

The Voice of the Greater New Haven Jewish Community

# SHALOM

Test your  
Shavuot  
knowledge



pages 14-16

## NEW HAVEN

SPRING/SUMMER 2023 • IYAR/SIVAN 5783

# Touring Israel from every angle

pages 6-7





# The JCC introduces the “Café with a Cause”

## THE NEW CAFÉ J TO OPEN MAY 22

Scott Cohen has been on staff at the Greater New Haven Jewish Community Center for 27 years now. And, he estimates, that’s about as many outside vendors as he’s seen try to make a go of a restaurant or café at the JCC.

“The JCC is a busy place, but it’s not the place a restaurant or café can thrive and make a profit. I always felt like it needed to have another purpose,” says Cohen, the JCC’s Executive Director.

Still, he says, “I wanted to reopen it, because even though there’s a lot of life in this building, there’s so much more life within the building when there’s a café. It becomes a gathering point; a place for people to meet.

“So I started to think about what the other purpose for the café could be, and that’s when I realized that we already have this deep relationship with Chapel Haven and they could partner with us to provide all these great opportunities for vocational education. That would be the café’s purpose.”

In other words, the café would be more than just an eatery — it would be a full-blown program.

“We have had a partnership with the JCC for the last four years or so, and have a current internship program there where our students intern in different departments to build skills and prepare for employment,” says Sarah Elsdon, NCSP, director of CareerAbility at Chapel Haven Schleifer Center Inc., a New Haven non-profit dedicated to teaching adults with developmental disabilities the skills needed to live independently.

And so, she says, when “Scott Cohen expressed interest in reopening their café, to offer a community gathering space, but also serve as a vehicle for training for our students, we said yes, we would love to help get it started and be involved!”

Referring to Café J as a “learning café,” Elsdon calls the program “a work-based learning opportunity for individuals with disabilities. The vision is students from Chapel Haven will work alongside JCC community mentors and café staff to serve the members/visitors and build employment skills in the field of retail/culinary.”

The students will be supervised by a Chapel Haven job coach, and guided by volunteer mentors provided trained and supervised by

Jewish Family Service. Rachel Scolnic-Dobin of JFS will work for the JCC as a social therapist to coordinate student and volunteer partners.

“JFS and JCC want to create a space where curiosity about each other goes beyond being co-located and is truly integrated,” notes JFS Director Alissa Wurtzel. “Café J becomes a space where JFS can facilitate community learning and inclusivity. Rachel will liaison between the communities of Chapel Haven, the JCC, and broader community.”

*Wurtzel and Dobin both encourage anyone interested in becoming a JFS mentor to contact Rachel Scolnic-Dobin at (203) 941-3544 [rsdobin@jfsnh.org](mailto:rsdobin@jfsnh.org)*

Of course, what’s a café without food? Not much. Unfortunately, Café J couldn’t promise to generate enough traffic to earn regular food deliveries from any of the national institutional food providers. Enter The Towers. The Jewish Senior living community in New Haven offered to help Café J by harnessing their food provider Morrison, and their national buying power, which includes, FreshKo. Now, thanks to The Towers’ Team, Café J will offer a full complement of pre-packaged kosher grab-and-go food, like sandwiches and salads, pizza and bagels (and challah on Fridays for pick-up!), and the list goes on.

Jennifer Bayer, Associate Vice President, Strategic Initiatives happily remarked, “The Towers is thrilled to step in and help the community in meaningful ways whenever it is needed. We are delighted to be a resource and looking forward to this exciting new project.”

As Cohen’s idea to create a café that was essentially a program with a purpose took root, he realized he needed someone to take over the complicated task of pulling together all the moving parts and getting the program off the ground. With his own plate filled with the task of fundraising needed to run the program (the café has already received a \$25,000 Federation Impact Grant and several other generous donations), he sought a consultant to come in and take charge.

He found his consultant in the person of Shelly Gans, a former New Haven JCC director.

“I’ve been away from the JCC for a few years and this was just the perfect combination of elements that **(Continued on page 25)**

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

### SUBMISSIONS

*To submit an article or photo, please email [snh@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:snh@jewishnewhaven.org). Please include your contact information when submitting.*

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# Coming Soon!

**Grand Opening Event: Monday, May 22, 2023 at 11:00 AM**

Café J does more than offer fresh food options and hand-crafted coffee. We are committed to training individuals with developmental and social disabilities to provide opportunities for growth, learning, and independence. Join us for the exciting grand opening of our very own “Café with a Cause.”

**Regular Business Hours Begin on Tuesday, May 23, 2023**  
**Monday through Friday, 8:00 am – 2:00 pm**

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**Scan to learn more about Café J**

*Conveniently located inside the JCC*

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# What Moves You as a Jew!

In the past few weeks, I have had so many moments that were engaging, prideful, joyful, exciting, humbling, and solemn. They all moved me. I wanted to share some of them with you and I hope you will share your special moments with me and others.

I attended a very compelling lecture and discussion at Temple Beth David which featured a presentation by Judy Kopman-Fried, the daughter of holocaust survivors, and Claudia Kiesinger, the granddaughter of Nazi perpetrators. I was spellbound by Judy’s remarkable story and the vivid recollections of her parents. And listening to Claudia explain why she speaks out against antisemitism was uplifting.

I happened to read the Temple B’nai Jacob website and newsletter and was thrilled to see the large number of donations and remembrances. As Sydney Perry said to me over 25 years ago, “strong temples make for a strong federation!”

We have had a number of meetings recently of your Executive Committee, your Federation Board of Directors, the Foundation Board, the Finance Committee, the new Jewish Senior Services and Engagement Committee. I am deeply moved by the number of people who give of their time and money to assure the success of your Federation. This is a testament to our wonderful community!

I am thrilled to see the upcoming events recognizing members of our community—the Ezra Gala honoring Evan Wyner, Sydney Perry and Joshua Edelglass on May 7, and the Jewish Family Service Spring Celebration honoring Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro, Linda Caplan, and Lisa Stanger. I encourage you to attend either one or both of these inspiring and entertaining events. If you can make either or both of these, that would be wonderful.

