

The Voice of the Greater New Haven Jewish Community

SHALOM



**2023 GUIDE TO
JEWISH SUMMER
CAMPS** pages 13-16

NEW HAVEN

WINTER 2023 • TEVET/SH'VAT 5783



New Haven Beit Midrash

A Jewish Learning Initiative

page 5



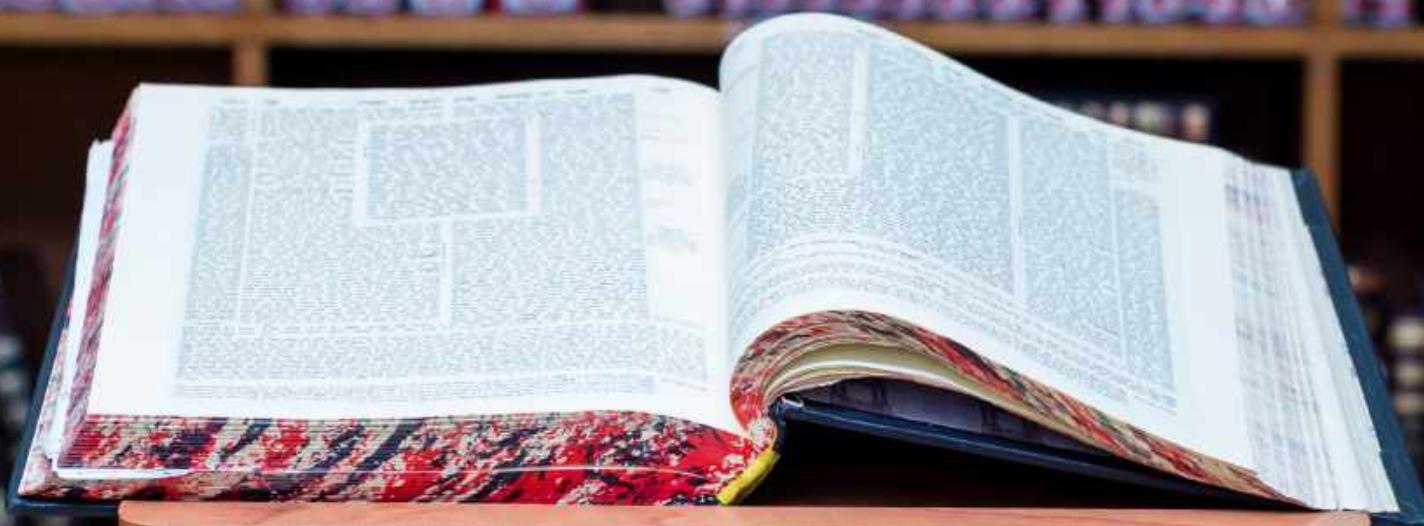
Rabbi Jonathan Leener
Co-Founder of Base,
Rabbinic Innovator



Rabbi Avi Spodek
Master Educator,
Trainer of Teachers



Rabbi Brent Spodek
The Accidental Rabbi





FROM THE DESK OF
AMY HOLTZ
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
& CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER | aholtz@jewishnewhaven.org



New year...new beginnings

As I write this message, winter is upon us, the days are shorter and the secular calendar is moving towards the start of 2023 (as you're reading this, it is already 2023).

I would like to wish our community members a very happy, healthy and peaceful 2023.

As with the start of every new year, we make resolutions to eat healthier, exercise more, treasure our time with family and friends or try something new. All of these "resolutions" can be fulfilled here in our wonderful community building which is bustling with activities – something for everyone of every age and interest.

If it's sports and exercise you're after, you can get your body moving and in top shape in our state-of-the-art fitness facility with an invigorating workout guided by our fabulous instructors and trainers, swim laps in our inviting indoor pool, shoot hoops in our double gym, or play pickleball with friends.

For those who prefer cultural or recreational activities, we urge you to check out the films and author talks that fill the roster of our Beckerman Cultural Arts series, or play Mah Jongg with Women's Philanthropy friends. For our little ones, PJ Library offers a host of enriching and educational programs. And we're proud to announce that this month we're launching "Shalom Baby Cafe," an exciting new initiative that provides a comfortable environment for moms to enjoy music, coffee, conversation and their babies.

Interested in learning more? The pages of this edition of Shalom New Haven are filled with an abundance of programs and events hosted by our local Jewish organizations – including our own – that bring us together and strengthen us, both individually and as a community. I invite you to take advantage of all that our organizations have to offer.

The new year is also a time for making commitments. In my home, we always commit to striving for a better work/life balance,

traveling more, volunteering for projects we are passionate about, planning for the future and giving tzedakah. Our Federation is always seeking to engage more volunteers. Simply share with us what your interests are and we will connect you to volunteer opportunities here at Federation and throughout the greater community.

As you may recall, in our last edition of Shalom New Haven we announced the establishment of the Beckerman Family PACE challenge, a \$2 million matching gift generously offered by David and Ruthann Beckerman & family. The Federation must secure \$2 million in new and/or increased PACE (Perpetual Annual Campaign Endowment) funds to receive this match. A PACE fund is a permanent endowment fund for the Federation established in your name. Your annual gift will be there forever to carry on your acts of tzedakah and charity. You can endow your annual campaign gift to the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven and guarantee future support for critical programs and services in the Jewish community.

As a reminder, our annual 2023 campaign runs from September 1 through August 31 – which means we are almost halfway there. If you have not yet made your commitment, please reach out to me and I will gladly discuss your gift with you over coffee, on the phone, on Zoom or over a glass of wine. Our community is always so grateful and appreciative of your generous support.

So make your resolutions and your commitments. And may we all go from strength to strength with good health and much happiness.

Amy
Amy



Find your new forever friends in a comfortable environment with music, coffee, conversation—and babies! Recommended for parents of babies from birth to 12 months. This new weekly series is free to attend and brought to you by Shalom Baby, an initiative of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven's Women's Philanthropy—designed to welcome Jewish babies and their families to the Jewish community in the Greater New Haven area.

Registration requested, drop ins are welcome. Please do not attend if you are unwell or have been exposed to sickness to keep our smallest members safe and healthy.

For more information, please visit jewishnewhaven.org/shalom-baby-cafe

**HOURS OPEN:
Wednesdays at 9:30-10:30 am**

**Recurring Weekly Schedule:
January 4, 11, 18, 25; February 1, 8, 15, 22**
Beckerman Lender Community Building, Legion Avenue Room



SHALOM NEW HAVEN

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

COPY DEADLINES

Copy deadlines for the upcoming Shalom New Haven issues are:

- Jan. 28 for March/April issue
- March 28 for May/June issue
- May 29 for July/August issue
- July 28 for September/October issue
- Sept. 28 for November/December issue
- Nov. 28 for January/February issue

SUBMISSIONS

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

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

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A NOTE FROM OUR FEDERATION PRESIDENT
GERRY BARKER



Welcoming young Jewish families makes sure our future is bright!

I often say that your Federation serves the Jewish Community of Greater New Haven from 'cradle to grave'—as a reflection of our commitment to Jews of all ages.

One of our most exciting programs begins at birth with 'Shalom Baby.' This program—capably led by our staff professional Kayla Bisbee—welcomes the birth of a new baby with a wonderful gift bag filled with products donated by our generous sponsors.

The program is not restricted to contributors to the Federation's campaign but is available to any Jewish family in our area. Most importantly, everyone can help by simply letting Kayla know if you are aware of a new Jewish baby in our area.

Being connected is part of our DNA and the accolades and responses from families who have received their bag has been outstanding. A big 'thank you' to our lead sponsors, Gayle and David Slossberg, as well as all of our sponsors, including: Sounds Obstetrics and Gynecology; Jonathan Perkins Injury Lawyers; CBR Life Sciences; Barker Specialty Company; Jordies, Jesse's & Evan's Toy Shoppe; Yale New Haven Health/Yale New Haven Hospital; A Taste of Eden; Ladle & Loaf; Rebecca Stern Photography; Women's Health Associates; Nancy & Robert Gerber; J Screen Genetic Testing; Empowered Beginnings CT and A Loving Touch Doula. All of these sponsors have graciously provided the bags, gifts, or much needed dollars to make this program the rousing success that it has become.

Shalom Baby is just the beginning of our involvement with young children, as PJ Library provides another family connection with the distribution of Jewish books to Jewish families. Like Shalom Baby, you can help ensure the success of this program by letting us know of families who are raising Jewish children who aren't yet receiving these free books. In addition, you can also let new parents know that they can register to receive books at PJLibrary.org or jewishnewhaven.org/PJ.

We love seeing so many of these children attending the Beverly Levy Early Childhood Center at the JCC, which provides full time and part time care for infants through pre-K.

There are so many elements to building a strong and vibrant Jewish community... and I think it is safe to say that one of the major ingredients that go into growing Jewishly is instilling a sound Jewish beginning. With all the distractions of our busy lives, it may

be easy to forget that sharing a love for Judaism with our children is one of the most beautiful and everlasting gifts we can provide them.



Pictured here is Chai Barker – the first (and only) grandchild of my wife Debbi and me – wearing his Shalom Baby bib. I don't know if Chai is so happy because of his stylish new bib or because he knows that food is about to be served! But I do know that when we give to the annual campaign and welcome babies like Chai our future is bright!

Looking forward to a year of peace and health for all.

Gerry Barker

Gerry Barker
President
Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven

PS. Just got word that our first ever 'Expecting Expo' will be held at the JCC on February 19. Please share this wonderful news with all your family and friends! See our ad on page 21.

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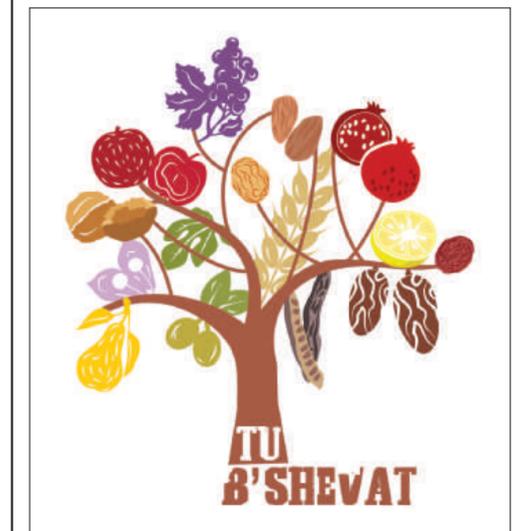
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BECKERMAN JEWISH CULTURAL ARTS SERIES



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For more info, go to jccnh.org/beckerman

New Haven & Hartford present The Beit Ha'am Film Series

The Jewish Federations of Greater New Haven and Greater Hartford are joining together to present a virtual screening of three extraordinary short films. These films are being presented through the World Zionist Organization's Beit Ha'am Film series, an online program that brings together communities from Israel and North America, for a live, thought-provoking discussion based on award-winning Israeli short films. The films will also be screened in New Haven's Partnership2Gether (P2G) Israeli community of Afula/Gilboa and throughout the P2G Southern New England Consortium (SNEC) region.

