



# Making Connections: In Conversation with Rabbi Josh Pernick pages 14-15



The Jewish Community as a Beautiful Tapestry

The prolific pop music composer and lyricist Carole King wrote:

My life has been a tapestry Of rich and royal hue An everlasting vision Of the ever-changing view A wondrous woven magic In bits of blue and gold A tapestry to feel and see Impossible to hold

The way in which Carole described her life as a tapestry could easily transfer to the Jewish community, with our rich and royal history with its many expressions and experiences that have spanned the globe for millennia.

"A tapestry to feel and see- impossible to hold" — much like Jewish life where we have passed down our customs, laws, recipes and values from generation to generation, as we understand that we are but a link in a vast but delicate chain.

I love the idea of 'tapestry' to describe our Jewish experience. Another art related word that seems to fit is 'mosaic.'

While I have been somewhat aware of other Jewish experiences than my own Ashkenazi North American upbringing, my recent trip to Israel expanded my horizons in truly magical ways that I hope will create pathways toward

bringing a broader understanding of varied Jewish experience to New Haven.

In July 2015, then Israeli President Reuven Rivlin gave his famous "four tribes" speech where he described the four tribes to include the Haredi, secular, religious and Arab. After a week diving deeper into meetings with various sectors of Israeli society, I learned that there are even more "tribes" driving the tapestry or mosaic of Israeli life, including the Mizrahi (Sephardi Jews who migrated from North Africa), those in the periphery in the direct line of rocket attacks (Sderot and its environs), religious Zionists, Jews-railis/Israelism, and more sub-cultures with whom we simply didn't have time available to meet.

As we explored the Mizrahi culture in Israel through food, music and an understanding of their history and experiences prior to the waves of Aliyah (resettlement in Israel), I experienced a bit of FOMO (fear of missing out). It wasn't really fear, as Mizrahi culture is available to experience throughout Israel. In fact, just listening to any pop music today, you will hear undertones of Mizrahi music. My FOMO related more retrospec-

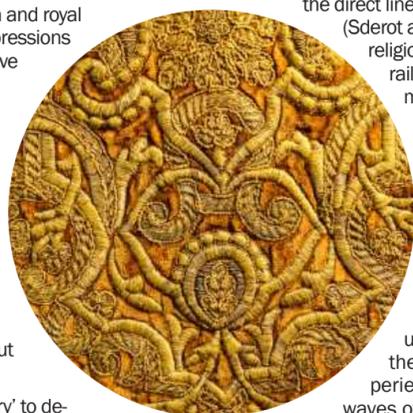
tive, as I understood that there was so much joyful Jewish experience that I was not exposed to during my upbringing in New Jersey.

The mosaic of the Jewish people represents many different lived experiences and pathways. As part of our continuing work to bring our recently completed strategic plan to life, and with the support of the Seedlings Foundation, the Jewish Federation recently appointed Rabbi Joshua Pernick as our JCRC director and rabbi in residence. (For an interview with Josh, see page 14). Josh will concentrate on expanding our important work in the area of community relations and will also work diligently to enhance and strengthen our Jewish education support and programming across the community. A main focus for Josh will be directed towards broadening our efforts of inclusion so that all people feel warm and welcomed as valued members of our Jewish community.

As our community continues to emerge from the pandemic, I hope more of us will explore the beautiful mosaic of Jewish experience available throughout Jewish New Haven and in doing so finds joy and beauty and belonging.

Enjoy the lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer (not Carole King!) as the High Holy Days cannot be far away!

Judy



SHALOM NEW HAVEN

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• October 1 for November/December issue
• December 1 for January/February issue
• Feb 1 for March/April issue
• April 1 for May/June issue
• June 1 for July/August 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 DR. STEVEN FLEISCHMAN



A Fond Farewell...but Not Goodbye

This will be my last column as president of our Jewish Federation. I want to first say how much of an honor and privilege it has been to serve our community.

It is impossible not to reflect on your time and experiences during your tenure in any leadership role. To be honest, I wish I could have done more. For two years much of our time has been preoccupied with the pandemic. In addition to figuring out how to safely operate the JCC and its important programs, we had significant financial issues to grapple with.

First, I am so proud of the team of professionals that work for the Federation. They are so committed to the importance of Jewish life in New Haven. I was inspired by their continued efforts to find ways to bring community together during these trying times. I will forever be grateful for the work they do every day.

Second, I want to tell you all how fortunate we are to have Gerry Barker take over as our next president. He has been on our board for many years and understands the importance of a strong Jewish community and I have no doubt he will be an incredible leader for our community.

Finally, we lost a wonderful man the day before I wrote this column: Tzvi Rappaport. For those of you who did not know him, he taught at Ezra for many years and ran the religious school at B'nai Jacob for years after that.

I got to know Tzvi when my oldest daughter started religious school and built a relationship with him over the years as he educated my other three kids. My relationship with him deepened during my tenure as president of the synagogue. He was like the pied piper of Jewish education. His love and passion for teaching young people and others about Jewish history, music, prayer and Israel was contagious.

I will miss him, but our community will miss him more. We need more people like Tzvi. For the Jewish community to thrive, we need more of us who embrace Judaism, who love being Jewish as much as Tzvi did. We need people who love Israel and who understand what the idea of a Jewish State means to Jews around the world. There may be debates about Israel's policies, and people may disagree with one another, but Israel is a safe haven for Jews around the world. It is a beautiful country with a rich Jewish history dating back thousands of years.

When Tzvi spoke about Israel you could hear his deep love and admiration for the history, the people and the innovations it the Jewish state has provided to the world. We truly lost a wonderful man and educator.

With the backdrop of ever increasing antisemitism coming from both the right and the left, it is not surprising that we don't have a lot of Tzvi's around. However, I truly believe that now more than ever we all need to harness our inner Tzvi. To combat the hate, I think we need to lean in to our Judaism; to express our love and passion for Judaism; and to support our community with our voices and our dollars.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve our community. I look forward to more opportunities to be together as we emerge from the pandemic.

Have a wonderful summer!

Handwritten signature of Dr. Steven Fleischman.

Dr. Steven Fleischman President, Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven



Tzvi Rappaport (April 8, 1947 - June 15, 2022)



A LOOK INSIDE

Table listing various community events and articles with page numbers, including 'From the Desk of Judy Alperin', 'A Note From Our Federation President', 'Trachten-Zachs Hillel House Marks 10 Years', etc.



Table listing 'WELCOME TO AMERICA', 'THE WORLD AT A GLANCE', 'SHALOM FUN!', and 'TRIBUTES & REMEMBRANCES' with page numbers.

SAVE THE DATE THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 22, 2022 | 7 PM ANNUAL MEETING



# Trachten-Zachs Hillel House Marks 10 Years

On Sunday, May 1, 100 guests joined the UConn Hillel for a celebration of the 10th anniversary of the campus Trachten-Zachs Hillel House, honoring two UConn alumni, Lawrence "Larry" Handler ('67), and Dori Jacobs ('22), for their outstanding contributions to UConn Hillel.

A cum laude UConn graduate, Larry Handler was the recipient of the Senior Accounting Award, Business Law Award and was inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma business honor society. He subsequently received an MBA from New York University where, as a research assistant, he won the Outstanding Faculty Member award. Handler, whose career has encompassed both public and private industry, also served as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Connecticut. He was inducted into the UConn School of Business Hall of Fame and selected as the Accountant of the Year by the university's Accounting Department. He has served on six national and local boards of directors, including the National Council of the American Institute of CPAs.

Dori Jacobs, who graduated UConn in May with a major in psychology and minors in mathematics and statistics, arrived in Storrs from her hometown of Santa Clarita, CA and immediately became dedicated to the Hillel community, eventually serving one term as treasurer and two terms as president of the Hillel student board, leading her to also serve as Hillel's first ex-officio senator to the Undergraduate Student Government. As a student leader, Jacobs led the student board in outreach and in creating successful programs; facilitated relationships with UConn administration, other Jewish organizations, and the campus at large; and worked hard to fight antisemitism on campus.

The celebration also included a keynote address delivered by UConn's interim president, Dr. Radenka Maric, who shared her vision for a thriving Jewish life on campus; and remarks by UConn Hillel Executive Director Edina Oestreicher, Executive Director, who shared how UConn Hillel inspires Jewish students to connect to one another, to explore Judaism and to hone their leadership skills – all of which ensure a strong Jewish future. The speakers also noted that, despite the challenges of the past two



**At the 10th anniversary celebration of the Trachten-Zachs Hillel House at UConn are: (l to r) UConn Hillel Executive Director Edina Oestreicher, philanthropists Henry Zachs, David Trachten; honorees Dori Jacobs ('22) and Lawrence Handler ('67); and UConn Interim President Dr. Radenka Maric.**

years brought about by the pandemic, UConn Hillel continues to enrich the lives of students and empower them to become leaders in their local communities and beyond.

The program concluded with a student-produced video that highlighted Hillel's growth.