I was so pleased at the outpouring of faith and civic leaders at the news conference, held on the New Haven Green on the day of our first Passover seder, denouncing antisemitism. In addition to myself, many dignitaries — including Mayor Justin Elicker of New Haven, Mayor Lauren Garrett of Hamden, and Rabbi Brian Immerman of Congregation Mishkan Israel all spoke eloquently denouncing all types of hate.

Likewise, It was wonderful to join many of our legislators and state treasurer Erick Russell at the Legislative Breakfast hosted by the JCRC and chaired by Milton Wallack, and held at the Towers.

I was excited to hear from Scott Cohen and David Sirowich that the JCC is back to all-time record levels of participation, with even more growth expected! In addition, I was glad to receive a reminder from the Jewish Cemetery Association about their annual campaign. Caring for our departed is a cornerstone of Jewish living.

I am grateful to Ken Sandberg for taking on leadership of a new Jewish Senior Services and Engagement Committee to enhance the lives of our over-65-year-old members.

I am so thankful to all of you who contribute to our annual campaign, legacy and Pace funds. And I am proud to report that when I mention membership in Federation to those who don’t participate, everyone has told me they will be happy to provide support and are glad to be asked!

It was a joy to participate on the Israel trip along with the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford. The leadership exhibited by Amy Holtz and Robyn Teplitzky, along with their tireless efforts to assure everyone was safe and cared for, is a testament to their concern for others. The camaraderie and shared interests regarding all things Jewish was inspiring... and visiting many places funded by all of you, particularly the Shalva Center in Jerusalem, a world renowned center for children with disabilities, was something we all can be proud of.

Lastly, I would like to share something that even three weeks later brings a warm smile to my face. After the Israel trip, my daughter Alivia and I went to Egypt for 36 hours. Upon leaving the Cairo Museum, our guide asked us after leaving the Cairo Museum what our religion was. We told him we were Jewish and we could tell that both he, a Christian, and our Muslim driver, were a little surprised. Our guide told us that he knew a Jewish person from a previous tour and we had very pleasant conversation. While having lunch overlooking the Pyramids (before our visit to the Pyramids and the Great Sphinx of Giza), Alivia noticed a person whose back was bright red and walked over to offer the person sunscreen. Then Alivia made me move my seat so I wasn’t sitting in the bright sun. Alivia saw some stray dogs and took all the food from her plate and carried it to feed the dogs. Alivia came back with tears in her eyes and the guide asked if she was okay. Alivia said yes but it broke her heart to see these underfed dogs. Alivia then asked for my food and took a bottle of water and went back to tend to the dogs. At this point, our guide turned to me and said- “I think I understand better now what Jewish means.” “Jewish”, he told me, “means caring about others more than you care about yourself.” And with that comment, I was a very proud Jew... and an even prouder father!

Wishing you all a wonderful spring and continuing hope for peace and health,



Gerry Barker  
President  
Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven



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JCC

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Day Camps





2023 CAMP SEASON: Session 1, June 26 - July 21 | Session 2, July 24 - August 18

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#3. Get a free annual JCC membership.

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# New Haven Beit Midrash Wraps Up a Year of Learning

By Rabbi Josh Pernick

Three times over the past six months, members of our greater New Haven Jewish community have gathered for sessions of the “New Haven Beit Midrash,” a bi-monthly Jewish learning series powered by the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven and the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies, along with many of our local area synagogues. Over the course of these sessions, about 100 participants have engaged in Jewish learning of different forms: from text learning to mediation; yoga to artistic creations.



Now, the program is ready to wrap up, with the final installment in the series scheduled to be held on Wednesday, May 24 at Temple Beth David in Cheshire, featuring Rabbi Brent Spodek as guest educator.

In each of the first three New Haven Beit Midrash sessions, participants from a broad range of area synagogues and Jewish affiliations have come together to learn, debate and enjoy spending the evening with one another. The sessions feature breakout groups led by local, New Haven-area educators after the conclusion of the keynote talks, highlighting the incredible educators who call New Haven home.

In Jewish tradition, learning is an ongoing process. On the holiday of Simchat Torah, we celebrate the completion of the Torah before immediately returning to the beginning. Similarly, at a “siyum,” a ceremony performed upon the completion of the study of a unit of study, we declare “*hadran alach vehadrach alan*,” ‘we will return to you, and you will return to us.’ The same can be said of the New Haven Beit Midrash; while sessions will be on hold for the summer, we look forward to the next series of New Haven Beit Midrash sessions during the 2023-24 academic year.

**FILM**  
**The Jews and the Blues**  
Written & Directed by Drew Stone and Evan B. Stone | USA 2022 | Documentary English | 67 Min.

**Monday, May 1 through Sunday, May 7**  
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**FILM**  
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Runtime: 78 min | Color | Year: 2007  
Language: Hebrew | Subtitles: English

**Monday, May 15— Sunday, May 21**  
**WATCH ONLINE ALL WEEK!**

**AUTHORS**  
Craig & Jeffrey Weiss  
**Fighting Back**  
Monday, May 1  
7:30 PM VIA ZOOM

**AUTHOR**  
Ari Mittleman  
**Paths of the Righteous**  
Tuesday, May 16  
7:30 PM VIA ZOOM

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# On the road in Israel



Silent disco at the Mamilla Mall in Jerusalem was a huge success.

By Robyn Teplitzky

In 2020, the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven invested in a strategic study to determine communal priorities. Israel fell on the bottom of the list. In order to reconnect and showcase the support New Haven provides Israel, a Connecticut community trip was planned in collaboration with the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford.

The 2023 Israel Adventure, co-chaired locally by Lauren and David Hass, along with Yitz and Juanita Moss from Hartford, brought together 152 people — families, individuals,

couples, first-timers and veteran travelers — for an exploration of the Jewish state. Twenty people then participated on an extension to experience Jewish Morocco.