The films that we will be screening highlight three diverse populations that contribute to the multicultural fabric of contemporary Israeli life. Each of the three films screened by the New Haven and Hartford Federation will be accompanied by a North-America based Israeli facilitator from the immigrant community highlighted in that day's film.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 1 p.m.
"Pinhas" Directed by Pini Tavger, 32 min.

With a focus on Jewish-Russian immigration to Israel, "Pinhas" tells the story of a nine-year-old new immigrant from Russia, the son of a single mom who barely makes a living. Pinhas finds warmth and family togetherness at the home of his Sephardi religious neighbors. It is there that he meets Hannale, a girl his age, and Shimon, her older brother, who introduce him to the world of religion. The troubles begin when the different cultural worlds of the two families clash.



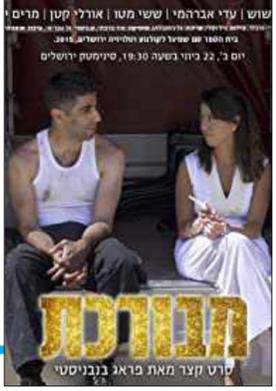
SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 1 p.m.
"Etzleinu" Directed by Alamork Marsha, 14 min.

Assegedu, a 40-year-old Ethiopian woman, makes a living cleaning the homes of rich people. Her daughter Haile (17) joins her after school. One afternoon Assegedu and Haile find a microphone and play with it, listening to the sound of their voices. Soon enough things go wrong and Assegedu finds herself in a moral and financial dilemma that will decide her future and her relationship with her daughter.



SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 1 p.m.
"Blessed" Directed by Prague Benbenisty, 16 min.

In a big Moroccan family in Israel, Zohara is the daughter everyone takes for granted, while Oshrit is the beauty who is about to get married. On the day of the traditional henna ceremony preceding the wedding, Zohara steals Oshrit's blessing. The mystical power of this blessing transforms Zohara, bringing her love and changing the dynamics of her relationship with her sister.



The three films, which provide an incredible educational platform to connect American Jews with the people and culture of Israel, are intended to help prepare participants of the upcoming New Haven/Hartford Joint Israel experience for their trip, but the entire community is invited to these informative screenings.

For information and/or tickets to the Beit Ha'am film series, visit jewishnewhaven.org/beit-haam



For more info, visit jewishnewhaven.org

New Haven Beit Midrash

The Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven has joined forces with Pardes North America and many New Haven area synagogues to present the New Haven Beit Midrash, an empowering Jewish learning initiative created to enrich our adult Jewish community through thought-provoking sessions led by world-renowned Jewish educators.

Launched last November, New Haven Beit Midrash programs are held every other month and are highlighted by different keynote speakers from Pardes North America. In addition, they feature breakout sessions led by local teachers. Refreshments are served.

The New Haven Beit Midrash sessions are scheduled to be held in the winter and spring of 2023

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 7-9 p.m.

Location: Temple Beth David, 3 Main Street, Cheshire

VE'AHAVTA ET HAGER: Life Beyond the Border

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Rabbi Brent Spodek
The story most strongly associated with the holiday of Shavuot is that of Ruth, whose Biblical book is traditionally read during the holiday. Ruth's story is one of traversing boundaries both physical and spiritual, of leaving everything behind to embrace her calling and follow her mission. This is no simple feat; in this session, we will explore what it means to straddle the line of belonging.



Rabbi Brent Chaim Spodek is a Faculty Associate Fellow at Pardes North America. He has been recognized by the Jewish Forward as one of the most inspiring rabbis in America, by Hudson Valley Magazine as a Person to Watch, and by Newsweek as "a rabbi to watch." He is a Senior Rabbinic Fellow of the Shalom Hartman Institute and a Fellow of the Schusterman Foundation. Rabbi Brent has been spiritual leader at Beacon Hebrew Alliance since 2010; prior to that, he served as Rabbi in Residence at American Jewish World Service and was the Marshall T. Meyer Fellow at Congregation B'nai Jeshurun in New York. Rabbi Brent holds rabbinic ordination and a master's degree in philosophy from the Jewish Theological Seminary, where he was the first recipient of the Neubauer Fellowship.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 7-9 p.m.

Location: Congregation B'nai Jacob, 75 Rimmon Road, Woodbridge



LE'AVDAH ULE'SHAMRAH: The Jewish Obligation to Repair and Restore

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Rabbi Jonathan Leener
When Adam was first placed in the Garden of Eden early in the Book of Genesis, his command was simple: "And God placed the Man in the Garden of Eden, to work it and protect it." This command was not for Adam alone; rather, it served as a mission statement for all of Adam and Eve's descendants to at once benefit from and protect God's creations. In this session, we will explore this commandment from a variety of angles and perspectives.

Rabbi Jonathan Leener is a Faculty Associate Fellow for Pardes North America and the rabbi of BASE, a grounding point for young Jewish adults. Ordained at Yeshivat Chovevei Torah Rabbinical School, he was also the founding rabbi of Base BKLYN. His writings on Judaism and Israel have appeared in The Washington Post, The Jerusalem Post, Haaretz, and Huffington Post. He most recently published a children's book, *Esther's Magical Mystery Torah*, bringing the Torah of Rabbi Nachman to young children.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 7-9 p.m.

Location: Temple Emanuel, 150 Derby Ave., Orange

MARBIM BESIMCHA: Permission to Celebrate

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Rabbi Avi Spodek
The Mishnah in Tractate Taanit teaches that "Mishenichnas Adar, marbim b'simcha", when the month of Adar arrives we increase our joy. The focus on joy seems ironic; Adar is, after all, the month of Purim, the first diaspora holiday. While the holiday is celebratory, the story is troubling: the tropes that fill the Purim story are tropes with which we become familiar over the following millenia, our powerlessness as residents in lands not our own. Yet Purim is not a time for sadness, it is a time for joy. Why? Join us to find out!

Avi Spodek is a lifelong learner and master educator. He is a graduate of the Pardes Educators' Program (Cohort 12) and is currently the Recruitment Professional for the Pardes Center for Jewish Educators. Avi holds a BA in History from Bar Ilan University, an MEd from Hebrew College (Boston) and he is a mushmach of Rav Zalman Nechemiah Goldberg zt'l and Rav Daniel Landes shlit'a. He lives in Baltimore, MD with his wife and three children.

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Old Lyme, 101 Halls Road, 860-434-1646 • Old Saybrook, 155 Main Street, 860-388-3543

Federation receives grant to help fund Dignity Grows project



The Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven's Women's Philanthropy is changing lives through Dignity Grows and proud to be a recipient of a generous grant from Aunt Flow, an organization that enable free access to feminine hygiene products. The grant helps Federation empower women and girls throughout Greater New Haven by providing them with the feminine hygiene essentials they need to attend school, go to work, and otherwise live their lives without interruption.

As part of a National Women's Philanthropy movement, Dignity Grows combats 'period poverty' by working with local partner agencies, including Gateway Community College, Jewish Family Services of Greater New Haven, Connecticut Food Bank/Food Share, and the Diaper Bank of Connecticut, to provide women in need with a month's supply of hygiene products and period necessities, all packed up in a Dignity Grows tote bag.



Women's Philanthropy is also continuing to increase awareness of period poverty among potential volunteers and a variety of organizations – such as Women of Vision and BBYO – who help to assemble tote bags. The filled totes are then brought to distribution partners and disseminated to those in need.

Dignity Grows totes are made possible through generous donors who contribute both time and money. A gift of \$10 funds one filled Dignity Grows tote.

Donations may be made at jewishnewhaven.org/dignitygrows. Those interested in volunteering their time, becoming a corporate sponsor, or supporting the purchase of a tote, may contact Robyn Teplitzky at rteplitzky@jewishnewhaven.org.

PJ LIBRARY PRESENTS: Ladino Songs and Stories

Throughout the year 2023, the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven will highlight many of the Jewish stories that have often been relegated to the sidelines of our communal discourse, exploring the mosaic of identities that make up the Jewish communities in the U.S. and in Israel.

As part of this initiative, the Jewish Federation and JCC, through PJ Library, the JCRC and the Beckerman Cultural Arts Series, will welcome author, anthropologist and Cuban-American immigrant Dr. Ruth Behar to New Haven for a series of programs to be held January 18 –20. Dr. Behar's visit will be preceded on January 12 by a virtual cooking demonstration from the "Cuban Reuben," Jennifer Stempel, who will join us live from her kitchen in St. Louis, Missouri.



Dr. Ruth Behar

Closing out the festivities on Sunday will be "PJ Library Presents: Ladino Songs and Stories," a special event with PJ Library author and musical artist Sarah Aroeste.

This celebration of Ladino and Latino Jewish heritage is part of a broader push across the U.S. to create a culture of belonging for Jews of different backgrounds. There is a common misnomer in the United States that Jews are "white," largely due to the manner in which Jewish cultural identities don't map neatly onto the American division of racial and ethnic identities. These identities are further complicated by the Jewish history of migration, often as a result of oppression in previous host countries.

The complex nature of identity will be discussed by Dr. Behar, a professor of anthropology at the University of Michigan, and the author of books for children, young adults and adults, exploring issues of identity and belonging. Dr. Behar was born in Havana, Cuba into a family, like so many Jewish families around the world, with roots on numerous continents, and with members who spoke a wide array of languages. Dr. Behar, who is visiting our community through the Jewish Book Council, will speak on Wednesday evening, January 18, about her book "Traveling Heavy: A Memoir in Between Journeys." The book is filled with reflections on growing up as the Spanish-speaking grandchild of Ladino-speaking Jewish immigrants from Turkey and Yiddish-speaking Jewish immigrants from Russia and Poland.