The 10th anniversary celebration was chaired by Henry M. Zachs and David Trachten. The generosity of Trachten's father, Morris Trachten z"l, and Henry Zachs made possible the renovation of the UConn Hillel building in 2010.

# Alissa Wurtzel Named Head of JFS

Alissa Wurtzel has been appointed the new CEO of Jewish Family Service of Greater New Haven (JFSGNH).



Prior to her appointment as CEO, Wurtzel, who has 20 years professional experience working to improve the social and emotional welfare of individuals and families, served as clinical director of JFSGNH. In that role, she oversaw the agency's implementation of a new electronic health record system, and reimagined and restructured a number of critical programs serving the community's most vulnerable population. Working with the agency's leadership team, Wurtzel helped ensure that the JFSGNH post-pandemic roadmap includes enhancing timely and accessible services for seniors, Holocaust Survivors and their caregivers, those struggling with mental health issues, those in need of emergency assistance, food and/or housing support.

A licensed clinical social worker, she has worked with clients as young as four and as old as 107. Her specialty areas are in trauma-informed care, medical social work, and co-occurring disorders including chronic pain.

In addition to her work at JFSGNH, Wurtzel has worked as the director of psychological health for the Connecticut Army National Guard, as well as a senior clinician with Community Health Center Inc. Before joining the agency, she worked as a medical social worker for the Hartford Health Care Hospice Program, empowering families with the education, materials, and spiritual, religious, and cultural supports needed to care for loved ones at the end of their lives.

A Connecticut native, Wurtzel earned both her Bachelors and Masters degrees at the University of Connecticut.

Alissa Wurtzel can be reached at: [awurtzel@jfsnh.org](mailto:awurtzel@jfsnh.org)

For more information about the wide range of services offered by Jewish Family Service of Greater New Haven, visit [www.jfsnh.org](http://www.jfsnh.org).

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## OUR 2022 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN IS COMING TO A CLOSE

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Help us be **HERE FOR GOOD** by providing support for our Jewish community!

To make your pledge by August 31 for your Jewish Federation's Annual Campaign for Jewish Needs, scan the QR code or visit us online at [www.jewishnewhaven.org/give](http://www.jewishnewhaven.org/give)



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## AT THE JCC

# Group Exercise for Emotional & Social Wellness

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

A powerful stimulus for enhancing emotional wellness, working out with others can contribute enormously to your health. Regular exercise itself will elevate levels of neurotransmitters like dopamine, which help to increase feelings of pleasure while also reducing sensations of physical discomfort, but adding that experience in a group setting can also enhance the increasingly important social aspect.

A workout class can become a positive social group. Camaraderie and connection to others, the feeling of being part of a team. After the isolation we've experienced during the course of the recent pandemic, we know that this social element is just as important for mental health.

Group exercise participants often become extended members of your family. Seeing each other week after week creates a real sense of community. Sharing recommendations for professional services, referrals, etc. can also make life a little easier.

A challenging group workout can be much more manageable when you are there with other like-minded individuals. There's an undeniable energy shared by all those exercising with similar goals and purposes.



The welcoming social environment can change a person's emotional state almost immediately. The routine of going to a class and seeing familiar faces can have a profound positive impact on a person's day.

Lastly, expert guidance on exercising correctly that you receive from a fitness professional with encouraging words and motivation from others sharing the experience can make all the difference in not only achieving results but enjoying the journey.

Whether you like to dance, practice yoga or tai chi, spin or strength train, the JCC Fitness Center offers a variety of both on-site and virtual workout classes with certified, experienced instructors ready to help!

For more information on how our wellness professionals can help you achieve your health and fitness goals, contact Susan Donovan at [susand@jccnh.org](mailto:susand@jccnh.org) or visit [jccnh.org/inqline-fit](http://jccnh.org/inqline-fit)

## What's So Great About the Beverly Levy Early Learning Center?

Lots of things. Which is why young parents are signing up their little ones in record numbers.

To be specific, enrollment at the JCC's Beverly Levy Early Learning Center is up close to 50 percent.

With its eight classrooms mostly full, the Center is planning to accommodate the rapid upswing in enrollment by opening several new classrooms – one for infants, another for toddlers, and a third for preschoolers.

"There is a growing need for child-care especially for children under the age of three," says Sarah Schryver, the Center's director. "Some programs have opted only to accept preschool and pre-k especially with downsizing because of Covid related issues. We are lucky to receive many phone calls and availability check-ins because of our wonderful families who continue to share their experiences with others and give us rave reviews."

**THERE IS SEVERAL FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THOSE OUTSTANDING REVIEWS, SAYS SCHRYVER. THEY INCLUDE:**

- Low staff to student ratio, which allows for more one-on-one attention;
- Classrooms that are much larger than required, giving children room to move, explore and unwind;
- A Hebrew program for each age group created and taught by Rabbi Josh.
- An extra curricular specialist who puts together exciting and educational weekly programs, such as a music program for all ages, and swimming programs for our preschool and pre-kindergarten children.
- Low turnover rates among our cadre of highly experienced teachers.
- A state-of-the-art parent communication app that serves as an important resource in helping us to focus on communication with families. After all, we understand that parents entrust us with their most prized possessions each and every day and we understand the importance of keeping in touch!



Courtney, a teacher at the Beverly Levy Early Learning Center, helps Center preschoolers plant a garden.



• A beautiful campus where students and staff alike love to use of the JCC campus for walks and extended outdoor time, which allow for nature-based learning experiences.

For more information about the Beverly Levy Early Learning Center, contact Sarah Schryver at [sarahs@jccnh.org](mailto:sarahs@jccnh.org).

Classmates take time out for a chat on the JCC's outdoor playground.



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# Foundation News

## Grants for the Jewish Elderly Enhance Life After 60

Getting old may not be easy...but, with the help of the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven, it's getting easier.

Since it was established in 2020, \$549,000 in Grants for the Jewish Elderly have been awarded to a variety of Jewish organizations and agencies for new and innovative projects and programs that enhance the quality of life for the Jewish elderly in the New Haven community.

The need for such programs is critical—and, with the Baby Boomer cohort in the US projected to exceed 20% by the year 2030, the need for resources for older adults is expected to continue to increase.

The Jewish Foundation's Grants for Jewish Elderly is here to meet that compelling need, thanks to the generosity of the former Jewish Home Building Fund Corporation, as well as several funds of the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven, including the Isaac & Mary Liveten Fund for the Jewish Home for the Aged; Marion Litsky Fund for the Jewish Elderly; Irvin Shiner 75th Birthday Fund for the Jewish Home for the Aged; Benjamin & Freda Cohen Memorial Fund for Jewish programs for the Frail & Elderly; Eva Kahn Fund for Elderly Services; Harry Braffman Fund for the Jewish Elderly; Leo Links Fund for the Jewish Elderly

This year, \$169,000 in Grants for the Jewish Elderly were awarded to three deserving agencies for new and innovative programs: The Towers of Tower Lane, Jewish Family Service of Greater New Haven, and Chabad of the Shoreline.

"We have been pleased to secure continued funding to support our community's Jewish aged population through the grants awarded to the Towers, JFS, and Chabad of the Shoreline," said Craig Sklar, Chair of the Foundation's Grants for the Jewish Elderly Committee. "We hope to continue to address the many needs of our geriatric population by providing food support, socialization, and social work services."

Jewish Family Service was awarded a grant for their Care Navigators Program, a support program open to all aging adults regardless of socioeconomic status, faith, culture, or race. The program provides the assessments, referrals, and support required to keep the elderly safely in their own homes or appropriate new housing. In this way, they will be living physically, men-



**Chabad of the Shoreline brings a smile to the face of a Shoreline Jewish senior, by presenting her with a "shalach manot" basket filled with Purim goodies.**

"The garden will replace our 13,300 square foot basketball court which is decaying and unusable. The new garden will transform our campus and provide both much needed green space and many other features," says Jennifer Baron Bayer, The Towers' director of development and community relations.

The community garden will include: Raised wheelchair accessible beds enabling seniors to plant while remaining seated; herb garden; chicken coop for fresh eggs; water feature and reflection area; shaded gathering area; bocce court; dog run; and, for all those visits from the grandkids, a play area.

The garden will be a hub for both education and volunteerism. Towers partner Morrison Living will provide nutritional workshops. Local schools and camps may volunteer and learn in the garden. In addition says Bayer, "We are delighted to share the bounty of our garden with those who might be in need."

Of course, all this would not be possible without community help.

"The Towers is grateful for the support of the Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Justice Grant Program and the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven's Elderly Grant process for major funding to help this project get underway. The

tally, emotionally, spiritually, and socially to their fullest extent.

"We are grateful to the Foundation for supporting the creation of a platform where all older adults and their families are supported," Elanit Linder, LMSW, the aging adult and community outreach coordinator for JFS. "Aging levels the playing field. We all age and this grant supports aging with dignity for folks of all walks of life. If an individual has a healthcare crisis, this levels the playing field in a way that is beyond quality of life measures. Care Navigators helps all people to navigate and understand the best options during the crisis or in a playful manner to avoid any incidents."