The unique trip was designed to offer participants the opportunity to select from four diverse tracks: Must See, Geopolitics and Coexistence, Food, Wine, Art, and Culture, and Technology and Innovation. Daily itineraries were created according to one's personal interests. In addition to sightseeing, there were daily presentations from top political advisors, educators, and leaders. Each day, participants learned a new Hebrew word and were treated to a special taste of Israel.

The festive opening event was held at Jerusalem's magnificent Olmaza Gardens and, in addition to trip participants, was attended by local dignitaries, lone soldiers, new olim, and former emissaries and residents of Connecticut. It was so great to reconnect with Eliraz Shifman Berman, a past employee of the Jewish Federation and her husband, and Nadav!

The welcome program also included video greetings from Israel's President Isaac Herzog, and former Knesset member Michal Cotler-Wunsh who provided a framework of the country's current situation.

Participants on the 2023 Israel Adventure trip organized by the Jewish Federation's of New Haven and Hartford return home



Robyn Teplitzky poses with young Ethiopian immigrants at Beit Alfa Absorption Center in Afula



Michal Cotler-Wunsh



Nathan Schachter, personal assistant to Jewish Agency for Israel CEO and former CT resident.



Marketing & Communications Manager Derek Holodak models swag from the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI).



Robyn Teplitzky and Gayle Slossberg bring in Shabbat at the Kotel.



Evan Wyner welcomes trip participants to our SNEC partner region, Afula-Gilboa.



Juanita & Yitz Moss and Lauren & David Hass, Israel 2023 Trip Co-Chairs.



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**Hartford JCRC Director Danielle Mogdaham (left) & UCONN Hillel Executive Director Edina Oestreicher.**



**Rabbis Tuvia Brander, Bekah Goldman and Rona Shapiro.**



**Towers CEO Gus Keach-Longo and Jewish Family Service CEO Alissa Wurtzel.**



**Jewish Federation's Association of CT (JFACT) CEO Michael Bloom.**

The list of events and activities packed into this once-in-a-lifetime trip could run volumes. But here are just a few of the trip's highlights:

- Professor Reuven Y. Hazan, Chair in Israeli Democracy & Politics at Hebrew University, officially kicked off the adventure with a talk about the structure of the Israeli political system.
- The entire group welcomed Shabbat together with a festive dinner. The popular Kippalive acapella group ushered in Shabbat with music and spirit at the Kotel... and then returned at the close of Shabbat to lead the Havdalah service.
- A silent disco in the Mamilla Mall was just one of the special evening activities. Others includes guided tunnel tours and a late night tour of the market.
- What's a trip to Israel without a stop at Connecticut's sister region, Afula/Gilboa. The group gathered at the Mishkan Museum of Art in Ein Harod and, after remarks from Evan Wyner, Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven's Chair for the Southern New England Consortium (SNEC) of the Jewish Agency's Partnership2Gether (P2G) program, set off to visit different local agencies.
- LTC (Res) Jonathan Conricus, a former International spokesperson for the IDF, gave visitors a strategic security briefing focusing on Israel's borders, and relayed to them his experience encountering anti-Israeli bias in the international media.

- The entire group met up for a festive dinner party in the old courtyard at Ahuzat Dubrovnik, the Dubrovnik Estates. On display were 75 years of Israeli achievements that dazzle the senses — Israeli wine, crafts, soaps, fruits, and other local products.
- While many of the participants headed south to Masada and the Dead Sea, others were inspired to attend a talk by Gilad Carni, a prominent player in the Israel hi-tech scene and a successful entrepreneur.
- As the tour came to a close, participants were treated to a festive mega event celebrating Israel @75 which took place at Yordei Hasira at the Tel Aviv port.
- The final morning program brought all of the impact stories and messages together with a panel presentation facilitated by Becki Caspi, Senior Vice President of JFNA and personal testimony from The Israel Trauma and Resiliency Center (NATAL), American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), and Jewish Agency for Israel.
- As the tour wrapped up, many chose to visit various Tel Aviv museums — such as the Yitzhak Rabin Center and the Ya'acov Agam Museum. Others couldn't pass up one last meal at Levinsky Market. Still other lived out their fantasy by being a pilot for a day at the Squadron, using the most advanced F-16 simulator in Israel, with cutting-edge technology and high-definition terrain view.

Finally, it was time to say goodbye to the land of Israel...and, of course, l'hitraot!



**Interim CEO/CDO Amy Holtz enjoying the silent disco.**



**A capella group Kippalive helping bring in and close out Shabbat with live musical performances.**



**Cindy Miller celebrating Shabbat.**



**Federation President Gerry Barker & daughter Alivia at Metula.**



**Federation's Susan Skalka (top, left) and Israel's Eliraz Shifman Berman, Foundations Lisa Stanger (bottom, left), and Federation's Robyn Teplitzky.**



**Adventure participants hiking up Masada.**



**Mark & Linda Caplan making chocolate.**



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# A Week in the Life of JCC Preschool Sports and Recreation

The Sports and Recreation Department provides fun and exercise to all at the Jewish Community Center—and our Beverly Levy Early Learning Center Students certainly takes advantage of all they have to offer!

Preschool student Ana participates in activities almost every day. “My favorite classes are all of my classes!” she said when asked what she likes best.

On Monday, Ana attends her first enrichment class of the week, ‘Creative Creations,’ held in the JCC MakerSpace. She participates in this mid-day class with seven other Beverly Levy students. “Today we are making monsters!” her teacher Ms. Sandy said “What noise do monsters make?” “Roar!!!” the children called back, laughing and clapping. Ana created a monster using yarn, gluesticks, a tissue box, and googly eyes.

On Wednesday, Ana and 10 classmates received a big surprise as they arrived at the most popular enrichment class this winter, ‘Sticky Fingers.’ “Today we are making salad!” announced Ms. Sandy and Coach Rachel, which was met by both groans and cheers from the children who were used to creating sweets like strawberry shortcake and fairy bread. But Ana was excited about the salads and began drawing the ingredients she would use.

While the children prepared their ingredients, Ms. Sandy told them a story about a magical fairy land that used salad ingredients to defeat the bad guys and save the kingdom. At the end of the class the children enjoyed their creations.