Dr. Behar will share reflections from her PJ Library book "Tia Fortuna's New Home" at an early evening program (with dinner) entitled "A Jewish Cuban Journey with PJ Library" on Thursday, January 19, 5:30 p.m., at the JCC. During her stay, Dr. Behar will also lead programs at several New Haven Jewish community organizations, including Ezra Academy and the Joseph Slifka Center for Jewish Life at Yale.

For more information on Dr. Behar's visit, contact Rabbi Josh Pernick, Director of Jewish Life and Community Relations for the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, at jpernick@jewishnewhaven.org

PJ Library Presents: MLK Day at Camp

Monday, January 16
10:30 am-12:30 pm
Location: Camp Laurelwood, Madison

Pre-Registration requested by Wednesday, January 11

Register at jewishnewhaven.org/pj-library

A Celebration of Jewish Latin & Ladino Life in Greater New Haven

- PJ Library Cooks! Cuban Cooking Demo with Jennifer Stempel "The Cuban Reuben"**
Join us from your home kitchen for a live & interactive cooking demo with Jennifer Stempel, as she shares her Cuban take on bourekas. For ages 3-9.
Thursday, Jan. 12, 5 pm | on ZOOM
- A Jewish Cuban Journey with PJ Library**
Join PJ Library author Ruth Behar as she gives us the inside scoop on her book, *Tia Fortuna's New Home*. Let us handle dinner, you bring the kids! For ages 4-9.
Thursday, Jan. 19, 5:30 pm | at JCC of GNH
- PJ Library Presents: Ladino Songs & Stories with Sarah Aroeste**
PJ Library author and musical artist Sarah Aroeste will be live in person for a Ladino concert and stories. For ages 2-8.
Sunday, Jan. 22, 1 pm | at JCC of GNH

RSVP at jewishnewhaven.org/pj

BECKERMAN JEWISH CULTURAL ARTS SERIES

FEATURED FILM
Oliver Sacks His Own Life
Director: Ric Grims
Year: 2019
Origin: USA
Runtime: 111 | Color
English

Monday, Jan. 30—
Sunday, Feb. 5
WATCH ONLINE ALL WEEK!

SPONSORS: B'NAI JACOB, BEKI

BECKERMAN JEWISH CULTURAL ARTS SERIES

FEATURED FILM
Remember Me
Director: Kim Snyder
Year: 2009
Origin: USA
Runtime: 74 | Color
Language: English

Monday, Feb. 13—
Sunday, Feb. 19
WATCH ONLINE ALL WEEK!

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jewishnewhaven.org/shalom-baby

Looking for Fun... for your Little One on Sunday Mornings?

Story Hour at Temple Emanuel

"Story Hour" is a weekly Sunday morning (9:30-11am) values-based program that engages pre-K students with Jewish tradition through Torah stories, Jewish festivals, and arts & crafts. Open to non-members! All are welcome!

Visit www.TEGNH.org for more details, or contact Olga Markus at school@TEGNH.org or 203/397-3000, Ext. 3.

A warm, welcoming community that will enrich both your child's life and yours!

JCARR welcomes family from Ukraine

When the war in Ukraine broke out in February 2022, JCARR volunteers immediately contacted Rabbi Michael Farbman of Temple Emanuel, who speaks Russian and traveled to Poland in April to support Ukrainian refugees.

"We're here to help; let us know what we can do," they told the rabbi. And so he did.

Rabbi Farbman and his son Samuel traveled to Spain in August, where the two men volunteered with Ukrainian refugees supported by Beth Shalom, a Reform synagogue in Barcelona. One of the families they met there has now made its way to Connecticut, and JCARR — the Jewish Community Alliance for Refugee Resettlement — is springing into action to help provide the family with a 'softer landing' as they take their first steps toward a new life.

Over the past seven years, JCARR has helped resettle seven refugee and asylum-seeking families from five different countries, guiding them through a myriad of hurdles as they make a new life in the New Haven community. The recently arrived Ukrainian family of five is not only the eighth family the volunteer organization is helping to resettle, it is also a family whose ties to the community are more personal.

The parents of three daughters, ages 22, 18 and 9, Yury and Olga are college educated and have worked at various jobs, including owning and operating their own travel agency. The family's eldest daughter has



already made her way to New York and is building her life there; while Yury is in Connecticut. The rest of the family has until mid-January to enter the United States.

JCARR is already at work, helping this Ukrainian family find housing, furnish their home, enroll in school and ESL programs, get medical care, apply for social services, and secure jobs and pro bono immigration legal assistance. The family is eager to gain proficiency in English, and the daughters plan to continue their education.

In addition to this Ukrainian family, JCARR is also actively working to help resettle an Afghan family

Rabbi Farbman meeting with displaced Ukrainians at the Beth Shalom synagogue in Barcelona

headed by a single mother, a Syrian family that includes adults with disabilities, and an asylum-seeking family with four children.

JCARR's goal is to help these refugees access and navigate the resources that will empower them to build their lives in the

New Haven community. How do they do it? With hard work and the generous support of the community.

To help JCARR assist refugee families, please donate online at jewishnewhaven.org/refugee-resettlement/give; or send a check payable to the Jewish Federation, with JCARR in the memo line, to the Jewish Federation, 360 Amity Road, Woodbridge, 06525. Attention: Amy Holtz. All donations go directly into JCARR's bank account.

New volunteers are welcome! For more information, contact Jean Silk, JCARR Coordinator, at jsilk@jewishnewhaven.org.

AT THE JCC Exercise is good medicine

By Susan Donovan, Director of Group and Virtual Exercise, JCC of Greater New Haven

What if you were told there was a drug that . . .

- Reduces your risk of breast cancer and recurrence risk by 50%
- Lowers risk of colon cancer by 60%
- Reduces risk of Alzheimer's by 40%
- Reduces risk of heart disease and HBP by 40%
- Lowers risk of Type 2 diabetes by nearly 60%
- Works as effectively as certain medications for depression

Would you be interested in taking it? Well good news – there is! It's called physical activity!

With the new year upon us, you may be contemplating a resolution to lose weight and start a regimented exercise program, using the scale to determine your success. I suggest you avoid that mindset.

Wow! A health and fitness Coach saying to forget the diet and scale?! Yes!

Instead, replace that dated mindset by focusing on your health, eating wholesome foods, managing stress and being more active. Move more and sit less. Find activities you enjoy or at least don't dread, so that you can be consistent.

The Mayo Clinic physical activity guidelines for adults include 2-5 hours of moderate activity spread out throughout the week. In addition, muscle strengthening at least two days per week. It has been well known that older adults at risk of osteoporosis help control or prevent that from happening with weight bearing exercise. Better balance, more energy, improved breathing, and a happier disposition can all be achieved when you become and stay active!

If you find this a daunting task, our JCC seasoned fitness and wellness staff can help. Call for a free wellness consultation at susand@jccnh.org.

*Statistics source: Dr. Edward R. Laskowski, MD, Presidents Council on Physical Fitness







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Wellness is an active process of becoming aware of and making choices toward a healthy and fulfilling life. More than being free from illness, wellness is a dynamic process of change and growth. Beyond the physical body, we will also address aspects of health including emotional, mental, social, and even spiritual fitness.

Our JCC team of knowledgeable, experienced, and certified fitness pros are on the cutting edge of current health initiatives and ready to guide you on your journey to better health and fitness.

The program begins with a private wellness consultation to determine your needs, preferences, schedule, and any physical limitations. A plan of action is then created based on your choices to include sessions in the areas of Personal Training, Health Coaching, Corrective Exercise Therapies, Nutrition & Eating Behavior Counseling, Stress Management, and Orthopedic Massage Therapies.

Get a FREE consultation to see how this program can help you
For more information: susand@jccnh.org



BECKERMAN

JEWISH CULTURAL ARTS SERIES



FEATURED AUTHOR

Just Human
Author Arielle Silverman
Tuesday, Feb. 7
7 PM
VIA ZOOM

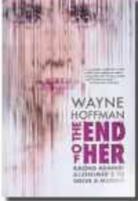


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BECKERMAN

JEWISH CULTURAL ARTS SERIES



FEATURED AUTHOR

The End of Her
Author Wayne Hoffman
Thursday, Feb. 23
7 PM
VIA ZOOM



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AT THE JCC

JCC President David Sirowich

One of the things that makes the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven a special place is that members have a significant voice in the direction and shape programs and services take. That power gives them the very real opportunity to play a vital and impactful role in serving the community.

Under the leadership of JCC President Dave Sirowich, the JCC Board of Directors is in the midst of recruiting to its ranks new members with a variety of talents, who are dedicated to the JCC and its well being. Dave is a long time JCC board member and recipient of the "Kavod Key" – the JCC's most prestigious award for volunteers.

"My wife Colby and I grew up in the area and our kids attended the Beverly Levy Early Learning Center, JCC Summer Camp and a variety of enrichment programs. And so, getting involved in leadership felt like a natural way to give back," says Dave, the father of three. "The Board has been critical in guiding decisions through open dialogue and thoughtful considerations, which has allowed the JCC to thrive," he adds.

In the spirit of of partnership between JCC staff and board members, Dave seeks to "create a more formalized relationship between the program staff at the JCC and the board, while recruiting more board members to have greater depth, diversity and structure."

That goal is reflected in the three new board members who bring with them fresh and exciting ideas that will surely enhance all the JCC has to offer.

The JCC welcomes 3



(Left) Katie Behr; (Right) Rochelle Friedman

HERE IS A LOOK AT THE JCC'S NEW BOARD MEMBERS:

Katie Behr has served loyally and industriously on multiple non-profit boards. Now, the longtime marketing professional for global brands is excited to bring her savvy to the JCC. When she's not working, Katie enjoys spending time outdoors with her husband, two kids and the family dog, doing fun stuff like hiking, biking,

new board members



Joel Glassman

playing tennis and photography. Fun fact: 20 years ago, Katie had several pieces of photography in a JCC art exhibit.