The Towers at Tower Lane is putting its grant to good use with plans to create a new community garden on the senior living facility's campus.

Towers also thanks its private donors and The Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven's Impact Grant Program for additional funding," she notes.

**Volunteers interested in joining The Towers Community Garden Task Force, contact Jennifer Bayer at [jennifer@towerlane.org](mailto:jennifer@towerlane.org) or (203) 772-1816, x290.**

Chabad of the Shoreline received a Grant for Jewish Elderly for its Smile on Seniors program which links volunteers with homebound or lonely elderly people for weekly visits. The goal is to bring them joy and stimulation, reduce isolation, and increase socialization. SOS also hosts Intergenerational projects that uplift and invigorate the elderly — and benefit volunteers, who learn from their elders' wisdom and life experience.

"We hope ultimately to match every Jewish senior in need on the Shoreline with a volunteer," says Rabbi Yosef Yaffe, spiritual leader of Chabad of the Shoreline. "The Jewish elderly on the Shoreline critically need companionship and friendship, especially since COVID has disrupted their safety nets and social fabric."

Chabad presented to the Foundation a proposal to create the Smiles for Seniors program and, in October 2021, they hired a senior services coordinator, Melanie van Emmenes, to create a database of every senior facility on the Shoreline. Van Emmenes visits the facilities that have Jewish residents, bringing Chanukah, Purim and pre-Pesach gift packages to residents and coordinating several holiday events.

Thinking of the community beyond Chabad, Rabbi Yaffe says, "We plan to map all Jewish services on the Shoreline and determine who can benefit from our friendly visitor program. This will also allow us to introduce them to the Jewish Family Service's products and programs."

Smiles for Seniors will mobilize community members to take the initiative and look out for their elderly neighbors and friends. With this, says Yaffe, Chabad's program "will create a long-term support system and a sense of Jewish community for the elderly."

"Our committee work underscores the importance of the Foundation as a resource for our greater community and the Federation," Sklar. The funds donated by the former Jewish Home for the Aged corporation will provide significant annual support for future endeavors.

*For more information on the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven grants, visit [jewishnewhaven.org/grants/jewish-elderly](http://jewishnewhaven.org/grants/jewish-elderly).*

## Keeping PACE (and LOJE) with New Haven's Future

The Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven reported recently a total of \$517,000 distributed to the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven 2022 annual campaign from the Foundation's Perpetual Annual Campaign Endowment (PACE) and the Lion of Judah Endowment (LOJE).

"The Foundation's contribution from PACE/LOJE funds to the annual campaign grew from \$19,691 in 1999 to \$517,000 in 2022," said Foundation Chair Scott Hurwitz in reporting this year's contributions. "This extraordinary increase is one example of the Foundation's growth in size and impact over the last several years.

"The foresight and generosity of our community has allowed the Foundation to create a strong and lasting endowment to provide current funding for our collective priorities. The Foundation will continue to work with the Federation, our agencies, synagogues and donors to support our community well into the future," he added.

With PACE/LOJE funds, you can endow your gift to the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven and guarantee future support for critical programs and services in the Jewish and general communities.

### WHAT ARE PACE/LOJE FUNDS?

PACE/LOJE funds are permanent endowment funds of the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven established in your name to perpetuate your annual commitment to the Federation's annual campaign.

Every year, the annual spendable portion of your fund will distribute to the Campaign. The distribution will be made in perpetuity and in your name.

These significant endowments connect today's Jewish community to tomorrow's by creating a lasting legacy that will continue to inspire younger generations and continue to fund our community.

### HOW DOES IT WORK?

Everyone, regardless of age, wealth, or affiliation, has the ability to leave a legacy. Your gift can be customized and struc-

tured to fit your dreams, lifestyle, family, and financial needs. You can provide support for a particular organization or area of interest.

A PACE/LOJE fund may be established with a minimum commitment of \$10,000. (Commitments under \$10,000 are pooled together in the Foundation's Community PACE parenthetical Fund.

They may be established using a gift of cash, securities, or other property during your lifetime; or you can establish your PACE/LOJE fund through your estate plan to be funded after your death. You can use life insurance, charitable remainder trusts, retirement accounts and donor advised funds to create a PACE/LOJE Fund.

When you make the gift during your lifetime, you may receive a charitable income tax deduction. Gifts made through your estate plan may reduce your taxable estate.

### AN EYE ON THE FUTURE

"PACE Funds will ensure our Jewish Community is healthy long into the future," noted Steve Fleischman, president of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven. "This year we received over \$500,000 from PACE funds established in the past to get our Annual Campaign off to a great start.

So many people in our community annually support the Federation Campaign, starting a PACE fund will ensure that your support is there for our community for generations to come."

*For additional information, contact Lisa Stanger at (203) 387-2424, x382 or [lstanger@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:lstanger@jewishnewhaven.org). All inquiries are confidential.*

### SECURITY GRANTS

Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven Year 3 Security Grants for synagogues, day schools and camps are available through August 3rd.

Grants are in memory of Arthur and Yvette Eder. Go to [www.jewishnewhaven.org/grants](http://www.jewishnewhaven.org/grants) for application and information.

## Woodbridge Bar Mitzvah Boy "Builds a Mitzvah"



*By Dr. Dena Springer and David Novick*

We learned about the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven's Build a Tzedakah Fund while attending the bat mitzvah celebration of our son Henry's classmate.

Creating a fund in honor of Henry's bar mitzvah was, for us, a meaningful opportunity for Henry to give back to his community and to learn about the importance of tzedakah at this critical time in his development as a member of the Jewish community and the community at large. By giving Henry direct and ongoing involvement in both raising money and directing its use, we hope the fund will instill in him an interest in charity and community that will remain a part of

him long after his bar mitzvah.

While Henry has not finally decided where to direct his fund, he knows that he wants to provide less fortunate kids some of the opportunities that he has had.

Henry says about his fund: "I love to read, love sports, especially hockey, and love science and building things. I also enjoyed learning to read Torah while preparing for my bar mitzvah. I think my charitable donations will focus on helping others be able to do the things I enjoy."

*For more information about the Jewish Foundation's Build a Tzedakah program, go to <https://newhavenjewishfoundation.org/youth/>*



## Synagogue School Scholarships

The Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven offers needs-based scholarships for synagogue schools. Deadline is September 23, 2021.

**For more information or to apply today, go to [scholarships.jewishnewhaven.org/form/religious](https://scholarships.jewishnewhaven.org/form/religious)**

### Mazel Tov to our Jewish Foundation Scholarship Awardees!

#### Stuart J. Drell Scholarship was awarded to:

Ellina Medovnikov from Amity High School in Woodbridge who will attend Tulane University.

#### Emma Kohn Podoloff Scholarship Fund of the Greater New Haven Section of the National Council of Jewish Women was awarded to:

Sean Doron from Amity High School in Woodbridge who will attend the University of Hartford and Benjamin Harper from The Sound School in New Haven who will attend Keene State College

#### Mary Taylor Friedler Scholarship was awarded to:

Ellina Medovnikov from Amity High School in Woodbridge who will attend Tulane University

#### The Israel Summer Experience Scholarships were awarded to:

Maya Dworkin from Bethany who will attend Camp Young Judaea Gadna  
Zoe Schulman from New Haven who will attend NCSY Israel Euro Program

# Federation Celebrates the Silver Circle Society

By Amy Holtz

In October 2021, the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven launched the Silver Circle Society – a new recognition society established to honor long-time donors to the Federation annual campaign for their dedication and commitment to the Jewish community in Greater New Haven, in Israel and around the world in the past, present and future.

Now, nine months since the Silver Circle Society was established, we are pleased to honor this extraordinary group of supporters at a special event to be held the evening of Thursday, July 21 at the JCC of Greater New Haven.

Members of the Silver Circle Society have maintained an active involvement in the Jewish community over the years, committing themselves to helping and supporting in many ways. Some have held leadership positions in the Federation, the JCC, and local synagogues, while others have given of their time to working with our local community agencies.

This diverse group of donors includes Holocaust survivors and/or their children; donors who witnessed Israel declare statehood; and donors who have traveled the world advocating on behalf of Israel and the global Jewish community. In addition to their involvement in enhancing and improving Jewish life, many of these longtime donors have supported additional



**Have you been donating to the Jewish Federation for 25 years or more?**

**Welcome to the Silver Circle Society!**

**Our Federation has more than 950 Silver Circle Society Members,**

**Our Silver Circle donors group have contributed over \$60 million to support Jewish life and aid the most vulnerable in our community.**

Jewish community organizations, such as the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven, the Community Foundation of Greater New Haven, local food pantries, and so many others.

Our Federation has more than 900 Silver Circle Society members, each with their own unique story and experience that has shaped their desire to support the Federation. Regardless of their story or experience, the one thing they all share is an abiding passion to help ensure the longevity and future strength of the Jewish community.

We are proud to report that, collectively, our Silver Circle donors group have contributed over \$60 million to support Jewish life and aid the most vulnerable in our community.

