured in casks that once held sherry so they would not pose a kaishrut dilemma. "Believe it or not, most of the Orthodox community is fine with our products," Hatton said. "They are very knowledgeable and understanding."

"What we do stay away from is a kosher certification," he admitted. "I keep kosher at home and look for food that has the kosher certification, but two whiskeys don't mature in the same way even if

one happens to be kosher. I still have no issue with people who want kosher whiskey, but I'd rather stay away from that."

"Our first goal is to teach people about whiskey, whether you are Jewish or not," he emphasizes. "First, we are a whiskey company and second, we are a Jewish company. We bottle whiskey for whiskey lovers with Jewish people in mind. When you go online to join, there is a questionnaire to self identify and it asks about kosher concerns and only 40 percent of our members identify as Jewish."



## Sarah Aroeste Author Event at Guilford Library



Join international Ladino performer Sarah Aroeste as she teaches children in an interactive presentation how to have fun with Ladino (Judeo-Spanish). Using her children's book, Ora de Despertar (Time to wake up!), and lots of live music, she'll get kids on their feet to learn about morning rituals, numbers, animals on a farm, meals of the day, and more- all in the Sephardic language of Ladino!

**Sunday, January 14**  
2 - 3 p.m. Guilford Free Library  
67 Park Street | Guilford

**Monday, January 15 (MLK Day)**  
10:30 - 11:30 a.m. at JCC Vacation Camp\*  
360 Amity Road | Woodbridge  
\*Caregiver required for all events

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Dessert Reception & Talk with **MICHAL BARKAI BRODY**  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 16 | 7:30-9 p.m. | JCC TERRACE VIEW ROOM

Please join us for a very special event with Michal Barkai Brody, founder of Alma Pre-Military Academy for Female Leadership. She will be joining us to talk about the incredible impact she's having on disadvantaged women in Israel. Through her program, young women are gaining access to leadership skills and tools to help them succeed in the IDF and ultimately attain greater success in life following their service. Alma Pre-Military Academy for Female Leadership is a 2016 Women of Vision Society grant recipient. Coffee and dessert will be served. Open to all women. Kashrut observed.



PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED | \$12 COUVERT  
Questions? Contact Jennifer Bayer, Assistant Director, Development  
(203) 387-2424 x320 | jbayer@jewishnewhaven.org



Join us to for breakfast and a talk **Amal Elsanah Al'hjoor**, founder of the largest Arab-Jewish NGO in the Negev- AJECC-NISPED, a life-long activist, and expert on social change.



TUESDAY, JANUARY 19 | 8:30 a.m.  
JCC TERRACE VIEW ROOM

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED | \$12 COUVERT  
Questions? Contact Brian Levy, Director of Outreach, Engagement & Community Relations  
(203) 387-2424 x375 | blevy@jewishnewhaven.org

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## Rally of Freedom Changed the Lives of Soviet Jews

By Yelena Gerovich  
New American Acculturation Coordinator

Thirty years ago, on Dec. 6, 1987, 250,000 people marched on Washington to free the Soviet Jewry. The rally, organized by the National Coalition Supporting Soviet Jewry (NCSJ), saw Jews come from all across the country on the eve of Soviet Premier Gorbachev's first U.S. visit to demand: "Let my people go!" It was this unprecedented display of unity by the Jewish community worldwide that led to the gates being opened and Soviet Jews being allowed to emigrate and be free of religious persecution.

As Thomas Jefferson wrote: "The boisterous sea of liberty is never without a wave," and now the beneficiaries of this great march are all around us. Like the Jews in the days of the Maccabees, the Jews in the Former Soviet Union were also prohibited from studying Torah. Everything is different for them here in America, where they are free to observe and celebrate all Jewish holidays.

As part of the New American Acculturation Program, Jews from the Former Soviet Union celebrated Hanukkah in December. They were able to celebrate openly, with Hanukkah candles and dreidels, items that were not available anywhere for sale for almost the whole 20th century in the Former Soviet Union. What a difference those 250,000 made 30 years ago. What a difference we can make all together today.

Other programs offered to this group included educational workshops, Thanksgiving celebrations and a lecture in Russian as part of the Taste of Honey program in November. The Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven provides free transportation for low-income families.

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

## Westville Synagogue Hosts Upcoming Events for January/February

Westville University is an educational initiative that offers dynamic high level programming to the community reflecting our commitment to Jewish learning, history, culture, law and the State of Israel.