Rochelle Friedman moved to Connecticut from Northern Virginia with her husband and two kids in 2021...and quickly found ways to participate in the New Haven Jewish Community. Now, Rochelle is excited to use her extensive non-profit Board experience to continue to grow the JCC. A senior program manager for The Boeing Company, where she has worked for 13 years, Rochelle enjoys meeting young Jewish families, spending time with her own family, and attending Yale hockey games

Joel Glassman grew up in the New Haven area, where he still lives today with his wife, four kids and two dogs. Joel's connection to the JCC of New Haven dates back to the mid-1980s when, as a kid, he took tennis lessons at the JCC Bradley Road facility.

Now all grown up and an executive with an energy company, Joel is excited to serve the community as a JCC board member. When he's not in the office Joel can be found on the field, coaching his younger son's baseball team or just chauffeuring his children to dance and baseball activities.

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Each class will focus on a stand-alone topic. Member fee \$60; Community fee \$70
jccnh.org/ARTtours

Susan Dardik has 30 years of experience in the arts as a designer, artist and art tour guide.

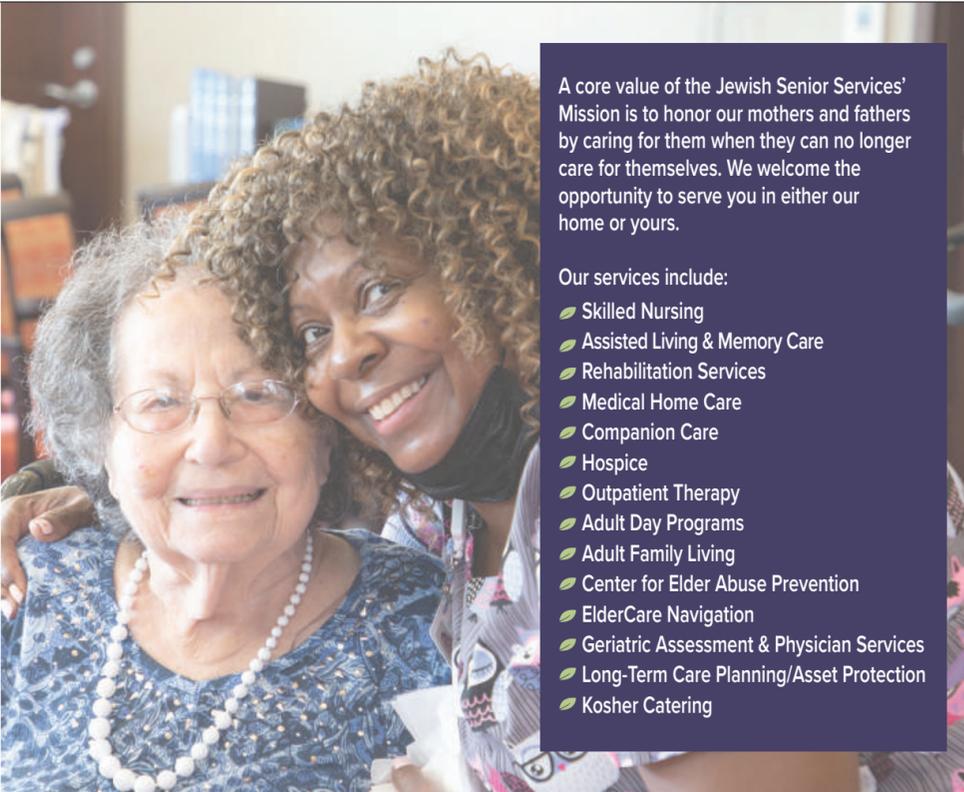
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 - Geriatric Assessment & Physician Services
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 - Kosher Catering

TU B'SHEVAT: New Year of the Trees



By Shalom New Haven Staff

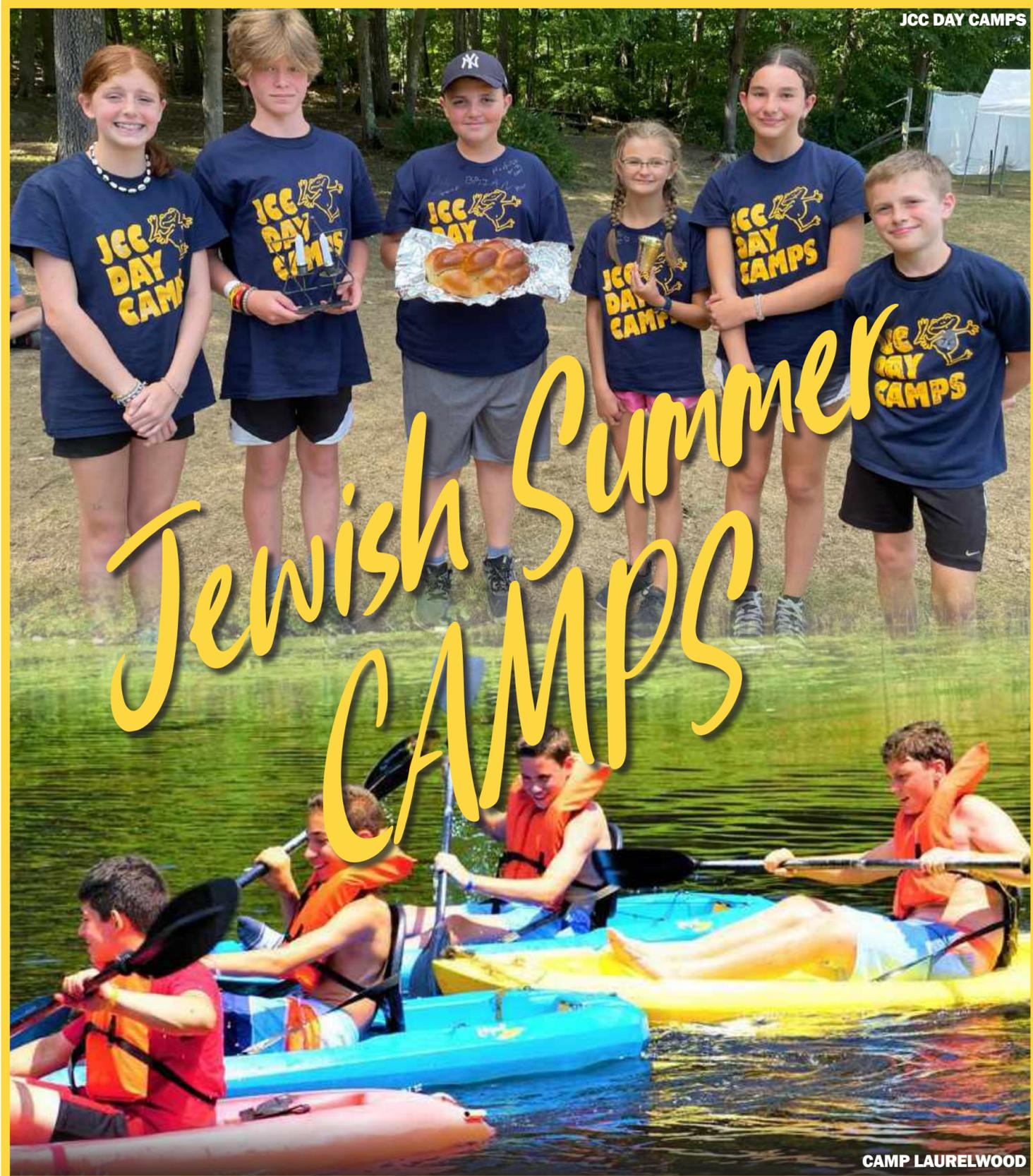
On the 15th of the Hebrew month of Shevat, we celebrate Tu B'Shevat- the New Year of the trees and the fruits. Tu B'Shevat, which falls this year on the evening of Feb. 5 and last until after sundown Feb. 6, is first mentioned in the Mishnah as one of the four New Years of the Jewish calendar: This means that Tu B'Shevat is technically the day when trees stop absorbing water from the ground, and instead draw nourishment from their sap. In Jewish law, this means that fruit which has blossomed prior to the 15th of Shevat may not be used as tithe for fruit which blossomed after that date.

Many celebrate Tu B'Shevat by eating dried fruits of trees that grow in Israel such as almonds, dates, figs, raisins and carob. Kabbalistic tradition even includes a Tu B'Shevat "seder," in which the inner dimensions of fruits are expounded, along with blessings, songs and deep discussion.

In particular, one should include among the fruits one eats on this day the species of fruit which the land of Israel is praised for: grapes, olives, dates, figs and pomegranates. If one eats a sufficient amount of fruits of these fruits, one recites the special after-blessing "Al Ha'aretz ve'al HaPeorot."

One should make an effort to eat at least one fruit which one has not eaten that entire season, and would require the blessing of Shehecheyanu, which should be recited prior to reciting the blessing of the fruit of the tree ("Haetz"). If he has already partaken of other fruits (at that particular sitting) then he only needs to say the Shehecheyanu upon eating the new fruit. Many also have a custom of eating carob on this day; and many eat the Etrog, either in the form of preserves, sugared slices, etc.

Tu B'Shevat has become a popular day for planting trees. On Tu B'Shevat of 1890, Rabbi Zeev Yavetz went out with his students to plant trees in the agricultural colony of Zichron Yaakov. His idea was adopted by other schools, and the Jewish National Fund (Keren Kayemet L'Yisrael) designated it as national "tree-planting day."



JCC DAY CAMPS

CAMP LAURELWOOD

SUMMER CAMPS

Why a Jewish camp?

Summers at Jewish camps are packed with a wide range of fun activities—aquatics, arts and crafts, basketball and soccer, dance, music, cooking, archery, drama, outdoor adventure and hiking, and much more. Like non-Jewish camps, campers are encouraged to discover new skills and interests they never knew they had.

SO, WHY SEND YOUR CHILD TO A JEWISH CAMP?

According to studies conducted by the Foundation for Jewish Camp (FJC), Jewish camps weave Jewish values, culture, and traditions into the fabric of the camp community, helping campers to connect to their own identity and the larger Jewish community. At Jewish camps, spirited staff members use experiential learning to reveal to campers what makes Jewish religion and culture so unique in today's world. Jewish and Israeli culture is celebrated through song, food, art, and dance.

Of course, each camp designs its own program, but whether they're telling stories in their bunks, learning about the environment, or playing tennis, campers at Jewish camps explore what Judaism means to them in a safe, nurturing, and fun environment.