We look forward to celebrating with you on July 21 as we honor our wonderful Silver Circle members.

For more information, please contact Lindsey Barger at (203) 387-2424 ext. 276, lbarger@jewishnewhaven.org.

# For UConn Students Birthright is Back!

It had been almost three years since they last traveled to Israel, but on May 19 UConn Hillel was back at it, leading a 10-day exciting and educational Birthright Israel trip to the Jewish state for 32 students, plus Sapir Frieman, the Jewish Agency for Israel Fellow, and Edina Oestreicher, UConn Hillel's executive director.

The jam-packed itinerary included stops at Jerusalem's Western Wall, Mt. Herzl and Yad Vashem; a tour of the Golan Heights; rafting on the Jordan River; a night spent



in Bedouin tents in the desert; a hike up Masada; and swimming in the Dead Sea. The trip culminated in Tel Aviv where the group enjoyed a mouth-watering culinary tour of Carmel Market, a graffiti tour of the Florentine neighborhood and a dip in the waters of the magnificent Mediterranean.

Highlights of the trip including a Hebrew naming ceremony at Masada and a b'nai mitzvah ceremony in Tel Aviv.

Hannah Mallon ('24) called Birthright Israel the "best experience" of her life.

"Not only did I get to travel to the destination of my dreams, but I was immediately immersed in its culture with friends and became very close with my fellow trip participants. I feel so lucky to have been given this opportunity to see all of Israel's beauty, taste its amazing food and participate in meaningful activities you can't do anywhere else. I came home with so many unforgettable memories and lasting

**Students on UConn Hillel's Birthright Israel trip in May enjoy a camel ride in the desert.**



**UConn Hillel Birthright Israel student float in the Dead Sea.**

friendships."

For Lyla White ('24), visiting the Golan Heights was especially meaningful.

"It was amazing to hear about the history while looking at the land where everything happened. From Mt. Bental we could see Syria and Lebanon and even had the opportunity to explore a military bunker," she said.

Birthright Israel is an educational trip that ensures that every eligible young Jewish adult around the world, especially those less connected, is given the opportunity to visit Israel.

UConn Hillel offers two Birthright trips each, one in May and one in December.

## Hillel Class of 2026

As the class of 2026 prepares to begin their first semester at the University of Connecticut, UConn Hillel is preparing to launch its inaugural FYSH – First Year Students of Hillel – Fest, to be held August 22-26 on campus.

Over the course of the four-day FYSH Fest, incoming Jewish students will have the opportunity to move into their residence halls early, meet other new students, and familiarize themselves with early and participate in programming, meet other students, and familiarize themselves with the campus. Activities will include a trip to Lake Compounce amusement park, a ropes adventure course, a scavenger hunt, a bonfire and a Hillel sleepover.

All new incoming Jewish students are invited to join!

The cost of FYSH Fest is \$150, which includes four nights room and board, meals, and programs and activities! Register by August 1 at engagement@uconnhillel.org.

For more information, visit UCONN Hillel · FYSH FEST 22 (lg/forms.com) or email engagement@uconnhillel.org

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For more info contact: Lindsey Barger  
lbarger@jewishnewhaven.org



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**8:45: Kids Fun Run**

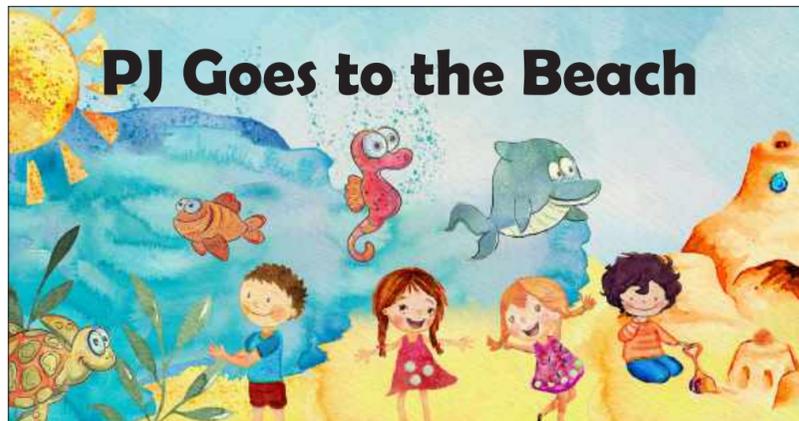
**9:30: Race & Walk Start**

**10:30: Bagel Reception & Awards**

Scan code above or visit  
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## PJ Goes to the Beach



**Friday, August 19 | 10:30 AM**  
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## SECURITY CHECK



**On Wednesday, June 15, Regional Security Advisor Michael J. Shanbrom taught an Introduction to Situational Awareness security training to members of Congregation Mishkan Israel in Hamden.**

# Retire your worries at The Towers

By Alyssa Seidman  
 Marketing Content Writer,  
 Hearst Connecticut Media Group

Any retiring senior would prefer to pocket their life's savings, but sometimes switching one's living situation can come with a hefty price tag. At The Towers at Tower Lane, however, residents don't have to worry about breaking the bank.

Here, residents can forge new friendships, engage in unique programs, and rediscover all the joys that life has to offer.

The Towers provides excellent care at a reasonable price. Residents live in financially market-rate and subsidized apartments with premier services, all just steps away from downtown New Haven.

"Every few weeks I have someone tell me that they regret not moving in sooner," President/CEO Gustave (Gus) Keach-Longo said. "One of the unique benefits of choosing The Towers is that once someone moves in with us, they no longer have to worry about money or having to move again."

The Towers currently has studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom apartments ready to become someone's new home. The Towers typically has a lengthy waitlist, but currently



there are some openings that likely won't last long, so it's a great time to consider a move.

"Monthly rates with services are roughly \$2,000 less compared to competitors' prices," Keach-Longo said, "which is ideal for fixed-income individuals who have saved up for their future and now want to be savvy with their savings."

What separates the nonprofit from almost all other retirement communities in Connecticut is the ability for residents to switch to a subsidy program if they ever start to deplete their assets. These subsidies enable residents to remain in their homes at The Towers even as their financial situations change.

And if a resident requires more care as they age, cost-savings can be realized there, too. Among its competitors, The Towers has lower service rates.



"No matter what your finances are, once you join our community at The Towers you can stay in your new home with us even as your needs may change," Keach-Longo said.

After serving the community for more than 50 years, The Towers understands the challenges families face when considering a change for their parents or grandparents. The nonprofit employs unique tools to ease this process that are not found anywhere else.

Full-time social workers specialize in easing transitions to ensure the best choices are made to match new residents' needs. The building features flexible apartment layouts, excellent amenities, and industry-leading resources that are tailored to maximize one's quality of life.

In addition to services, community is also key.

"As we begin to let go of our work responsibilities and care for our relatives ... it's a little more difficult to make friends," Keach-Longo said. "The Towers has

several approaches to helping new residents make these life transitions (and learn how to make new connections as they grow older."

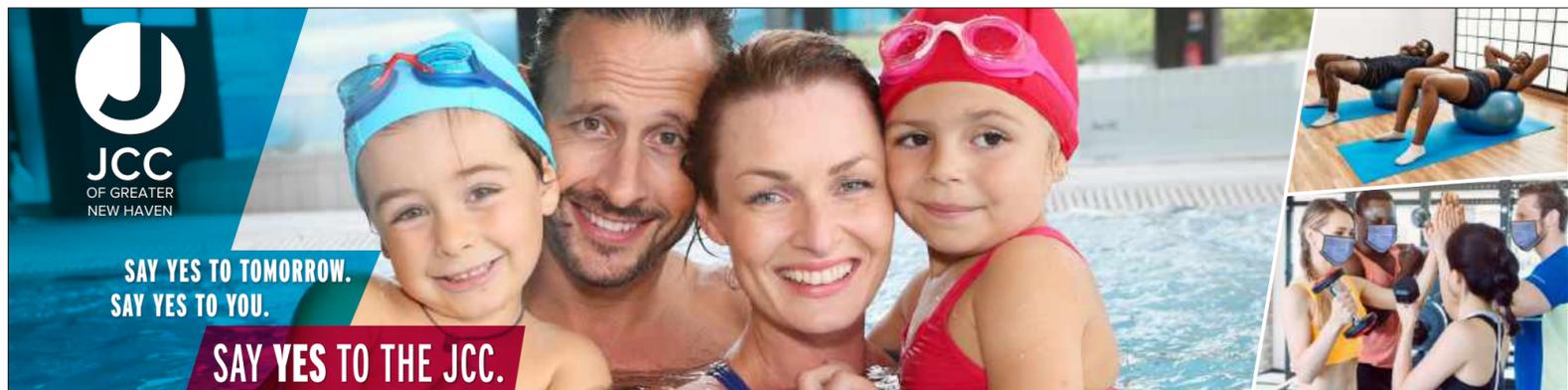
"These connections are facilitated by a series of life-enriching programs offered at The Towers," Keach-Longo added. He noted that an impending renovation will enhance this programming and the entire building community.