**WEDNESDAY, JAN. 3, 7:30 P.M.**  
Rabbi Mati Pawlak  
Yale Slifka Hillel  
Personal Journey: "The First Holocaust

Native-Born Polish Rabbi Serving in Poland"  
**SATURDAY, JAN. 13, 7:30 P.M.**  
Film: "The Woman's Balcony"  
Discussion led by Dr. Peter and Susan Rogol

**WEDNESDAY, JAN. 17, 7:30 P.M.**  
Professor Elitzur Bar-Asher Siegal,  
Hebrew University  
Language and Gender:

## Марш Свободы изменивший судьбы советских евреев

30 лет тому назад, 6 декабря 1987 года, более 250.000 человек собрались в Вашингтоне для того, чтобы призвать Кремль открыть ворота для эмиграции Советских евреев. Это Воскресенье Свободы, как оно стало с тех пор называться, оказалось самой большой демонстрацией в американской истории, организованной евреями. Время этого марша было выбрано не случайно. Советский президент Михаил Горбачев должен был встретиться



с президентом Рональдом Рейганом на следующий день. И это был первый официальный визит советского руководителя в США. Американские евреи требовали: «Отпусти мой народ!» Это беспрецедентное проявление единства Еврейских общин во всем мире привело к открытию ворот, и советским евреям разрешили эмигрировать и освободиться от религиозных преследований. Как писал Томас Джефферсон: «Буйное море свободы никогда не бывает без волн». Как и евреям в дни Маккавеев, евреям в бывшем Советском Союзе также запрещалось изучать Тору. Сегодня в Америке они свободны соблюдать традиции

и праздновать все еврейские праздники. Благодаря образовательным программам для эмигрантов из бывшего Советского Союза они собираются вместе на праздники, обмениваются компьютерными новинками, изучают английский. Эмигранты из бывшего Советского Союза отметили Хануку в декабре, отпраздновали открыто, с ханукальными свечами и дрейделями, предметами, которые не были доступны нигде для продажи почти в течение всего двадцатого века в бывшем Советском Союзе. Они отпраздновали День Благодарения и прослушали лекцию на русском языке в рамках программы «Вкус меда» в ноябре. Еврейская федерация обеспечила бесплатный транспорт для семей с низкими доходами. Вот что смогли сделать 250.000 человек тридцать лет назад! Как много мы можем сделать сегодня! Звоните, приходите!  
С вопросами и предложениями обращайтесь к координатору культурно-образовательных программ Елене Герович по тел. 203-387-2424 доб.321 [ygerovich@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:ygerovich@jewishnewhaven.org)

Welcome to America



### Save the Date

**JFS Spring Celebration**  
Sunday, May 6, 2018  
Early Evening

### Honoring Joe Adler

*Founding Member and Inspiration for the JFS Social Work Outreach Services Program (SOS) and Philanthropic Community Leader in Greater New Haven*

The SOS program makes a positive difference in the lives of the most economically distressed and at-risk families in Greater New Haven.

For more information or sponsorship opportunities, please contact Rachel Scolnic Dobin at (203) 389-5599 x 109 or [rsdobin@jfsnh.org](mailto:rsdobin@jfsnh.org).

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

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Help us plan Israel's 70th Independence Day Events. Contact Eliana Sugarman at [elianas@jccnh.org](mailto:elianas@jccnh.org)



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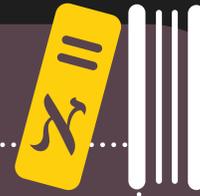
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# To LIFE... to FEDERATION!

Start here!

## 3 YEARS OLD

Get a free Jewish children's book every month thanks to PJ Library's family engagement program.



## 10 YEARS OLD

Make new friends at a Federation-funded summer camp.



## 6 YEARS OLD

Learn your ABCs and Alef-Bet at a Federation-supported Jewish day school.



## 12 YEARS OLD

Take your first trip overseas on a Federation family mission to Israel and try to barter at the shuk!



## 18 YEARS OLD

Revisit Israel with dozens of other teens on a Taglit-Birthright Israel trip.



## 20 YEARS OLD

Become a member of your campus Hillel and share Shabbat dinner with your friends.



## 14 YEARS OLD

Pick up lots of handy skills, from crafting to martial arts, taking classes at the JCC.



## 45 YEARS OLD

Give back to Federation by creating an endowment that provides for the future of your Jewish community.



## 70 YEARS OLD

Spend quality time with friends and family at Federation senior programming.



## 30 YEARS OLD

Join Young Leadership to cultivate your leadership skills, give back and advocate for Israel.



## Our Honor Roll

Our 2018 campaign is in full swing and growing every day. Go to [jewishnewhaven.org/honor-roll](http://jewishnewhaven.org/honor-roll) to view a list of donors who have committed to our campaign to date.

The 2018 campaign is open until July 31, 2018. Contact Amy Holtz, (203) 387-2424 x254 to participate!



Jewish Federation  
OF GREATER NEW HAVEN