AND IT DOESN'T STOP THERE

The impact of Jewish camp is immediate—campers return home connected to a community and friends that will last them a lifetime. In short, children with pivotal Jewish camp experiences are more likely to become adults who value their Jewish heritage, support Jewish causes, and take on leadership roles in their communities.

There are a variety of traditional and specialty overnight camps that span different denominations of Judaism, accommodate special needs and interests, and offer unique programming, catering to each family's needs. Use the Find a Camp tool (jewishcamp.org/one-happy-camper/find-a-camp) to begin your search for the perfect summer experience for your child.

If your child has never been to Jewish camp, the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven offers One Happy Camper need-blind grants of up to \$1,000, as well as need-based scholarships. See more info on the right. To learn more about the Foundation for Jewish Camps, visit jewishcamp.org.

Camp Scholarships

One Happy Camper New Haven

The Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven and One Happy Camper offer needs-blind incentive grants for first time campers as well as needs-based scholarships for campers.

Campers must reside in the Greater New Haven catchment area and must be attending a Jewish overnight camp in North America.

UP TO \$1000 NEEDS-BLIND INCENTIVE GRANT FOR OVERNIGHT JEWISH CAMP

The Jewish Foundation, in partnership with the One Happy Camper program of the Foundation for Jewish Camp, as well as an anonymous donor, is thrilled to offer needs blind grants of \$375-\$1,000 for first time campers from Greater New Haven to attend any one of over 155 traditional and specialty Jewish overnight camps nationwide. To apply for a needs-blind incentive grant, visit jewishcamp.org.

NEED-BASED AID FOR OVERNIGHT JEWISH CAMP

The Jewish Foundation, in partnership with an anonymous donor, is thrilled to begin offering needs-based financial assistance for campers from Greater New Haven to attend Jewish overnight camps nationwide. To apply: scholarships.jewishnewhaven.org/onehappycamper

For more information and application, visit jewishnewhaven.org/scholarships.

CAMP LAURELWOOD:

From devoted and caring staff to a variety of fun activities, Camp Laurelwood in Madison is a CT's premier Jewish overnight and day camp for a variety of reasons, said Louis Lasko, Camp Laurelwood's Director.

"We keep a strictly kosher kitchen, sing Hebrew songs, have Shabbat every Friday, and instill the values of kindness, community mindedness, and confidence in everything we do," he said of the camp's Jewish activities.

In preparation for Summer 2022, the Camp Laurelwood team began a journey of further developing our camper, staff, and community care work. "The challenges of living in a post-pandemic world were apparent at camp in 2021, and we wanted to make sure we equipped ourselves and our seasonal staff with the right tools and training to take care of our campers and each other," said Elizabeth Kaplan, Laurelwood's Community Care Director. We started talking about mental health, wellness, accommodations, and camper success plans, to name a few.

In December 2021, we received funding from the Foundation for Jewish Camp's Yedid Nefesh program, enabling us to put a stronger focus on MESSH (Mental, Emotional, Social, and Spiritual Health) work. We hired a trained mental health professional who is a social worker at a local school during the year and joins our staff at camp during the summer. In Summer 2022, her presence and expertise supported numerous day and overnight campers as well as staff in a significant way.

Beyond bringing a new member of the team to camp last summer, we trained our staff in Youth Mental Health First Aid, a program that gives adults the tools to identify, understand, and respond to issues around mental health. We introduced new programming on Saturdays that focused on wellness and self-care - campers and staff did activities like yoga, reading or writing, and playing with dogs on campus. The goal was to show that there are many ways to practice wellness, and that Shabbat is a perfect time to do so.

We look forward to continuing to create a joyful, fun, and caring place for campers, staff, alumni, and community members alike. See you in Summer 2023!

For more information and to register, visit campl laurelwood.org/prospective-families.

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UP TO \$1,000 NEED-BLIND INCENTIVE GRANT FOR OVERNIGHT JEWISH CAMP.

The Jewish Foundation, in partnership with the One Happy Camper program of the Foundation for Jewish Camp and an anonymous donor, is thrilled to offer need-blind grants of \$375-\$1,000 for first-time campers from Greater New Haven to attend any one of 195 traditional and specialty Jewish overnight camps nationwide.

NEED-BASED AID FOR OVERNIGHT JEWISH CAMP.

The Jewish Foundation, in partnership with an anonymous donor, is thrilled to offer need-based financial assistance for campers from Greater New Haven to attend Jewish overnight camps nationwide.

Did you know that New Haven has its own overnight Jewish Camp?

Camp Laurelwood is one of the leading Jewish overnight camps in Connecticut! Learn more at campl laurelwood.org

To learn more or apply, please visit: jewishnewhaven.org/scholarships/one-happy-camper

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SUMMER CAMPS

JCC DAY CAMPS:

Get ready for a summer of fun at JCC Day Camps!

Kids at the JCC Day Camps have a blast — thanks to 50 acres of outdoor space, a roster of fun activities, and a talented and dedicated staff who have experienced a rigorous staff training program in order to ensure that every summer is the best summer ever. In addition, the camp staff works with Mike Shanbrom the Federation's Regional Security Advisor to ensure the safety of campers and staff.



Activities include...music, nature, arts & crafts, low ropes, drama, dance, archery, sports and, of course, swimming in the camp's beautiful outdoor pool. Plus, campers enjoy special entertainers and theme days, such as: Carnival Day, Israel Day and Maccabiah/Color Wars, to name just a few.

Jewish values are woven into the fabric of camp life through daily activities. The concept of "tikkun olam"—of helping one's local community and repairing the world—is central to Judaism. At JCC Day Camps, we bring that concept to life through volunteer work, acts of kindness and compassion, and tzedakah projects that our campers take part in.



To teach children their responsibility towards the community, campers participate in community service projects, such as bake sales, annual car wash, projects with seniors, food drives, campsite improvements, and more. As well as fundraising projects, such as Spread a Little Sunshine and Send a Kid to Camp Scholarship Fund.

Camp Director Debra Kirschner really sums it up when she says, "The amazing thing about camp is that it brings out the best in everyone. Families shouldn't send their children to camp because it is something to do...they should send their children to camp because it is the BEST thing to do!" In addition, says Deb, "Summer camp is about growth and accomplishment." And the JCC Day Camps program is designed to do just that.

Staff and campers from many different backgrounds are welcomed warmly at the JCC Day Camps. Having a diverse camp body gives all campers the unique opportunity to learn about and appreciate different cultures.

JCC Day Camps are for campers ages 4 to 15. The full-time program runs 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with 8:30 a.m. early drop off. The 2023 season will run from June 26th until August 18th. Enrichment programs are also available after camp hours.

"It's a great feeling to see how campers pay it forward over the years. Some have joined our CIT (Counselor in Training) program and eventually became incredible counselors and lifeguards," says Debra. "Others continue to return each summer and work as specialists or even leadership staff. It is so rewarding to watch the transformation and know how passionate these individuals are about the camp experience."

For more information about the JCC Day Camps, or to register for our Early Bird Special, visit jccnh.org.

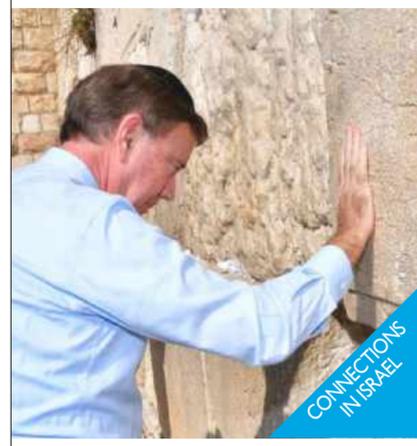
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▲ SHARING KNOWLEDGE

▲ HONORING OUR HISTORY

▲ MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Together we can... Together we will!



Throughout the enormous challenges of the past few years, our Federation, with your support, has helped our community to stay strong and connected—while also helping those in need here at home, Israel, Ukraine, and worldwide. Together we can make our national and global Jewish community more inclusive, diverse, and secure. But we need your help. We need resources to keep Jewish life vibrant and safe, to create a culture of belonging for all who are Jewish and their loved ones, all while building across diverse communities.

Together we can... Together we will!



Jewish Federation
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Foundation News

Jewish Foundation 2023 Scholarship & Grant Opportunities

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS:

Scholarships offered are needs-based as well as needs-blind for high school seniors from Jewish households. All applications must be completed online by May 13, 2023. All applications are confidential and anonymously reviewed. Awards range from \$500 - \$3,000

This is a competitive application process and in many years there are more applicants than money available. Therefore, awards are based on the strength of the application.

ONE HAPPY CAMPER:

The Jewish Foundation offers:

- Needs-blind incentive grants for first-time campers to Jewish overnight camp as well as
- Needs-based aid for first time and returning campers. There are over 200 traditional and specialty Jewish overnight camps from which to choose. Deadline is June 9, 2023

For more info and full One Happy Camper details, please see our description on page 14.

ISRAEL EXPERIENCE SCHOLARSHIPS:

The Jewish Foundation Israel Experience Scholarship Program enables local Jewish students ages 15-20 the opportunity to participate in an Israel experience to develop and enrich their Jewish education and reinforce their Jewish identity.

Scholarships are for both short-term (minimum of 3 week program) and long-term organized Israel educational programs.

For 2023 summer trips, applications are due by April 7, 2023. For the 2023 gap or academic year programs, applications are due by June 9, 2023.

An essay and 2 recommendations are required. All applications are confidential and anonymously reviewed by the Israel Experience Scholarship committee. These scholarships are needs-blind.

This is a competitive application process and in many years there are more applicants than money available. Therefore, awards are based on the strength of the application.

For details go to jewishnewhaven.org/scholarships.

THE WOMEN OF VISION SOCIETY ANNOUNCES 2023 GRANTS

The Jewish Foundation's Women of Vision Society has been helping women and girls in the Greater New Haven area and Israel for over 20 years. This endowment, created by 100 founding members in our community, has tackled issues from domestic violence and health to acculturation and spirituality. The endowment has more than doubled its membership and giving since its creation. Since its inception, Women of Vision has disbursed over \$220,000 to help seed and sustain critical programming and services for women and girls. Deadline is January 30, 2023.

For more information and applications, visit jewishnewhaven.org/grants



New Foundation Fund Benefits Jewish Historical Society



(Left) Max and Estelle Romanoff, (Right) Morris and Estelle Levine.