The Towers will transform its ground floor into an open, light-filled and adaptable modern space. New additions include a display kitchen, a solarium, new salon and gift shop spaces, art studio space, a library and multipurpose programming space. The enhancements reflect feedback on how to improve the day-to-day lives of residents while fostering greater community.

The Towers is also building a new Community Garden on campus that will include: raised wheelchair-accessible beds; a reflection area and water feature; an herb garden; a chicken coop; a playscape; and a shaded seating area. A dog run and bocce court will also enhance the outdoor experience.

"Once (the) renovation is done, people won't be able to get into The Towers...so it'd be smart for people to get in now," he said.

Schedule a tour today at (203) 772-1816. For more information, visit [towerlane.org](http://towerlane.org).

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# Making connections In Conversation with Rabbi Josh Pernick

In the last issue of Shalom New Haven (March/April 2022), we introduced to the community Rabbi Joshua Pernick — the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) director and rabbi in residence for the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven.

Prior taking up his new post, Rabbi Pernick, who has more than 10 years experience in Jewish education and communal service, served as the Oscar J. Tolmas Rabbinic Chair at Congregation Beth Israel, Metairie, Louisiana. Previously, he also served as rabbinic intern/rabbinic entrepreneurship fellow at Orthodox Kehillah in Durham, North Carolina; and as curriculum consultant for the Global Day of Jewish Learning. He has also held a number of community leadership posts.

Rabbi Pernick received his ordination from Yeshivat Chovevei Torah Rabbinical School in New York, his BA from Brandeis University and his MAT in Elementary Education from the DeLet Program at Brandeis. He received/earned a certificate in Jewish education from Pardes Institute for Jewish Studies.

Recently, Shalom New Haven spoke with Rabbi Pernick about his new role as director of the JCRC, and about his plan for tackling important communal issues, such as Jewish education.

## SHALOM NEW HAVEN: CAN YOU EXPLAIN THE ROLE OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL AND HOW YOU SEE YOUR ROLE AS ITS DIRECTOR?

**Rabbi Joshua Pernick (JP):** I'll start by saying that my role is a little bit different [than that of other JCRC directors]. It's kind of multifaceted because, in addition to the JCRC piece, I'm also overseeing the Center for Jewish Life & Living and I'm overseeing inclusivity initiatives for the Federation.

I see all three of those areas intersecting in many ways. At one level, they're all different roles and, at another level, there are actually a lot of similarities between them. There is a lot of overlap in these roles and they present a lot of opportunities in that all of them ultimately are about education and relationships.

JCRC is about building relationships between our Jewish community and other local faith communities and elected officials. What we find is that often, in developing partnerships with our neighbors, the communities that we are working with intersect in interesting ways with our own Jewish community, which is made up of people from a diverse array of backgrounds. I see our responsibility as a JCRC as not only

working with these local communities on issues, but also building deeper relationships with our neighbors; relationships that will enable us to continue to work together even when at times we might take opposite sides on an issue.

I think that in large part, my role within the JCRC is also working across communities and with our elected officials, really trying to elevate the conversation around the hot button issues and the things that are arising both locally and nationally, in order to provide a Jewish context to talk about the things going on in our world.

## DOES THAT MEAN YOU WOULD YOU GET INVOLVED IN ISSUES, FOR EXAMPLE, SUCH AS GUN CONTROL OR ABORTION RIGHTS—FROM A JEWISH PERSPECTIVE?

The simple answer is yes. Those are things that I certainly have been involved in and, I think, will continue to be involved in. This is something that perhaps differentiates me from other JCRC professionals: As a synagogue rabbi, I approach everything also from the lens of a rabbi, and I don't just look at it from a sort of purely political lens.

I'm interested in looking at these hot button issues—which at the end of the day really are issues concerning a conflict of values—as Jewish questions; I'm interested in educating people about how these values play out within our sources—within our Jewish tradition and Jewish text—and how the different ways they play out impact the Jewish conversation.

We live in a very polarized, partisan world, and it's highly unlikely that our JCRC is going to change anyone's opinions on anything. But what I do hope to do is to at least be able to explore the diversity of Jewish opinion on given topics. So, using gun safety as an example, even if we're going to be encouraging legislation like the Red Flag laws, I don't want to do that without having a conversation and an opportunity to educate about Jewish sources and how they relate to this issue.

## AS SOMEONE TASKED WITH REPRESENTING ALL FOUR CORNERS OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY, HOW DO YOU BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN THE DIFFERENT STREAMS OF JUDAISM, WHERE DIVERGENT OPINIONS CAN SOMETIMES LEAD TO CONFLICT?

I think for me, the the first step is just sort of getting to know the people around the table. You know, you're never going to make everyone happy, especially as we talk about the issues. People are just not going to agree. Once I get to know somebody— even if



**Rabbi Josh Pernick, Jewish Community Relations (JCRC) Director, Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven**

it's someone I disagree with—once I've heard their perspective and where they're coming from and how they arrived with their position, then even at the end of the day I may still not agree with them, but at least I understand them and we can work together.

## DOES THE FACT THAT, UNLIKE OTHER JCRC DIRECTORS, YOU WERE FIRST A PULPIT RABBI, HELP YOU IN YOUR WORK AT THE JCRC?

Obviously I'm new to the JCRC side of things. But, yes, I think that a lot of JCRC directors are sort of coming more from either the political world or the Jewish institutional world in different ways. As for me, I don't think of myself as a particularly partisan person.

You know, we're in a world where everyone has a platform to share their opinions all the time. But as a rabbi, I don't see my role as just sitting there saying the same things all the time that you can hear on cable news. I look at the guidance that our tradition offers us for understanding the multiplicity of opinions. It's very hard to say, "Oh, Judaism thinks X, Y or Z on this topic." But you can say, "You know, let's look at our tradition and see what guidance we can glean and what sources we can use to understand the people who we're going to disagree with. Because those people we disagree with have perspectives that are also valid.

So, it will be interesting to see how that plays out in the JCRC context, but my hope is that one of the ways that it plays out is that people across the community, even people holding different values and prioritizing different values and voting a different way still see our JCRC as a place that represents our interests, even if sometimes we might disagree.

## SWITCHING TOPICS, LET'S TALK ABOUT JEWISH EDUCATION:

**I KNOW THAT'S ONE OF YOUR AREAS OF EXPERTISE AND SOMETHING YOU'RE PASSIONATE ABOUT. WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE SUBJECT? DO YOU THINK THERE'S A PROBLEM IN WITH JEWISH EDUCATION TODAY? AND, IF SO, HOW DO YOU PLAN TO RECTIFY IT?**

Jewishly, I would say absolutely we're not educating either our children or our adults sufficiently, and I think Jewish literacy is a huge problem.

To the extent that I can use my role, both with JCRC and with the Center for Jewish Life & Living, as a vehicle to educate people in different areas. We want to educate about the diversity of our Jewish community, the different subsets of our community, and how this diversity is a strength when we think about how we approach issues facing our community and relationships with our neighboring communities.

**WHEN I ASKED THAT QUESTION I WAS THINKING OF JEWISH EDUCATION IN TERMS OF CHILDREN—BUT YOU BROADENED YOUR ANSWER TO INCLUDE JEWISH EDUCATION WITHIN THE ADULT POPULATION. DO YOU FIND A LACK OF JEWISH EDUCATION AMONG THAT POPULATION A PROBLEM AS WELL?**

Fortunately, we're in a community that values higher education—where people seek out opportunities to learn more, which is a beautiful thing about living in New Haven.

And so, part of my role is also just trying to connect people with the educational opportunities that exist in our community. I'm just trying to serve as a clearing house, a connector, because actually there are a lot of opportunities, through all sorts of vehicles, like the different synagogues and other local Jewish institutions. I'm trying to serve as someone who connects.

## HOW DO YOU PLAN ON MAKING THOSE CONNECTIONS?

I'm fortunate to be working out of a building that has a lot of people coming through all the times: parents dropping off their children at preschool and summer camp; members working out in the fitness area.

My hope is that, in my role at the Federation, we're helping to not just create our own programming, but really we're serving to lift up ask the Jewish community institutions offering educational programs. We see that as part of Federation: not to be competing but to be lifting them up, and then amplifying the work that they're already doing and making people aware of what learning opportunities are out there for them. I want to take advantage of the fact that we are a space that the people are naturally coming through, even if they're just coming to work out. We have the ability to reach people who might not be aware of the things that are going on in the broader community.

So for now I'm just trying to get to know everyone and get to know what they're doing. People should be on the lookout in the coming months for a lot of these partnerships because my sense so far has been that everyone wants to connect and partner with one another to bring more Jewish life. So that hopefully, my role will be in a lot of ways to connect people and institutions to involved more people in Jewish education.