Next up: Sports and Recreation in which Ana takes a private swim lesson with Mr. Chris! Ana is currently working on freestyle, backstroke, and learning water safety so she is ready for a summer of fun in the pool and at the beach.

Thursday has Ana taking a Micro Mini 2 Ballet and Tap class with the JCC’s dance director Ms. Jenn. This hour long class involves stretching, ballet technique, jazz moves, and dress up time — Ana’s favorite! The best part of doing dance and tumbling classes at the JCC is preparing for the June dance recital. Ana is excited about her beautiful costume and watching her friends dance.

Ana continues her week with indoor swimming class taught by Mr. Chris and her Beverly Levy teachers. Ana and her classmates enjoy this activity as a special part of their preschool curriculum.

As the winter session come to an end and spring session registration opens, Ana looks forward to beginning a number of new activities and staying busy! The JCC Sports and Recreation department is excited to debut a few new classes, including ‘Little Science,’ and bringing back old favorites like ‘Little Yoga’ and ‘Pee Wee Sports.’



Ana and her classmates made salads in the popular “Sticky Finger” class!



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# AT THE JCC Healthy Bones

By Susan Donovan

Director of Wellness & Group Exercise,  
JCC of Greater New Haven

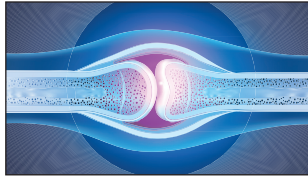
Keeping our bones healthy and strong is an essential part of maintaining good health and mobility, especially as we age.

Bones are living tissue that can regenerate which is how broken bones can heal over time. With over 200 bones in the human body, their function is not only to provide structural support, they also protect internal organs, enable movement, and store minerals like calcium and phosphorous to be released into the body when needed.

Bones continuously change throughout your lifetime but peak bone mass is reached by the time we turn 30. Then your body tends to begin to lose bone density, over time this leads to bone loss. This can be especially problematic for postmenopausal women due to hormonal changes. A few other factors related to bone health include a low activity level, tobacco or alcohol use, a petite body frame, family history, and the use of some medications.

**OSTEOPOROSIS** meaning 'porous bones' is a progressive condition and increases the risk of fractures as the bone structure becomes weaker.

**OSTEOPENIA** is a precursor of sorts because it means having low bone mass.



This may progress to osteoporosis but it's not inevitable with lifestyle and prevention strategies.

Your health care provider can order bone density screenings and discuss options if you are at risk.

## EXERCISE & LIFESTYLE

Like muscle, bone is living tissue that can become stronger with regular use—or weaker if you're sedentary. The exercises for healthy bones involve putting a little stress on them. This will prompt your bones to add mass in response. Strength training with weight bearing activities are great for bone building. Active walking is also considered weight bearing since your subjecting your bones to stress as you stride. Climbing stairs and low-impact aerobics or sport-like activities are also great options.

Dietary and lifestyle considerations include getting enough calcium and vitamin D in your diet and limiting alcohol consumption, and eliminating tobacco products.

Ask your healthcare provider if you should consider nutrition supplements to be sure you are getting what your body needs.

Need help getting started or balancing out your activities to keep your bones (and muscles) strong, contact [susand@jccnh.org](mailto:susand@jccnh.org) for a free wellness consultation!



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# Dignity Grows Continues to Make a Difference

In March, volunteers and staff came together to pack close to 500 Dignity Grows tote bags at two packing parties attended by a total of 27 volunteers.

The parties, held on March 7 and 27 at the Greater New Haven Jewish Community Center, were organized by Women's Philanthropy of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven. The Federation



**A group of Dignity Grows volunteers at a recent packing party at the JCC.**

**\*A Dignity Grows packing party will take place prior to the Women's Philanthropy Campaign closing event on June 1 at 5 pm.**

is proud to be a part of the national movement of Dignity Grows, a program that supplies essential menstrual and hygiene supplies to those in need.

"I am proud to be a part of the Women's Philanthropy Dignity Grows program," says Enid Groves who participated in the March packing party. "It is empowering and fulfilling knowing we are assisting so many women in the Greater New Haven area in need of hygiene supplies. Women's Philanthropy will continue to strive to address this issue."

Period poverty — the issue Groves refers to — is a growing concern. Fortunately, in the State of Connecticut that our legislators and state representatives are aware of the growing needs. State Representative Kate Farrar (D – West Hartford) lauds the inclusion of \$2 million in state budget to address access to menstrual products in Connecticut public school restrooms, on college campuses, and in shelters.

This bill allows boards of education to use donations, grants, or partnerships with community organizations to facilitate the placement of free menstrual products in school bathrooms.

Launched in 2019 in Greater Hartford, Dignity Grows has since morphed into a national initiative in dozens of communities — and its growing every day. There are now 36 Dignity Grows chapters all across North America, which have collectively distributed over 22,000 Dignity Grows totes to our neighbors in need, including over 10,000 which have already been distributed across Connecticut.

Locally, a group of committed volunteers, as part of Women's Philanthropy, are engaging others to join "packing parties" to organize, assemble, and distribute free, reusable zipper-top totes filled with a month's supply of soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrushes, and toothpaste, along with menstrual products. The totes are distributed through several partner agencies including Jewish Family Services, Gateway Community College, and the Connecticut Food Bank.

The cost of a tote is only \$10 per bag. Through the generosity of grants from the Women of Vision of the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven, B Foundation, Aunt Flow, and many generous donors, we have been able to distribute more than 4,600 bags throughout our community.