Donna and Sid Levine have established a new fund at the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven in memory of their beloved fathers, Morris and Max, z'l. The Fund is intended to support the important work of the Jewish Historical Society, including maintaining and expanding its extensive archives and providing community educational programs.

"As a third generation New Haven, I appreciate the Society's remarkable 50-year history of documenting Jewish stories and lives," said Sid Levine. "My father, Morris Levine, and Donna's father, Max Romanoff, were both World War Two Veterans who worked together at Chepovsky's Food Market on Legion Ave. When Max was dating Estelle Gold he took Morris to meet her. Estelle became Donna's mother. Both Morris and Max had a lot of affection for New Haven and its Jewish history."

To learn about creating a legacy for any New Haven institution, contact Lisa Stanger at the Jewish Foundation, lstanger@jewishnewhaven.org, newhavenjewishfoundation.org.



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Year Four Security Grants Now Available!

Year four of the Jewish Foundation's security grants cycle begins January 15, 2023 (and deadline is August 13, 2023). This security grants initiative, for synagogues, day schools, JCC, and Camp Laurelwood (from the Arthur Eder Family Fund, in memory of Arthur & Yvette Eder) has awarded \$790,000 since 2020 to Congregation B'nai Jacob, Congregation BEKI, Congregation Or Shalom, Hebrew Congregation of Woodmont, the Israeli Jewish Center, Temple Emanuel, Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek, Slifka Center for Jewish Life at Yale, Chabad of the Shoreline, Chabad of Hamden, Congregation Mishkan Israel, Westville Synagogue, Temple Beth David, Temple Beth Shalom, Ezra Academy, Camp Laurelwood, Camp Gan Israel, Southern Connecticut Hebrew Academy, Temple Beth Tikvah, and the JCC.



Grants were made for armed guards, new alarm and monitoring systems, protective window film, gates, cameras, and much more. Most grants were part of larger security initiatives where the organization worked with local law enforcement and/or the Department of Homeland Security to assess what security upgrades were necessary. Go to jewishnewhaven.org/grants for more information.



Maya Dworkin (circled in photo) and the Young Judea teens pose in front of the Suzanne Dellal Center for Dance and Theater in the Neve Tzedek neighborhood of Tel Aviv.

Teen thanks Foundation for the "summer of a lifetime"

By Maya Dworkin

This summer I had the opportunity to travel to Israel for five weeks with Camp Young Judea in New Hampshire. The fact that my trip was delayed by a year, due to Covid, made me appreciate the opportunity on another level.

We were able to travel all over the country and had experiences and made memories that I will always value. We spent a lot of time in important museums, learning about other cultures, among other valuable learning experiences. Some of my favorite parts were a three-day camping and hiking trip, volunteering with an amazing organization called Save A Child's Heart, and spending all that time with some of my favorite people ever, my camp friends.

I have been involved in my Jewish community for my whole life but visiting Israel made me even more committed to leading a Jewish life. I would like to thank the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven for the generous scholarship that allowed me to take this trip and have this truly once in a lifetime experience.



We all strive to leave the world a better place through our children, our good deeds, our generosity

Create a Jewish Legacy is a program sponsored and presented by the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven and is a collaborative effort of our area agencies and synagogues to secure the future of the New Haven Jewish community.

Mazel tov to our participants as of December 5, 2022:

Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven (PACE)
Temple Beth Tikvah
Congregation Mishkan Israel
Temple Beth David
Temple Emanuel

Congregation Beth Shalom
Rodfe Zedek
Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel
Jewish Family Service
Camp Laurelwood
Towers at Tower Lane

Ezra Academy
UConn Hillel
Jewish Cemetery Association of Greater New Haven
New Haven Mikveh Society



Be forever remembered by our community for the legacy you leave.

Make YOUR legacy a brighter Jewish tomorrow.

For more information, contact the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven
Lisa Stanger, Executive Director | (203) 387-2424, ext. 382 | lstanger@jewishnewhaven.org
Tamara Schechter, Create a Jewish Legacy Manager | (203) 387-2424, ext. 325 | tschechter@jewishnewhaven.org



IN OUR SYNAGOGUES

January at Mishkan Israel

January is a busy month at Congregation Mishkan Israel, a Reform synagogue, located at 785 Ridge Road in Hamden.

HERE'S A LOOK AT SEVERAL EVENTS OPEN TO ALL:

Interfaith Service to Honor Dr. Martin Luther King

Friday, January 13 at 7 p.m.

This annual tribute to the late Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. began as a way of celebrating the contribution of the civil rights leader to our community and our nation, and as a way of honoring his memorable 1961 visit here as a guest speaker.

Family Shabbat Service

Friday, January 20 at 6 p.m.

Pre-Oneg at 5:30 p.m.

Celebrate Shabbat at a special family service led by Rabbi Immerman and Cantor Giglio. The congregation's enthusiastic Junior Choir will also join in with songs and prayers.

Tot Shabbat

Saturday, January 21 at 10:30 a.m.

Parents and their little ones (to age 5) are invited to dance, sing and enjoy special moment together at our special Tot Shabbat service, which focuses on music and movement through fun songs and prayers.

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

Westville University sessions in January/February

Westville Synagogue presents Westville University, a series of dynamic high-level programs that reflect our commitment to Jewish learning, history, culture, law, and the State of Israel.

THE FOLLOWING IS A BRIEF LIST OF WESTVILLE UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS FOR JANUARY/FEBRUARY:

Unless otherwise noted, sessions start at 7:30 p.m. in Westville Synagogue Social Hall and via Zoom.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7

Movie Night: "The Mad Adventures of Rabbi Jacob"

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25

"Minim: Heretics in the Babylonian Talmud," with Michal Bar Asher Siegel, Ben Gurion University

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Move Night: "Spies of Warsaw: (2 episodes)"

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

"Would You Like to Be a Jewish Philosopher?" With Prof. Daniel Lasker, Ben Gurion University.

For further information, call (203) 389-9513.

IN OUR SYNAGOGUES

Youth Choir takes to singing at BEKI



When Rachel Light came up with the idea of having the children of Beth El-Keser Israel [BEKI] sing at the March 2022 installation of Rabbi Eric Woodward, she didn't realize she was launching what would become the congregation's new Youth Choir. Rachel recruited Joshua Perry—who, like Rachel is a BEKI member and the leader of tefilah (prayer) at BEKI—to help, and they taught 15 children some songs.

The kids really loved it, and Josh and I did too," she said. "We got really great feedback from congregants that they loved it too. So it kept going."

They rehearsed on Sundays after religious school, then performed at a Friday night and Saturday morning service.

When the choir was invited to be the opening act for the Connecticut Z'mirah's Chanukah concert this winter, Light asked the children if they were interested. "They were jumping up and down," she said, telling her, "Yes, of course we want to do it!"

Since rehearsals are just 40 minutes long, Perry records each song for the children to practice at home. "Parents tell me that they're singing the songs together in the car," Light said. "Although we are exposing them to new tunes, they are learning key parts of the service. These are important songs for the children to learn in their Jewish practice."

"It's so fun to work with the kids, because THEY think it's fun," Perry said. "I think of the choir as part of building a joyful, fun synagogue community where children and young people want to be. We need to keep being creative about ways to engage everyone."

"When we rehearse, we are not focused on perfection," Light explained. "We're just singing. If we can add some nice harmonies that aren't complicated, we do that."

Currently, the choir is made up of 12 students. There are no auditions and children can join at any point.

"When they perform, they are very proud, eager, and excited," Light noted.

"I like the BEKI choir because I have my friends in it, there are cool songs, and I like to perform. A lot of people in the BEKI community like it because we are beautiful singers and we sing Jewish songs," Ramona Freiman Light explained.



Ranging in age from 5 to 13, the children stand interspersed, giving the older members an opportunity to mentor the younger ones. "They are kind to each other," Light

said, with BINA [BEKI's religious school] kids making friends with Ezra Academy kids.

Miriam Purdy, one of the younger members of the choir, agreed. "It's very fun and very cool to be in the choir because there are big kids and little kids," she said.

To find out more about BEKI, visit beki.org.



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EXPECTING EXPO 2023
Sunday, February 19, 11 am - 3 pm
(snow date Feb. 26)
Beckerman Lender Jewish Community Building, 360 Amity Road, Woodbridge

Free and open to the public! This community-wide event is a wonderful way for families to learn about all the local support available to help them as they embark on this journey from pregnancy-pre-K. The day will feature several speakers, breakout groups, a Bump Booth (for photos), swag bags with giveaways, a "Shalom Baby Café" and more!

Contact Kayla Bisbee at kbisbee@jewisnewhaven.org

To learn more, scan the QR code or visit

jewisnewhaven.org/expo23



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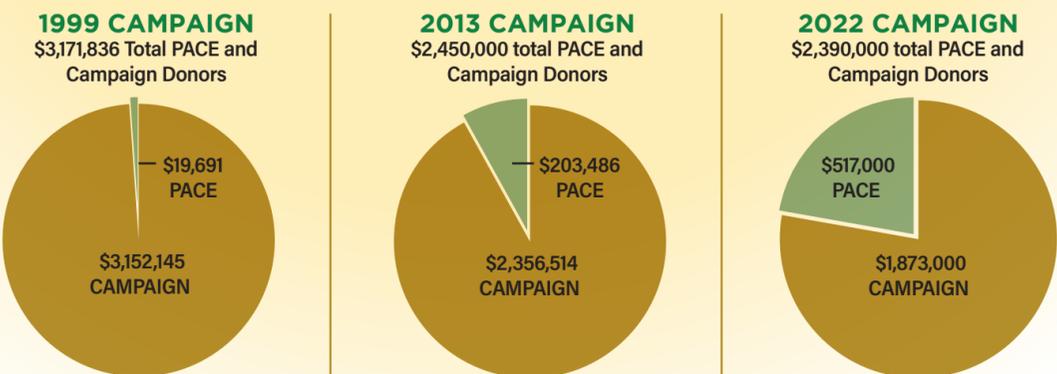
BECKERMAN FAMILY PACE CHALLENGE

Planting the seeds for a long-lasting legacy

About the challenge Established in partnership with the Beckerman Family Foundation, the \$2 million Beckerman Family PACE Challenge is a dollar-for-dollar match intended to secure the future of the Greater New Haven Jewish community through newly established and increased Perpetual Annual Campaign Endowment (PACE) funds, the earnings from which will continue to disburse in perpetuity.