*The community is welcome to contact Rabbi Joshua Pernick at [jpernick@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:jpernick@jewishnewhaven.org).*

# LESSONS LEARNED

## The Hebrew Month of Av Brings with It Two Timely Messages



By Rabbi James Greene

### TISHAH B'AV: A TIME FOR REMEMBRANCE

Over the summer, we commemorate one of the most tragic days in the Jewish calendar—Tishah B'av (the ninth day of the month of Av), which begins this year at sundown Saturday, August 6. It was on this day that both the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem were destroyed and the history of the Israelite people changed forever.

It was also the time when the Alhambra Decree of 1492 was issued, expelling the Jews from Spain.

In more recent history, Tishah B'av is the day on which Hitler began the mass deportation of the Warsaw Jewish community to Treblinka.

At Camp Laurelwood, Tishah B'av is observed with a brief ritual at the Revolutionary War-era cemetery in the middle of our property. This sacred space, which serves as the resting place for several veterans of our nation's War of Independence, is a reminder not just of the tragedy of war but also of the need for collective remembrance.

Although so much of the loss in our world seems so far away, I am grateful for our tradition's approach to collective remembrance. There is time built in to the schedule to be sad; time to mourn our dead from years past and from more recent loss. There is time to grieve that the world still contains suffering and

conflict, even as we work to build the world that we aspire to live in; and space to grieve for all that has been lost in our journey through time.

We also allow our hearts to heal and give ourselves time to repair and rejuvenate. Time to stand up and recommit to living lives of meaning. And, time to be in community and remind ourselves of what it means to be alive in this moment with all its possibility and promise.

### TU B'AV — A TIME FOR GIVING

Love is in the air just a week later with Tu B'av (the 15th day of the month of Av)—often referred to as the "Jewish Valentine's Day." Beginning this year at sundown on Thursday, August 11, Tu B'av is an ancient holiday that dates back to the period of the Second Temple.

The Mishnah describes Tu B'av as an annual matchmaking day when unmarried people would dress in white and dance in the grape vineyards outside the walls of Jerusalem in search of their life partner. If it is healthy to make space for collective remembrance, surely it is even more critical for our community to make space to build the future. In Israel, many couples will exchange flowers or go out for a romantic dinner. Tu B'av turns the tide of sadness of Tishah Be'av.

In Hebrew, the word for love is ahavah and comes from the root Alef-Hey-Bet which means to give. At Camp Laurelwood, we help our community cultivate kindness, and we know that love involves giving. It is about giving your attention, giving your respect, and giving your time and energy to others. The lifelong connections built through giving to others is just one of the ways that we mark Tu B'av in a contemporary context.

*Rabbi James Greene is a 2008 graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and is the executive director of Camp Laurelwood in Madison, CT. He is currently serving as president of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association.*

# Change is coming to youth education

When Ina Silverman announced her retirement as principal of Beth El-Keser Israel's (BEKI) religious school after more than 20 years of service, the synagogue's newly formed Education Visioning Committee set out to create a vision for youth education that matches the values of the BEKI community.

Among its initiatives is Teen Keshet, a program for 7th-12th-graders that seeks to build a participatory and inclusive culture of warmth, welcome, and support, and helps BEKI youth feel connected with the larger community. The new school plan will interweave Wednesday/Sunday classroom instruction with Shabbat/holiday family programming. Teen Keshet will expand activities beyond the current b'nai mitzvah training and Kadima/USY youth groups, to include electives for each cohort (7-8 grade, 9-10 grade, 11-12 graders), taught by BEKI Rabbi Eric Woodward and members of the congregation.

"I hope that the conversations that this transition has prompted will help us find new ways to make education at BEKI even more integrated into the life of the shul," says Sam Purdy, co-chair of the Visioning Com-



**Annie Norman-Schiff**

mittee. "I'm looking forward to the first family retreat, a 'class Shabbat,' and other special experiences that build connection and learning." Another initiative created by BEKI's Education Visioning Committee is the appointment of Annie Norman-Schiff—previously BEKI's director of Youth and Family Programming and a Religious School teacher—

as education director.

"We are so excited to welcome Annie as our first-ever education director," Purdy's co-chair Rachel Light, said. "Annie has wonderfully fresh ideas for how to integrate religious school with family programming in a coherent curriculum, focusing on the holistic education of our children. The Shabbat activities and Sunday classroom experiences will now be partners in imparting the values and traditions of Judaism to our next generation."

BEKI spiritual leader, Rabbi Eric Woodward, says Norman-Schiff is the perfect fit to serve as the congregation's first education director.

"Throughout the process of hiring, the search committee found Annie to express passion, creativity, and an excitement to plan for the future," said Rabbi Woodward. "Annie's teaching skills, curriculum envisioning, and eagerness to work with children from birth through teenage years inspired us."

Norman-Schiff says she is "thrilled to take on the role of Education Director at such an exciting time

# at BEKI!

for the BEKI community. It is an incredible opportunity to build on BEKI's successful existing programs, with more opportunities to connect our kids and teens and deepen their understanding of Jewish life and values. I am especially excited to lead the Religious School and to introduce Teen Keshet. I hope to bring children's education at BEKI from strength to strength."

Norman-Schiff studied classics as an undergraduate at Stanford University and Judaic Studies as a graduate student at Hebrew University in Jerusalem and at Yale University. An experienced teacher of children and teens in settings ranging from religious schools to summer camps to youth groups, she worked at Jewish nonprofit organizations in New York through a fellowship with the Lynn and Charles Schusterman Foundation. She started her new position at BEKI on June 1.

For more information about BEKI, contact [beki.org](http://beki.org).

**Annie Norman-Schiff in giraffe costume leading a BEKI Purim program.**



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

# “Israel 2023: Choose Your Own Adventure” Adds Morocco Option



The pieces that will make up the March 9-16, 2023 “Choose Your Own Adventure” community trip to Israel are falling into place...and with it the excitement is growing, as more and more participants are signing up for what promises to be the trip of a lifetime.

Coordinated by the Jewish Federations of Greater New Haven and Greater Hartford, at least 200 community members are expected to participate in this unique travel experience featuring flexible tracks that cater to different interests. There's even an introductory itinerary for first-time visitors, and special itineraries focusing on geopolitics of the Middle East, arts and culture, food and wine, and technology and innovation.

And now, participants have the opportunity to extend their “adventure” by opting to add a five-night trip to Morocco after the Israel trip wraps up! The group will leave on

March 17 at Marrakech and stay at 5-star hotels and visit Jewish and historic sites in Casablanca, Rabat, and Fez.

So, whether this is your first time in Israel or you want to explore our Jewish homeland from a new angle – like technology, geopolitics, or the arts – this adventure will delight and inspire you.

Every track on the Israel trip provides an insider’s view of Israel with VIP access to sites and expert guides. Participants will enjoy kosher meals and deluxe accommodations at some of Israel’s finest hotels.

Although the itinerary is subject to change, here are a few highlight about what travelers can expect. Details are available on the trip’s official website at [israel-adventure-2023.eventmagix.com](http://israel-adventure-2023.eventmagix.com).

For more information, contact Robyn Teplitzky at [rteplitzky@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:rteplitzky@jewishnewhaven.org).



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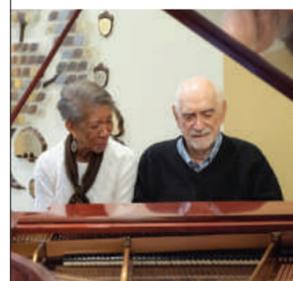
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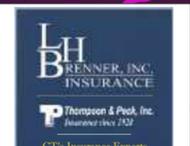
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## The Little Free PJ Library That Could



Standing next to the Little Free PJ Library box are (l to r) Ezra Academy Head of School Tani Cohen-Fraade; Jewish Federation Family Outreach Coordinator Kayla Bisbee; and Ezra's Director of Strategic Initiatives and Enrollment Jessica Khazak. The box was built and painted by Jewish Teen Education (JTE).

This past May, Ezra Academy and Congregation B'nai Jacob celebrated the installation of their new "Little Free PJ Library," a collaborative project between the two organizations and PJ Library of Greater New Haven. The library box was built and painted by Jewish Teen Education (JTE) and Ezra.

Located on the property shared by Congregation B'nai Jacob and Ezra Academy, the book exchange will be stocked with PJ Library books and will function on a "take one, leave one" basis. Families were encouraged to bring a gently used PJ Library book for a book swap and all of the extras were added to the library. Other family-friendly activities included bubbles, music, face-painting, "kindness rock" art projects, family bingo and a story walk.



PJ Library is powered by Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven. Learn more at [jewish-newhaven.org/pj](http://jewish-newhaven.org/pj).

Kids at the Little Free PJ Library dedication kids enjoyed activities, such as rock painting.



POWERED BY  
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OF GREATER NEW HAVEN

## PJ Library Finds a "Pathway" to Camp!

Over the course of the last year, Camp Laurelwood and PJ Library, powered by the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, partnered to connect Shoreline Jewish families with one another and bring them more Jewish programming.

The "Pathway to Jewish Experiences" series, made possible in large part thanks to a generous grant from PJ Library and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, culminated in our first ever PJ Library Family Camp Weekend Retreat that hosted PJ Library families from Greater New Haven, including Old Saybrook, Madison, Hamden and beyond.