*\*To learn more about volunteering at our packing party on June 1, or making a financial contribution, contact [replitzky@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:replitzky@jewishnewhaven.org).*



**Jewish Federation**  
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Women's  
Philanthropy

**WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY  
CAMPAIGN CLOSING EVENT**



**Thursday, June 1  
6:30 p.m.**

**Beckerman Lender Jewish Community Building  
360 Amity Road, Woodbridge**

**\$36 per person OR \$100 bring a guest with a donation to Women's Philanthropy in her honor / Kashrut Observed**

**Special Guest: Nancy Gerber**  
AUTHOR OF: *Burnt Toast: A Memoir of My Immigrant Grandmother*

**Dignity Grows packing party at 5 p.m.**

*This event is to acknowledge the generosity and support of all donors to the 2023 Annual Women's Philanthropy Campaign.*

**RSVP by May 15 at [jewishnewhaven.org/wp-hatsoff](http://jewishnewhaven.org/wp-hatsoff)**



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**Contact Sandy at [sandyh@jccnh.org](mailto:sandyh@jccnh.org) or call (203) 387-2424 x251 to book your event or discuss your ideas.**



# Legislative Breakfast Brings Together Community Leaders



On Wednesday, March 29, members of the Greater New Haven Jewish community met with statewide elected officials at the Jewish Community Relations Council's annual Legislative Breakfast, held at, and catered by, The Towers at Tower Lane.

Pictured here, (l to r): Event Chair Milt Wallack, Consul General of Israel to New England Meron Reuben, State Representative Moira Rader, State Representative Mary Welander, Rabbi-in-Residence/JCRC Director Josh Pernick, State Treasurer Erick Russell, Senate President Pro Tempore Martin Looney, Jewish Federation President Gerry Barker, JFACT CEO Michael Bloom, Towers Board Member Gayle Slossberg, Interim Federation CEO & CDO Amy Holtz.

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# The Jewish Federation: Partnering in Refugee Resettlement

When in late 2015, the Syrian refugee crisis filled the news, the image of the body of a three-year-old boy on a beach in Turkey grabbed our attention. In response to the question, “What can we do?” the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven and representatives of local synagogues determined that a meaningful, sustainable response required more than one synagogue could offer.

Five synagogues and the Federation committed to collaborating and formed a co-sponsor group for IRIS, New Haven’s Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services. The synagogues were Temple Emanuel, Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel, Congregation B’nai Jacob, Congregation Mishkan Israel, and Congregation Or Shalom. In our sixth year, a sixth synagogue joined the partnership: Temple Beth David (Reform) of Cheshire.

Jean Silk was hired as the Coordinator, and the program was named. From its inception, the Jewish Community Alliance for Refugee Resettlement—now widely known by its acronym JCARR, was understood to be a synagogue program. Then, in 2019, IRIS informed its co-sponsors that all volunteers must be covered by liability insurance. When none of the JCARR synagogues could offer this coverage, but the Federation could, JCARR moved under the Federation’s umbrella.

Since 2019, the Federation has provided what past CEO Judy Alperin described as “back office support” of JCARR. Jean Silk says the organization benefits greatly from the work of the Business Office and departments of Marketing,



**A family of JCARR volunteers.**

Development, IT, and the Jewish Foundation. The Jewish Federation does not regularly provide JCARR with direct financial support.

However, when the COVID Pandemic struck, JCARR families were affected by parents’ loss of employment, children were attending school remotely and needed parental supervision, and JCARR could not organize in-person fundraising events. The Federation responded by providing Maimonides grants that helped JCARR parents pay rent during the difficult financial period.

According to the World Bank, globally, more than 100 million forcibly displaced people, including refugees, internally displaced persons, and asylum seekers, have fled their homes to escape violence, conflict, and persecution. JCARR models how a community can turn concern into action. JCARR

demonstrates how people can form partnerships and turn sad stories into success stories. Our efforts have been recognized as a model of community co-sponsorship and collaboration among synagogues.

## HELPING REFUGEES IN OUR COMMUNITY GIVES US A FEELING OF HOPE AND A MEANINGFUL WAY TO PARTICIPATE IN REPAIR OF THE WORLD

Your contributions sustain JCARR’S mission.

*To donate to JCARR, go online to [jewishnewhaven.org/refugee-resettlement/give](http://jewishnewhaven.org/refugee-resettlement/give). Or send checks, payable to The Jewish Federation, with JCARR in the memo line, to The Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, 360 Amity Road, Woodbridge, 06525. Attention Amy Holtz. We greatly appreciate your support!*

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# From Mount Sinai to dairy delight



**Long before Shavuot became a celebration of receiving the Torah, it was known as the Feast of Weeks and designated a harvest holiday.**

By Deborah Feinblum

(JNS) Arguably the most important Jewish holiday that a good many Jews know little about, Shavuot celebrates nothing less than our forebearers receiving the Torah some 3,300 years ago (hence the Hebrew moniker—Zeman Matan Torateinu, “the time of the giving of our Torah”). And, perhaps even more fateful, it marks the moment when they agreed to abide by it. Sight unseen.

“We will do and we will hear,” they swore, defying that logic thinking that would have expected the reverse order.

And on Shavuot (beginning this Saturday night and running through Sunday at sundown, for those who live in Israel, and Monday night everywhere else), the Jewish people are meant to feel like they are receiving the Torah and making that Divine deal with the Creator all over again.

## HERE’S THE TEST:

1. Shavuot started out as a harvest holiday. What is a recent Israeli addition to its lore?
2. Why don’t most Jews make a big deal of Shavuot, as they do on Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Passover and even Hanukkah, which religiously is somewhat small potatoes?
3. How many days after Passover does Shavuot fall, and what’s the goal of that period?
4. Why does Shavuot last only one day in Israel and two days in the Diaspora?
5. Why is Shavuot an all-nighter?
6. Why is Shavuot a special holiday for Jewish converts?
7. Why is Shavuot an equal-opportunity holiday?
8. What’s with the cheesecake?