What is PACE? A Perpetual Annual Campaign Endowment (PACE) Fund is a permanent endowment fund of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven established in your name to perpetuate your annual commitment to the Federation's Annual Campaign. The annual spendable portion of the PACE Fund is used each year to make a grant to the Federation's Annual Campaign.

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Visit us at jewishnewhaven.org/PACE

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IN OUR SYNAGOGUES

Westville Synagogue invites community to learn in memory of Carl Klorman

When Carl S. Klorman found out he was being honored with Westville Synagogue's Dedication Award, he was both proud and puzzled. After all, just about the only thing he did at shul is come to minyan most mornings and many evenings and most holidays. On Shabbat and holidays, he sat near the front of the main sanctuary where he was often called upon to dress the Torah. "That's my service to the shul," he said. "I structure my day around coming to minyan."

After morning minyan, Carl filled his days with swimming at the JCC and keeping up with current events. He donated to Jewish charities and has been to Israel 14 times to support the Jewish state and because he loved it there.

A graduate of Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts with a BA in history, Carl earned a master's in history from Southern Connecticut State University. A certified teacher, he taught adult education classes in Hamden, Naugatuck and Bridgeport schools. Carl supported his alma mater and made a generous donation to Clark's Holocaust Center.

Although he was certified to teach, Carl spent the lion's share of his working life at his family's scrap metal dealership, H. Bixon & Sons, where he was a buyer and dispatcher for 30 years, retiring when his uncles sold the business.

He never lost his love for history, though, keeping up with studies about the Middle East and World War II. He also served as a board member and secretary of the Jewish Historical Society of Greater New Haven.

Carl exemplified the Jewish credo of giving without needing or seeking credit. He will sorely be missed among the members of Westville Synagogue.

The community is invited to learn a portion of Mishnah in memory of Carl Klorman. To sign up for this mitzvah, go to: learninmemory.com/learn.

Congregation Or Shalom celebrates a double mitzvah



Rabbi Wainhaus and Linda Zwerdling burn the mortgage to Congregation OR Shalom in Orange.

On the evening of November 19, Congregation Or Shalom celebrated a double-mitzvah, as they honored Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus for his 40 years of service to the congregation as it's spiritual leader and celebrated the symbolic burning of Or Shalom's mortgage.

The mortgage burning was made possible by longtime member and past-president, Linda Zwerdling, and her family, who recently paid off the synagogue's mortgage. The Zwerdlings dedicated their generous gift to the memory of Marty Zwerdling, Linda's husband.

Rabbi Wainhaus was honored by Orange Selectman Mitch Goldblatt, who read citations and greetings from Orange First Selectman Jim Zeoli, U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal, and U.S. Representative Rosa DeLauro. Speakers included the rabbi's past students, Rabbi Marissa James and Rabbi Jesse Sachs, who focused on the rabbi's life-changing influence on them. Rabbi Richard Eisenberg of Congregation Rodeph Shalom and Father Peter Orfanakos of St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church provided moving invocations and blessings.

The evening, which Rabbi Wainhaus referred to as "a night I will never forget," included much food, dancing and great fun.

"Coffee &...Learn!" with Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus

On Wednesday mornings, 11 am to 12 noon, from late November to late-May, people gather at Congregation Or Shalom in Orange to explore the ancient texts of the Jewish tradition and the light they shed on issues of our own day.

Past topics have included: "Three Ideas that Changed the World;" "Is the Tower of Babel Story a parable for Modern-Day America?"

"Understanding Judaism—& life—through the lens of the Kabbalah," and more. Those interested can attend either in person or via Zoom—either the entire series or individual sessions.

Sessions are led by Or Shalom spiritual leader Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus, who incorporates music, humor and Yiddish into his talks. The son of Holocaust survivors, Rabbi Wainhaus was

raised in an Orthodox environment in Brooklyn. He was ordained in Israel and earned a Master of Education degree from New York University.

Congregation Or Shalom is an egalitarian synagogue. Individuals and families of all backgrounds and faiths are welcome.

For more information or to register, call Or Shalom at (203) 799-2341.

BECKERMAN FAMILY PACE CHALLENGE

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The First Jewish Woman on the Moon

By **Yelena Gerovich** *New American Acculturation Program Coordinator*

It is cold outside and you wonder if the winter is ever going to end. However, there are actually a lot of interesting things you can do during the cold season, both indoors and outdoors.

Did you know that colder temperatures help people think more clearly? Research shows that people perform tasks better when the room temperature is set at a cooler setting than a warmer one. What's more, research tells us, that people are less inclined to tackle cognitive problems in the summer, as opposed to the winter, because the summer uses more glucose that is needed for mental processes. Thus, taking classes at the Jewish Community Center and attending interesting lectures and educational programs is a good idea in the winter.

Of course, thinking—regardless of the season—has led to ideas that have benefited the human race throughout history. For example, on February 19 we will celebrate the 550th birthday of Nicolaus Copernicus – the Polish mathematician and astronomer who changed our understanding of the universe with his monumental discovery that the Sun, not the Earth, was at the center of our solar system. He was a true Renaissance man of many talents: mathematician, astronomer, physician, classics scholar, translator, diplomat and economist.

Consider the leap of imagination required for Copernicus to conceive of a sun-centered universe. With this radical notion, he set astronomy down a new path that transformed how scientists think about the universe. His discoveries set the stage for all of modern astronomy. But he also understood that his theory was extremely dangerous for his career and life, and thus he secretly shared it with only a very limited number of scientists and decided to publish it just before his death in 1543.

Ideas could also sometimes be dangerous. In fact, they could get you burned alive. Such was the fate of the Renaissance philosopher Giordano Bruno. His advocacy of Copernicanism and the claim that there is an infinite number of worlds was innovative. After a heresy trial that lasted eight years, the Roman Inquisition convicted him and burned him at the stake in Rome in the year 1600. Bruno was from a handful of people who conceived of a cosmos in which our planet occupies a vanishingly small part of space. In this, he was adventurous and ahead of his time.

Other thinkers have included NASA astronaut Jessica Meir who, if she does, she will become the first woman, Jew and Swedish citizen to step foot on the lunar surface. The child of a Swedish mother and Israeli Sephardi father, Meir is no stranger to space, having made history in 2019 for being part of the first all-female spacewalk. She has also always kept her Jewish and Israeli roots close to her heart, and has even brought an Israeli flag, Star of David and other such items with her into space.

As our civilization grows in sophistication, the question “Are we alone?” becomes more and more relevant. The author Arthur C. Clarke wrote, “Two possibilities exist: either we are alone in the universe or we are not. Both are equally terrifying.” This insight is profound in its simplicity, as we look for other civilizations like ours, and for life that resembles us.

The bottom line: Learning is a good thing. Keeping an open mind is a good thing. Innovative ideas and thinking are the stuff that moves the world forward. And so, the Jewish Community Center invites you to attend in person or online our lectures and events related to the study of history and the analysis of the humanitarian and philosophical problems of the evolution of humankind on planet Earth and in the universe.

The New American Acculturation Program provides educational classes, programs and holiday celebrations. For more information about the program, including program sponsorships, please contact Yelena Gerovich at 203 387-2424 x321, or email ygerovich@jewishnewhaven.org.



Photo by NASA/Robert Markowitz

Первая Еврейская Женщина на Луне

На улице холодно, и невольно задаешься вопросом о том, закончится ли зима когда-нибудь. Но на самом деле есть много интересных вещей, которыми можно заняться в холодное время года как в помещении, так и на улице.

Знаете ли вы, что низкие температуры помогают людям мыслить более ясно? Исследования показывают, что люди лучше справляются с поставленными задачами, когда в помещении установлена более низкая температура, чем более теплая. Более того, исследования говорят нам, что летом люди менее склонны решать когнитивные проблемы чем зимой, потому что летом используется больше глюкозы, необходимой для умственных процессов. Так что посещать интересные лекции и образовательные программы в нашем Еврейском центре зимой – хорошая идея.

Конечно, гениальные идеи появляются независимо от времени года, и способны изменить ход истории. 19 февраля мы отметим 550-летие со дня рождения Николая Коперника — польского математика и астронома, изменившего наше представление о Вселенной своим монументальным открытием, что Солнце, а не Земля, находится в центре нашей Солнечной системы. Он был настоящим человеком эпохи Возрождения и обладал многими талантами: был

математиком, астрономом, врачом, переводчиком, дипломатом и экономистом.

Подумайте о том, какое невероятное воображение потребовалось Копернику, чтобы представить вселенную с Солнцем в центре. С помощью этой радикальной идеи он направил астрономию на новый путь, изменивший представление ученых о Вселенной. Его открытия заложили основу для всей современной астрономии. Но он хорошо понимал, что его теория чрезвычайно опасна для его карьеры и жизни, поэтому он тайно делился ею лишь с очень ограниченным числом ученых и решился опубликовать ее только незадолго до своей смерти в 1543 году.

Да, новые идеи могут быть опасными. На самом деле, они даже могут привести к тому, что вас сожгут на костре. Такова была судьба философа эпохи Возрождения Джордано Бруно. Его защита идей Коперника и утверждение, что во вселенной существует большое количество разных миров, были новаторскими. После расследования его «ереси», длившегося восемь лет, римская инквизиция осудила его и сожгла на костре в Риме в 1600 году. Бруно был одним из немногих людей, представлявших космос, в котором наша планета занимает ничтожно малую часть пространства. В этом он был удивительно прозорлив и опередил свое время. Прошли столетия, и астронавт НАСА Джессика Меир стала кандидатом на посадку на Луну в рамках лунной миссии «Артемида». Если ее утвердят, то она станет первой женщиной, еврейкой и гражданкой Швеции, ступившей на лунную поверхность. Ребенок матери-шведки и отца-израильского сефарда, Меир не новичок в космосе: в 2019 году она вошла в историю, участвуя в первом полностью женском выходе в открытый космос. Она всегда помнит и хранит близко к сердцу свои еврейские корни, она даже в космос брала с собой израильский флаг, звезду Давида и другие любимые предметы.