Families connected around Shabbat blessings, Havdalah, nature walks, canoeing, kosher meals and so much more. Parents and kids alike enjoyed connecting as a family, making new friends and enjoying the beauty of Shabbat in a low barrier and inclusive Jewish summer camp setting.

This is expected to be the first of many opportunities to participate in a PJ Library Weekend Retreat and we hope you will join us next time!

Learn more about our upcoming opportunities at [jewishnewhaven.org/pj](http://jewishnewhaven.org/pj).



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# If You Can Ski on Snow, You Can Ski on Water

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

Did you know that water skiing was invented 100 years ago by a man named Ralph Samuelson who had a logical, yet out-of-the-box, thought. If you could ski on snow, thought the Minnesota man, then certainly you could ski on water.

That common sense notion led to Ralph's first attempt to water ski one day in June 1922 on Lake Pepin in Lake City, Minnesota, towed by his brother Ben.

Of course, as is the way of so many first attempts, this one was unsuccessful. But the brothers were undeterred. After experimenting for several days, Ralph had an 'ah-ha' moment: The key to water skiing, he concluded, was simply to lean back, ski tips up.

So, on July 2, 1922—just one day shy of his 19th birthday—Ralph Samuelson grabbed his hand-built skis and went water skiing.

Thus began a sport that is today enjoyed by people the world over. A sport powered by a dream and the determination to see it through.

The Jews of the former Soviet Union had a dream, too. A powerful dream. Their dream was to escape from the clutches of the tyrannical Russian government, and to live free and independent lives in free and independent country. For many, their determination paid off and their dream came true.

Today, in the US, Jews from the former Soviet Union are free — and one of the things they freely do is celebrate the holiday, both Jewish and American.

We are here to help them do just that. For example: On May 23, the Russian-speaking community—including some 300 people from around the world who joined virtually—enjoyed a concert celebrating the May holidays of Lag BaOmer, Mother's Day, Victory Day and Memorial Day. (Victory Day honors the 500,000+ Soviet Jews who fought against Nazi Germany, including over 200,000 who lost their lives.) The celebration was recorded and placed on YouTube for those unable to join the live broadcast.

The great success of our spring programs to our extraordinary team of dedicated volunteers and performers, including: Natalya Gribbaim-Smyrnos, Michael Shekman, Natalia Kiseleva, Evgeniy Iokhvid, and Marina Milgram, our bilingual IT manager who helped coordinate our virtual programs.

*The New American Acculturation Program helps members of our community learn American and Jewish history and traditions. For more information, including program sponsorships, contact Yelena Gerovich at 203 387-2424 x321, or ygerovich@jewishnewhaven.org*



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## WELCOME TO AMERICA

# Если вы можете кататься на лыжах по снегу, то вы можете кататься на лыжах и по воде

Знаете ли вы, что водные лыжи были изобретены 100 лет назад человеком по имени Ральф Самуэльсон, у которого возникла логичная, но нестандартная мысль. Если вы можете кататься на лыжах по снегу, подумал юноша из Миннесоты, то, конечно же, вы можете кататься на лыжах и по воде.

Эта задумка привела к первой попытке Ральфа покататься на водных лыжах в июне 1922 года на озере Пепин в Лейк-Сити, штат Миннесота, помогал ему его брат Бен.

Конечно, как и многие предыдущие попытки, и эта оказалась неудачной. Но братья были непреклонны. После нескольких дней экспериментов у Ральфа случился момент «эврика»: он пришел к выводу, что ключ к катанию на водных лыжах заключается в том, чтобы просто откинуться назад, подняв концы лыж.

Итак, 2 июля 1922 года — всего за один день до своего 19-летия — Ральф Самуэльсон подхватил свои самодельные водные лыжи и отправился кататься по воде.

Так зародился спорт, которым сегодня наслаждаются люди во всем мире. Спорт, основанный на мечте и решимости воплотить ее в жизнь.

У евреев из бывшего Советского Союза тоже была мечта. Чрезвычайно сильная мечта. Их мечтой было вырваться из лап деспотичного российского правительства и жить свободной и независимой жизнью в свободной и независимой стране. Для многих их решимость окупилась, и их мечта сбылась.

Сегодня в США евреи из бывшего Советского Союза свободны — и одна из многих вещей, которую можно делать свободно, — это празднование праздников, как еврейских, так и американских.

Наши программы помогают им делать это. 23 мая наша русскоязычная община и около 300 человек со всего мира, присоединившихся виртуально, насладились концертом, посвященным майским праздникам Лаг ба-Омер, Дню матери, Дню Победы и Дню памяти. (Более 500 000 советских евреев, сражались против нацистской Германии, более 200 000 погибли.) Празднование было записано и размещено на YouTube для тех, кто не смог присоединиться к прямой трансляции.

Большой успех наших весенних программ обязан экстраординарной команде преданных своему делу волонтеров и исполнителей, в том числе: Наталье Гринбаум-Смирнос, Михаилу Шехману, Наталье Киселевой, Евгению Иохвиду и Марине Мильграм, нашему двуязычному ИТ-менеджеру, которая помогла координировать наши виртуальные программы.

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 (tel:(203)387-2424) x321 или по электронной почте [ygerovich@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:ygerovich@jewishnewhaven.org) (<mailto:ygerovich@jewishnewhaven.org>)

“Welcoming the Stranger” card designed by Izzy



## New Haven Students Get Creative to Welcome the Stranger



“Welcoming the Stranger” card designed by Maya

Recently, the Jewish Community Alliance for Refugee Resettlement (JCARR) enlisted the aid of religious school students at Temple Emanuel in Orange (grades 4-7) and Congregation Mishkan Israel in Hamden (grades 4-6) to help raise funds needed to meet the needs of refugees settling in the Greater New Haven area.

While they were at, the students fulfilled an important mitzvah: to welcome the stranger.

The project took off in April, when JCARR's Lina Lawall met with the two groups of students to discuss the issue of refugees, the work that JCARR does to help resettle them, and how it all ties in to the Jewish commandment to welcome the stranger.

Then, with the guidance of artists Janet Brodie, Bobbie Friedman and Anne Eisner, the students tapped into their creative talents and set to work designing “Welcoming the Stranger” greeting cards.

After viewing the students' captivating artwork, eight cards were selected for inclusion in the sets.

Beautifully printed by the Jewish Federation, the cards are now available for purchase at a cost of \$25 per set. If hrtee sets or more are purchased, the price drops to \$20 per set. To purchase sets, residents of New Haven, Woodbridge, Milford, or Orange should contact Jean Silk at [jsilk@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:jsilk@jewishnewhaven.org); residents of Hamden, North Haven, Wallingford, Cheshire or any other town, should contact Lina Lawall at [lalawall250@gmail.com](mailto:lalawall250@gmail.com).

All proceeds support JCARR's work with refugee families.

JCAAR is a partnership of six New Haven-area synagogues and the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven.

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# THE WORLD AT A GLANCE

## Quentin Tarantino earns honorary degree from Hebrew U

(JNS) Filmmaker Quentin Tarantino was among eight recipients of an honorary degree, "Doctor Philosophiae Honoris Causa," from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem at a ceremony during the 85th Board of Governors meeting. The university awards such degrees to persons who have distinguished

themselves by academic or creative achievement, who have rendered outstanding service to the university or whose activities have been of notable benefit to humanity, the State of Israel or the Jewish people.

At the ceremony, university president Asher Cohen presented

the degree to Tarantino "in recognition of his critically acclaimed cinematic success as a writer, director and actor; honoring his 10 blockbuster movies and numerous Academy Awards, BAFTA Awards, Golden Globe Awards and the Palme d'Or award; in admiration of the scope of his artistic vision, creating films that span genres, historical periods and themes; and in tribute to his strong ties to Israel through his wife, Daniella [Pick], and for making Israel his second home."

## World Council of Churches promotes Presbyterian reverend with anti-Israel bias

(JNS) B'nai Brith International expressed concern and outrage over the newly elected general secretary of the World Council of Churches, Rev. Professor Dr. Jerry Pillay, who has a history of making anti-Jewish and anti-Israel comments. Pillay, a Presbyterian and dean at the University of Pretoria in South Africa, will start his new position in 2023.

"If protecting Jews' basic equality, dignity and security is inseparable from true ecumenism and the pursuit of human rights, Rev. Pillay's rise risks devastating harm to the cause of social justice," David Michaels, B'nai Brith's director of United Nations and Intercommunal Affairs, wrote last week in a Medium blog post. Michaels pointed out that in 2016, Pillay compared Israel and the alleged "exclusionary and violent character of the Israeli Zionist project" to South Africa's racial apartheid.

He also expressed support for the BDS movement against Israel, writing that "Jewish leadership" helped "influence European nationalism and colonization" with "a common desire to establishing the State of Israel ... on the land of Palestine." Additionally, the professor has accused Israel of wrongfully acting against "the indigenous people of the land" under "the guise of 'national security' or 'national interest.'" He also asked Christians to "resist the empirical ambition of Israeli Jews."