## SOME ANSWERS TO REFLECT UPON:

1. Long before Shavuot became a celebration of receiving the Torah, it was known as the Feast of Weeks and designated a harvest holiday. At this time of year in Israel, the first of the fruits are ready to be picked, and the custom grew up to deliver a basket of the best of one’s first fruits to the Temple in Jerusalem—a sign that our ancestors knew exactly whom to thank for the success of their crops. “That’s one reason that Shavuot has always been a time to express gratitude,” says Rabbi Binny Freedman, rosh yeshivah of Orayta in Jerusalem. A case in point is this piece of 20th-century Jewish history: It was on Shavuot in June 1967—just six days after the Israelis took back the Old City in the Six-Day War—that the Western Wall (Kotel) was officially opened to the Israeli public. For the first time in nearly 2,000 years, Jews could pray at the Wall, and some 200,000 of them poured in that day, all celebrating their newfound freedom to worship by those ancient stones.
2. The holiday lacks the trappings that make its fellow celebrations so appealing, explains Rabbi Chaim Wolosow of the Chabad Center in Sharon, Mass. “On Passover, you have the matzah and all the other symbols; on Sukkot, you have the lulav and etrog, and the sukkah But on Shavuot? Even the cheesecake and ice-cream are relatively recent traditions.”
3. Shavuot falls 50 days after Passover, a time when a ragtag bunch of escaped slaves miraculously coalesces into a unified people worthy of the gift of Torah. During these days, as Jews count the days of the Omer (signifying the gifts of the humble grain of barley in ancient times), they also work on self-improvement, so going forward they’re worthy of the Torah and other assorted blessings. “The Torah, which was given in the wilderness, reminds us that there is no place so inhospitable that Torah can’t find its place there,” says Rabbi Melanie Aron, rabbi emerita at Congregation Shir Hadash in Los Gatos, Calif. “And no period of our life so barren that the Torah cannot enrich it.”
4. Like other festivals, Shavuot was celebrated for two days outside of Israel because, at a distance, it was hard to know exactly when the holiday rolled around. Although for nearly 2,000 years, Jews the world over have been able to rely on the calendar, the tradition of two-day festivals in the Diaspora remains unbroken. In addition, there is a spiritual rationale for the difference, says Wolosow. “Kabbalah teaches us that in Israel, you are already so close to God, you can absorb the power of the holiday in just a day, whereas for us in the Diaspora, it takes a full two days to absorb it.”
5. Tradition has it that—though advised they needed to stay up the night before they were scheduled to receive the Torah from Mount Sinai—the Jewish forefathers fell into a deep slumber. To make up for their lapse, many Jews throughout the centuries have



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# ights: TEST YOUR SHAVUOT IQ

stayed up all night and learned the books of Jewish wisdom. The custom goes back, it's told, to 1533, when Rabbi Joseph Caro, author of the Shulchan Aruch, a guidebook to Jewish law, invited his colleagues to learn with him on Shavuot. Besides Torah, Talmud and Mishnah, many also learn the Tikkun Leil Shavuot ("Rectification for Shavuot Night") with its excerpts from the 24 books of Tanach. Legend has it that Caro and others living in the Ottoman Empire at the time were able to stay awake, thanks to the region's potent Turkish coffee. In recent years, many have also fortified themselves with coffee (increasingly strong brews as the night wears on) and the now-traditional cheesecake and ice-cream. "The Tikkun Leil Shavuot? It's something that goes beyond rational understanding," says Rabbi Avraham Sutton, a popular Torah teacher around Israel and online and author of *Spiritual Technology: On the Transition From Profane Technology to Sacred Technology in Preparation for the Great Shabbat*, among other books. "Though we've been given Torah to learn every day, it's our learning on Shavuot that not only makes us worthy of receiving the Torah anew but also makes an opening for all our learning the rest of the year," adds Sutton, who's stayed up learning and teaching every Shavuot since 1972.

**6.** On Shavuot, Jews the world over read the book of Ruth, the earliest record of Jewish conversion. But what's the connection between this poignant story of loyalty, faith and devotion, and the receiving of the Torah? Rabbi John Carrier, a Jew by choice who's the spiritual leader of the Pasadena Jewish Temple and Center in Pasadena, Calif., has a theory. "The book of Ruth is a story of free will; Ruth freely chooses that 'Your people will be my people and your God my God.' Now we have the opportunity to freely choose—we accepted the responsibility at Sinai; Shavuot is a time to accept it all over again, in each of our lives." Something that resonates with the rabbi's own experience: "There were people

## PJ Library A Shavout Craft!

### MAKE DANDELION CHAINS FOR SHAVUOT

Gitele and Yanke want to make blintzes to celebrate Shavuot, but another easy Shavuot custom is to decorate with flowers and greenery. A simple bouquet in a vase always works, but another idea is to make flower chains. If you live where dandelions grow, you won't even need to save you kopecks—just go outdoors and pick!

#### Supplies

Dandelions with stems at least four inches long  
Small plastic knife (or your thumbnail)

For more kid-friendly  
crafts for Shavuot:  
[pjlibrary.org/shavuot](http://pjlibrary.org/shavuot)

**1** Using the knife or your thumbnail, make inch-long slits down the middle of the stems, being careful not to cut the stems in half.

**2** Slide the stem of one flower through the slit of another. Then slide the stem of another flower through that flower's slit, and so on.

**3** Depending on how many dandelions you have, you can make crowns or necklaces to wear, or create a garland to place over a doorway. Chag Sameach — *Have a happy holiday!*



who held the door open for me many years ago and now I want to pay it forward and hold the door open for others learning about Judaism."

**7.** Moses was told by God to invite everyone to the revelation at Sinai, and God spoke these words: "Today, you stand before Me—all of you, your leaders and your followers, your children and your wives, even the stranger; all of you, from the wood-chopper to the water-drawer, stand before Me to enter into this covenant. And I make this covenant not with you alone, but both with those of you who are standing before me today and with those who are not with us here today" (Deuteronomy 29). That spirit of inclusion continues to be a hallmark of Judaism, says Jay Ruderman, whose Ruderman Family Foundation supports initiatives for including those with disabilities in Israel and around the world. "We all stood together at Sinai, regardless of background or ability," he says. "The moment when we were the closest we ever were to God was a time of complete inclusion when we all heard God's voice—a voice and a message of inclusion that we can still hear in our Torah."

**8.** The tradition of eating dairy on Shavuot comes down through a number of different influences, according to Beth A. Lee, author of *The Essential Jewish Baking Cookbook: Traditional Recipes for Every Occasion*. One of her favorites is the image of Israel as "the land of milk and honey"; God promises to take the children of Israel to a "good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey" (Exodus 3:8). "And the most wonderful modern version of milk and honey," says Lee (who has a Jewish food blog, *OMG! Yummy*), "is the sweet and creamy dessert we know as cheesecake."