По мере того, как наша цивилизация становится все более развитой, вопрос «Одни ли мы?» становится все более актуальным. Автор Артур Кларк писал: «Существуют две возможности: либо мы одни во вселенной, либо нет. Обе одинаково пугают». Это понимание глубоко в своей простоте, мы ищем другие цивилизации, подобные нашей, и жизнь, которая похожа на нас.

Подведём итоги: учиться — это хорошо. Сохранять непредубежденность, готовность принимать и создавать новые идеи — это хорошо. Инновационные идеи и мышление — это то, что движет мир вперед. Наш Еврейский Центр приглашает вас посетить очно или онлайн наши лекции и мероприятия, связанные с изучением истории и анализом гуманитарно-философских проблем эволюции человечества на планете Земля и во Вселенной.

Наша образовательная программа помогает членам нашей общины изучать американскую и еврейскую историю и традиции. Для получения дополнительной информации, в том числе о спонсорстве программы, обращайтесь к Елене Герович по телефону (203)387-2424 x321 или по электронной почте ygerovich@jewishnewhaven.org.

WELCOME TO AMERICA

THE WORLD AT A GLANCE

Iran breaks ground on new nuclear plant

(JNS) Iran on Sunday, Dec. 3, executed four men convicted of cooperating with Israel's Mossad intelligence agency, Reuters reported. Three other people received prison sentences of between five and 10 years. Iran's semi-official Mehr News Agency reported last week that those sentenced to death had been charged with “the crime of cooperating with the intelligence services of the Zionist regime and for kidnapping.... This network of thugs was stealing and destroying private and public property, kidnapping people and obtaining fake confessions,” it added. The accused were reportedly arrested in June, prior to the onset of the current anti-regime protests sweeping the country. In October, Tehran announced it had arrested 10 persons accused of working for Israel, Reuters reported at the time.

Herzog visits UAE after historic trip to Bahrain

(JNS) Israeli President Isaac Herzog visited the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain in December. He was greeted at the

airport in UAE by Emirati Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The Israeli leader then addressed the Abu Dhabi Space Debate, a forum on space exploration that included Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

“As humanity gazes up at the stars, I wish to bring this discussion back to earth because I believe that the greatest promise of space exploration lies not only in discoveries on distant planets but also in rediscovering our potential for collaboration here on the blue planet we call home,” said Herzog. “Let us move onwards and upwards, not with the competition of a cold war, but with the cooperation of our warm peace. Let us harness the power of space for the promise of Earth. Let us gaze at the heavens with our sights set firmly on our planet. Together, we can take space exploration to new heights and save our planet from new depths. Today we can say: The sky is just the lower limit!”

The Israeli president met with the ruler of Abu Dhabi and president of the UAE, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, in their fourth meeting since Herzog took office in July 2021. He hailed the Abraham Accords and said, “Now we

have to...upgrade ties between us even more, to strengthen them and to bring more nations into the Abraham Accords.”

On Sunday, Dec. 3, Herzog became the first Israeli head of state to make an official visit to Bahrain. He was welcomed in Manama by Bahrain's Foreign Minister Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani and Ambassador to Israel Khaled Yousif Al Jalahma. The Israeli president then was greeted by King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa at Al-Qudaibiya Palace.

He also participated in a forum with Crown Prince of Bahrain Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, also the country's prime minister, at the Bahrain Economic Development Board.

“The Abraham Accords unleashed energy that existed underneath but had to be realized between the nations, and we truly feel in the family. We truly feel that we are meeting our cousins, our brothers and sisters,” said Herzog, adding: “I bring a message of goodwill and congratulations from the people of Israel to the people of Bahrain, hoping to create more business contacts and other relations in all areas of life so we can show the entire region why peace is so important.”

Southwest Airlines passenger dons crown

(JNS) Two passengers on a Dec. 6 Southwest Airlines flight were spotted wearing Burger King crowns bearing antisemitic and racist phrases, including “Ye is right.” Twitter user @ScienceStajner posted pictures of the two people sitting in front of her. “Didn't realize this behavior was permitted as part of the @Southwestair experience,” the tweet begins. “These 2 also had sentiments such as ‘6 million wasn't enough’ & tons of swastikas plastered on their make shift [sic] ‘crowns.’”

The Twitter user went on to describe the situation as threatening: “We're sorry if another passenger's attire was in poor taste,” Southwest Airlines' Twitter account replied. “We do encourage you to reach out to a flight attendant on board if you feel the need. Allow me to advise that Southwest operates under a flag of many colors, and we appreciate your feedback.” The crowns included the words “white power” and “Ye is right,” the latter in reference to the rapper formerly known as Kanye West.

Ye has been on a rampage of antisemitic statements and actions, including praise for Nazis and Holocaust denial.

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THE WORLD AT A GLANCE

Netanyahu on criticism of coalition partners

(JNS) Prime Minister-designate Benjamin Netanyahu attempted on Sunday to assuage critics of his emerging right-wing government by vowing to uphold Israel's liberal democracy, pointing to his lengthy track record of guiding the nation and emphasizing that the buck on devising policy stops with him. "I'm going to safeguard Israeli democracy, I'm going to bring peace...and I'm going to stop Iran. That's what I'm back for, and that's what I'm committing to," Netanyahu said in an interview with NBC's "Meet the Press."

"I have a record now...and in general of having two hands on the wheel," said Netanyahu, adding: "I ultimately decide policy."

The prospective prime minister made clear that he will not tolerate actions that harm Israel's LGBTQ community, amid a controversy surrounding current Israeli leader Yair Lapid's recent call on municipalities "not to cooperate with a unit for external programs and promotion of partnerships in the Ministry of Education, as long as it is under the control of MK [Avi] Maoz." Netanyahu assigned Maoz, leader of the far-right. The appointment sparked backlash due to Maoz's anti-LGBTQ agenda.

Iran breaks ground on new nuclear plant

(JNS) Iran started construction on Saturday on a new nuclear power plant in the country's southwest, the Associated Press reported. The 300-megawatt plant, known as Karoon, will reportedly take eight years to build at a cost of some \$2 billion.

Iran currently has one operational nuclear power plant outside the southern port of Bushehr, which went online in 2011 with help from Russia, in addition to numerous underground facilities.

The development comes just 10 days after Iran began enriching uranium to 60% at its Fordow installation, which is located deep within a mountain. At the time, Maj. Gen. Aharon Haliva, head of the Israel Defense Forces Military Intelligence Directorate, said that Tehran would soon start enriching at least a "symbolic" amount of uranium to weapons-grade 90%, although he added that it was unlikely to make a dash for the bomb. Haliva warned that

Tehran had made "significant progress" on its nuclear program and that the international community would soon face its "greatest test" in preventing the Islamic Republic from obtaining nuclear bombs.

NY's Hampton Synagogue gets a facelift

(JNS) Leading Israeli artists and digital textile designers have given the Hampton Synagogue in Westhampton Beach, N.Y., a facelift. The synagogue, which has been visited by several prime ministers and cultural icons such as Steven Spielberg, recently completed a transformation by international designer Edward Jacobs, who lives in Israel. Jacobs's synagogue and museum designs have won several awards for their ability to bring together the traditional and the modern. The Hampton Synagogue has been around for three decades. It continues to be operated by founding rabbi Marc Schneier. The new Jack's House children's community center was created in memory of Holocaust survivor Jack Gura.



Jacobs combined the work of artist Dale Chihuly with Kornit Digital's technology in meaningful segments in the project. Chihuly is an American artist best known in the field of blown glass. Kornit Digital is an Israeli company that develops and manufactures digital textile printing machines for the fashion and textile industry. The designs include fabric decorations, tablecloths and more. For example, Jacobs and Chihuly planned and conceptualized the ark curtain, which was printed by Kornit Digital's Presto Max system in Israel and delivered to New York within one week.

"Technology empowers all artists to bring their creative vision to life via textile, as it does in this moving project," said Kornit Digital's Business Development Manager Gil Shavit. "We're thrilled to play a part in this special, global activity with a distinguished artist like Dale Chihuly, thanks to Edward Jacobs, who brought these two worlds together."

TRIBUTES & REMEMBRANCES

To purchase a tribute card: jccnh.org, jewishnewhaven.org, newhavenjewishfoundation.org
*Tributes listed are up to Dec. 6, 2022

JEWISH FEDERATION	JCARR
In honor of Stephanie Green & Eric Grubman on the engagement of Dan to Becca <i>Judy Alperin</i>	In celebration of Maddy Kleinman <i>Gregory, Madeline & Frankie Lane</i>
In honor of Velma Grodd's birthday <i>Gillie Lender</i>	
In honor of Jacob & Kate Zachs <i>Pete & Jess Ginsberg</i>	
In memory of Robert Stefanowski, Sr. <i>Amy & Mark Holtz</i>	
In Memory of Ida Bobrow <i>Amy & Mark Holtz</i>	
In memory of Emilio Malibago to Women's Philanthropy Dignity Grows Program <i>Lauren & Scott Miller</i>	
In honor of Robyn Teplitzky <i>Lauren Miller</i>	
In honor of Susan & Lenny Skope's anniversary <i>Robyn & Jeffrey Teplitzky</i>	
JEWISH FOUNDATION	
SAMUEL BOAZ BAYER TZEDAKAH FUND In honor of Sam Bayer's Bar Mitzvah <i>Robert & Anne Klee</i>	
VELMA & STUART GRODD FUND FOR JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER MEMBERSHIP In honor of Velma Grodd's 90 th birthday <i>Marcia Rosen</i> In honor of my 10th great grandchild named in memory of Stuart, Saul Sokolson Grodd In memory of my dear friend, Anita Perlman <i>Velma Grodd</i>	
ANN WEINER MEMORIAL ART FUND In memory of Ann Weiner <i>Arlene Mehlman Michael & Naomi Finkelstein Susan Eisen Samuel Rost Vivianne J. Bregman Clare S. Rosenfield Michael & Lynne Schell Edmond & June Murphy</i>	

JUDITH HAHN PHILANTHROPIC FUND
In honor of Judi Hahn's 80th birthday
Stephen & Judy August

JARON DEMBSKY TZEDAKAH FUND
In memory of Jaron's Bar Mitzvah
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Anna Jacobs Singer & Joanna & Stephanie Jacobs

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In memory of Peggy & Paul Ross, Sarah Hayden & Gertrude Cooper
Deborah R. Schaller & Michelle Brubaker
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