## Survey: Young adults connect through Shabbat dinner

(JNS) According to a survey conducted on behalf of OneTable, a nonprofit founded to support people in their 20s and 30s who want to share the beauty of a Shabbat meal together, young adults sign up for a OneTable Shabbat dinner to have both a Jewish experience and a chance to connect with their peers and build a community. OneTable Shabbats are offered in about 20 cities across the US. Participants can connect through the organization's website, which also has advice on how to mark Shabbat.

The survey found that some 40% of young Jews who participated in OneTable said they didn't have a regular way to mark Shabbat before signing up for a meal. After participating, however, they were more likely to engage in Shabbat celebrations. Some 75% of OneTable participants said they are celebrating Shabbat when they otherwise wouldn't.

Further, the survey found that participation in OneTable spurs additional interest in Jewish life and practice as about one in four participants said they've adopted new practices since attending their first OneTable Shabbat and nearly one in three have sought out new Jewish organizations or communities. Some 2,000 young adults participated in the survey, "Craving Connection: Researching OneTable's Impact," which was conducted by Benenson Strategy Group. Nearly a third did not have a bar or bat mitzvah growing up and about half did not mark Shabbat in their homes growing up.

## House subcommittee OKs security funding for houses of worship

(JNS) The Jewish Federations of North America applauded the U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security's approval of the 2023 fiscal year funding bill that includes \$360 million for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP).

The NSGP provides grants to nonprofits and houses of worship at high risk of terrorist attacks to help them fund security measures such as inspection and screening systems, fences, cameras, more secure doors, additional hiring of personnel and the development of emergency preparedness plans.

The program allows these institutions to apply for grants of up to \$150,000 each.

The funding bill is an increase of \$110 million from the 2022 fiscal year and "will help save lives and keep Jewish and other communities safe," the Jewish Federations said on June 16.

Appropriations Committee chair Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) said the bill "includes many of the federal programs critical to keeping our country safe. With this bill, we are securing our borders by funding smart and effective investments in technology and operations."

## Canadian MP laments anti-Israel taunts at daughter's graduation

(JNS) A Canadian Parliament minister took to social media recently to recount an incident of antisemitism at her daughter's graduation ceremony, held on the grounds of a Toronto area amusement park. In her posting, Ya'ara Saks, MP for York Centre in Toronto, wrote: "Yesterday, I went to my daughter's graduation at Wonderland. ... Many of the parents there were visibly Jewish (kipot, modest dress, sheitels). As families were walking, a group of young people passed and yelled out 'stop killing Palestinians.' These parents are Canadians, living here. This wasn't a public event nor had it anything to do with the conflict; it was a high school graduation," wrote the MP. "They're just visibly Jewish. This is so wrong. It's collectively blaming Jews for a foreign conflict. It's hate, it's anti-Semitism, it's dangerous, and it needs to stop."

"We need to build bridges across communities, and we must do it now," wrote Saks, who also serves as the parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development. "We need to educate about what and how hate spreads. We need to stand up and call it out to make sure that those young people know what they did was wrong and won't be tolerated in any quarter."

Marvin Rotrand, national director of B'nai Brith Canada's League for Human Rights, told JNS: "The haters can spin anti-Zionism anyway they want, but the reality is it results in hate and violence aimed at Jews everywhere in the world. There is always an underlying threat of violence. ... We can never allow Jew-hatred to be normalized in Canada."

## Poland wants to change how Israel conducts Holocaust-study trips

(JNS) The Polish government wants to implement new rules regarding visits by Israeli students to study the Holocaust in the country, including reconsidering the presence of armed Israeli guards. Polish Deputy Foreign Minister Marcin Przydacz explained that the armed guards, the exclusive focus on the Holocaust and no contact with Polish schoolchildren were giving Israelis a "negative image" of Poland, reported the Associated Press. "There are also threads appearing [to suggest] that Poland is an antisemitic country, and for that reason, it's dangerous here," Przydacz told Radio RMF24.

He said that a new agreement is needed between Israel and Poland, adding that Warsaw has been trying to make such an agreement for months. Last week, Israel said it would not resume the trips after they were suspended during the coronavirus pandemic because it claimed that Poland was trying to change the content studied.

# Beckerman Cultural Arts Series Wraps Up an Illuminating Season

The reviews are in! And we're proud to report that this year's Beckerman Cultural Arts Series — which opened in September 2021 and wrapped up in June 2022 — was a hit!

And we have so many people to thank — most especially our generous sponsor, David Beckerman, whose ongoing generous support of cultural arts at the JCC has enabled us to greatly expand our impressive roster of programs.

This season, the Beckerman Cultural Arts series focused on several important areas: Jewish Traditions and Community, Jewish Disabilities, Cultural Conflict, and many more.

The series featured discussions led by 16 distinguished authors, and 48 thought-provoking films, and five discussions on a variety of topics. Most programs were offered virtually only, while several were offered both virtually and in person.

### VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SERIES' DISCUSSION LEADERS, INCLUDING:

- Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus for leading the discussion on "Jewish Communities and Traditions"
- Michael Storz, president of Chapel Haven for leading the discussion on "Disabilities"

## BECKERMAN JEWISH CULTURAL ARTS SERIES



- Rabbi Rona Shapiro for leading the discussion on "Women Breaking Barriers"
- Rabbi Benjamin Scolnic for leading the discussion on "Family Secrets"
- Rabbi Eric Woodward for leading the discussion on "Cultural Conflict"

We encourage you to listen to the recorded author talks, several of which are now available on our website at JCCNH.org, under the Cultural Arts tab.

**"The connections made while watching the DISABILITY film category, and then listening to Michael Storz tie it all together to what is happening in our current lives, really made a huge impact for my entire family. Thank you so much for offering a rich blend of topics"**

*Mary Purpora, East Haven CT*

*The Cultural Arts committee is already hard at work, selecting authors and film for the 2022-2023 series. Stay tuned!*



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# Shalom FUN!

By Chava Light

## WHAT ARE YOU MOST EXCITED FOR THIS SUMMER?

**Mordy:** "I like to have extra screen time in the summer!"

**BINYOMIN:** "I LIKE TO WEAR A HAT IN THE SUMMER!"

**Zevi:** "I'm excited to sleep in a tent!"

**MIRIAM:** "GOING TO CAMP!"

**SHIMMY:** "CAMP GAN IZZY!"

**momo:** "going on trips!"

**Levi:** "I'm looking forward to eating ice pops on our front steps and riding bikes in Nantucket."

**Asher:** "I can't wait for my first beach trip in Hilton Head and my first time on a plane!"

**Serach:** "I can't wait to go to another country and to go to a wedding in Israel. I also can't wait for camp and wearing summer clothing!"

**Ella:** "I'm excited to play with Oumi and Oupi on the beach!"

**Yonatan:** "I'm excited for swimming, and the snow cones and game room at Camp Gan Izzy! I'm also excited to meet new friends and to see my little brother at camp for his first time!"

# TRIBUTES & REMEMBRANCES

To purchase a tribute card: [jccnh.org](http://jccnh.org), [jewishnewhaven.org](http://jewishnewhaven.org), [newhavenjewishfoundation.org](http://newhavenjewishfoundation.org)  
 \*Tributes listed are up to June 17, 2022

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In memory of Vivian Rudnick to the Ukraine Relief Fund  
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 Civia & Allen Tamarkin

In memory of Joshua Sokolow, father of Jay Sokolow  
 Judy Alperin

In memory of Stanley Lesser, father of Betsy Flaherty  
 Stacey & David Trachten

In celebration of Karen Rivkin's grandmother  
 Bob Steinbach

In memory of Richard Goldberg  
 Barry & Hyla Vine  
 Susan & Lenny Skope

In honor of the engagement of Hannah Caplan, daughter of Linda & Mark Caplan  
 Judy Alperin  
 Amy, Mark & Sarah Holtz

In memory of Edythe Tanenbaum  
 Kenneth Spitzbard

In honor of the engagement of Marlee Teplitzky, daughter of Linda & Josh Teplitzky  
 Susan & Lenny Skope

In memory of Estelle Herman, mother of Michele Brownstein  
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In memory of Tibby Super to the Ukraine Relief Fund  
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In memory of Arnold Lazaroff  
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In honor of Allan Greenberg  
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In memory of Edythe Tanenbaum  
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In honor of Arthur Grodd's Birthday to the Barry Vine Send a Kid Scholarship Fund  
 Mark Friedman

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 Amy & Allan Horbar  
 Elaine Chapman  
 Elizabeth Ezra  
 Jean Silk

In honor of Clifford Wolff's "special" birthday  
 Margaret & Stef Paschen-Wolff

In honor of Sheldon Natkin  
 Sharon & David Braver  
 Joe & Cindy Goldberg

In honor of Sheldon Natkin's 75th Birthday  
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In honor of Edith Tannenbaum  
 Gayle Katz

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