*Missed a few? You are not alone. Just remember to keep the coffee hot, the cheesecake flowing and your books (and mind) open for an unforgettable holiday.*





# Introduces Shavuot to Kids!

Seven weeks after Passover ends, it's time to celebrate Shavuot. This holiday marks the biblical story of receiving the Ten Commandments and the Torah at Mt. Sinai. While many families don't regularly celebrate Shavuot, it's a holiday that's totally made for kids—a perfect excuse for sleepovers, flower picking, ice cream socials, and lots of other fun activities.

Although Shavuot was originally a harvest holiday, today people celebrate the day by studying the

Torah, staying up all night, crafting paper cut-outs, eating local foods, and of course, indulging in cheesecake and blintzes. The tie-in to the Torah and Ten Commandments also make Shavuot a perfect opportunity to reinforce so many of the values that parents are already imparting to their children: telling the truth, honoring others, and sharing.

As many PJ readers learn through the stories told in our holiday-related Jewish children's books, the

Jewish holiday of Shavuot has roots both in agriculture and religion. While reading together as a family is certainly a good way to introduce young readers to Shavuot, families can encourage further Jewish-agricultural connections by introducing related artful (and tasty!) holiday projects.



For Shavuot books, crafts and recipes visit [pjlibrary.org/shavuot](http://pjlibrary.org/shavuot).





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# Foundation News

## Scholarship opportunities from the Jewish Foundation

### COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS:

All scholarships are for area students from Jewish households. All applications must be completed online by May 15. All applications are confidential and anonymously reviewed. This is a competitive process and unfortunately not all applicants will receive awards. Go to [jewishnewhaven.org/scholarships](http://jewishnewhaven.org/scholarships) for more info on Israel Experience and College Scholarships.

#### • Mary Taylor Friedler Memorial Scholarship Fund

This scholarship is not needs based and requires an essay concerning what peace, justice and righteousness mean to you and your Judaism. Awards range from \$500–\$1000. Applicants must reside in Greater New Haven and be entering their freshman year of college. Awards are based on the strength of the application.

- **Stuart J. Drell Scholarship Fund** Awards are \$1,500 and the applicants must reside in CT and may be entering college or a current college student. Awards are based on the strength of the application and financial need.

- **Emma Kohn Podoloff Scholarship Fund of the National Council of Jewish Women's Greater New Haven Section** The average award is \$1,500 and applicants must reside in Greater New Haven and be entering their freshman year of college. The application includes an essay and 3 recommendations. Awards are based on the strength of the application and financial need.

### ISRAEL EXPERIENCE SCHOLARSHIPS:

The Jewish Foundation Israel Experience Scholarship Program enables local Jewish students ages 14–20 the opportunity to participate in an Israel experience to develop and enrich their Jewish education and reinforce their Jewish identity.

The Jewish Foundation provides scholarships for both short-term (minimum of 3 week program) and long-term organized Israel educational programs. For summer programs the deadline is April 7, 2023. For the 2023–24 gap or academic year programs, applications are due by June 9, 2023. Go to

[jewishnewhaven.org/scholarships](http://jewishnewhaven.org/scholarships) for more information, a list of qualifying programs, and requirements.

### Current funds providing ISRAEL EXPERIENCE SCHOLARSHIPS:

- **Bloch Family Fund for Israel Travel by Congregation Or Shalom Youth**
- **Esther Gold Milikowsky-Copelon Fund in memory of Matthew Milikowsky for Teen Travel to Israel**
- **Marvin S. Pisetsky Israel Scholarship Endowment Fund**
- **Arthur Spiegel Israel Scholarship Fund**
- **Lawrence & Florence Winer Israel Scholarship Fund**
- **The Earl and Muriel Banquer Israel Endowment Fund**
- **Henry & Helene Kasha Fund for the Teaching of the Hebrew Language**



*What will your Jewish legacy be?*

### Mark and Cyd Oppenheimer Created a Legacy for Their Synagogue, Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel

*"We joined BEKI in time for the baby-naming of our eldest daughter over 16 years ago, and it has been our Jewish home—and, really, a home in so many more ways—ever since. We are proud to leave something in our will for BEKI (it was also much easier to do the paperwork than I had thought). When we're gone, the shul will be here for our children." —Mark*

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



# Women of Vision Society

Greater New Haven Jewish women have a wonderful opportunity to become lifelong philanthropists through the Women of Vision Society – a permanent, restricted endowment fund dedicated to helping and enhancing the lives of women in our community. Created in 1996 by 100 founding members, the endowment and has since then more than doubled in its membership and giving. To date, over \$230,000 has been distributed in grants to a wide variety of agencies and causes, ranging from employment and literacy to acculturation and health issues.

## 2023 GRANT AWARDS

### • Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven – Dignity Grows

Dignity Grows mobilizes volunteers to assemble and distribute free, reusable totes filled with a month's supply of basic menstrual and hygiene products. This program partners with local organizations, like Jewish Family Service and the Diaper Bank, to distribute supplies to the women who need them.

### • Yashar LaChayal – Female Hareidi Lone Soldier Project

Yashar LaChayal launched this initiative in 2019 to support female ultra-orthodox lone soldiers in the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF). These young women aren't supported by their families due to their decision to serve in the IDF. The Lone Soldier Project provides them with housing and a support system during and after their service.

### • The Feuerstein Institute – Aim Higher: The Feuerstein Academic Integration Program for Young Women from the Ultra-Orthodox Community

Aim Higher assists ultra-orthodox women to access higher education. They equip students with cognitive, social and academic resources to ensure the successful completion of their degrees. Beyond university, the aim is to encourage career specialization and economic security.

### • The Towers at Tower Lane – Adopt a Bubbe: An Intergenerational Jewish Program for Women and Girls

This is a project in collaboration with Southern CT Hebrew Academy and Bais Chana Academy. This monthly program pairs female elementary and high school students with female residents at the Towers who are interested and in need of meaningful social connection and engagement. Each session will focus on a Jewish holiday or theme. Fun, achievable and meaningful activities will provide the setting for friendships, mentorship and reduction of isolation. Each session will include some education appropriate for both seniors and participating students.

### • B'nai B'rith Youth Organization – Empowering BBG\* Leaders at Convention

To provide specific programming for girls at the BBYO convention. This will include mental health and wellness, transferable leadership skills, programs designed to build inclusive communities, build a positive culture of sisterhood within convention participants, and encourage healthy relationships.

\*B'nai B'rith Girls

### • Elm City Kallah – Elm City Kallah Scholar in Residence

Elm City Kallah is a multi-shul collaboration. The event will take place at two Conservative and one Orthodox synagogue (Congregation BEKI, Congregation B'nai Jacob, and Westville Synagogue) and feature Rory Picker Neiss. The event will be from October 27-29, 2023 and is open to Jews of all backgrounds and traditions. The participants will be invited to pray, sing, eat and study at each synagogue. The hope is that we will build bridges among women of all traditions in order to foster a robust Jewish community.

### • I.D.F.\* Widows and Orphans Organization (IDFWO) – Community Building for Young I.D.F. Widows

Through specifically designed programs, this initiative aims to establish a strong community for widows of I.D.F. soldiers and members of the Israeli security forces with children age 21 and younger. This initiative will work to encourage personal growth through a variety of enriching activities to bring this vulnerable community together and empower them to support themselves.

\*Israeli Defense Forces

# Craig Sklar, Jewish Foundation Investment Chair, examines ESG investing through a Jewish lens



Philanthropy has always been important to Dr. Craig Sklar.

“My father was the only member of his family to survive the Holocaust,” he says. “He always stressed the importance of giving as long as one had something to give.”

So it is no wonder that, since settling in the New Haven area some 40 years ago, Sklar has dedicated much of his personal time to helping the Jewish community – both in New Haven and worldwide – through his involvement in the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven.

Now, Sklar, who serves as Foundation Investment Chair and is a past Foundation Chair, has taken his devotion to community to the next level by enrolling in a 13-week certification course

at NYU Stern School of Business called “Jewish Impact Investing Certificate Program.” Once completed, Sklar will have earned an NYU Executive Education Certificate.

Limited to only 20 participants – largely investment professionals from various Federations nationwide (in fact, Sklar is one of the only lay leaders) – the unique course examines the potential benefits of impact investing, with an emphasis on promoting Jewish values (as related to ESG), investing in Israel, and better leveraging Foundation/Federation investments and donor advised funds.

It isn't difficult to see how the ESG investment movement maps to Jewish values, Sklar notes: E (environmental) ties to the Jewish concept of tikkun olam (repairing the world); S (social) ties to chesed (kindness); and G (governance) ties to tzedek (justice or righteousness).

“We have studied investment principles as well as extensive commentary concerning initiatives evaluating the pros and cons of impact investing,” he says. “The course

(Continued on page 20)

Summertime at Jewish overnight camp is jam-packed with fun. At camp, anything is possible! Kids have new experiences—ropes courses, sailing, Israeli dancing. There's something special about camp. Kids can be their authentic selves. Kids can try new things. Kids can learn about themselves and others in a way that doesn't exist in the classroom. Camp is a place where kids can forge their own Jewish identity. Camp is magic!

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



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# Ezra Academy Receives Grant to Bolster Israel Curriculum



**Dr. Tal Grinfas-David of the Center for Israel Education conducts a workshop for educators at Ezra Academy in Woodbridge.**

Ezra Academy recently welcomed the Center for Israel Education's Dr. Tal Grinfas-David as part of an ongoing partnership to boost the school's Israel education.

Ezra Academy is one of three recipients of a grant from UnitED, a global educational initiative of Jerusalem-based Herzog College in partnership with and funding from Israel's Ministry of Diaspora Affairs.

During a visit in February, Grinfas-David conducted workshops and seminars with school faculty and leadership to deepen knowledge, improve skills and ultimately deliver excellent educational outcomes for students.

"Our goal is for our students' learning about Israel, its history, and culture to be folded into all of the subjects taught at Ezra and to provide our students with real opportunities for discussion and discourse," said Ezra Academy Head of School Tani Cohen-Fraade.

The sessions led by Grinfas-David included time and space to talk about the challenges of teaching about Israel, work on Ezra's Israel curriculum development, as well as workshops which focused on integrating S.T.E.A.M. learning and Israeli art into lessons and school events and celebrations.

"I was very inspired by Dr. Grinfas-David's professional development. I am implementing one of the units we discussed for the 7th and 8th graders from now until the end of the year," said Ezra Academy teacher, Rabbi Amanda Brodie.

"Over the next year, I will be creating units for the 7-8th graders which integrate language arts, civics and Israel," Brodie continued.

Grinfas-David, the vice president for outreach and pre-collegiate school management initiatives, traveled from CIE's Atlanta home as part of the center's Day School Initiative, which helps Jewish day schools add Israel content to their curriculum and enhance teaching methods. The mentoring and professional development Grinfas-David provides remotely and in-person on an ongoing basis are crucial elements of the initiative.

"Dr. Grinfas-David's passion is catching and we are very enthusiastic about rethinking our Israel curriculum," said Brodie.

As one of 14 participants in the Day School Initiative, Ezra Academy is embracing CIE's approach to Israel, which focuses on teaching facts with context through primary sources and other. This approach positions faculty to be unbiased facilitators of learning, and allows for safe spaces for students to consider sources of information while building their critical thinking skills in age-appropriate ways and learning to engage in dialogue and discourse.

This school year, when Israel is marking its 75th anniversary as a state, provides a particularly rich educational opportunity for students at Ezra Academy to look at Israel's growth and evolution in areas beyond conflict and politics in an age-appropriate way. Students can compare the Israel of today, what it has achieved and what remains unresolved with other countries at only 75 years of age, such as the United States in 1851.

"We are so incredibly privileged to have been selected as a participant in this CIE cohort and for the ongoing support and coaching that our faculty are receiving and will continue to receive over this multi-year process. Dr. David will also continue to work with our faculty and staff about how to have and facilitate challenging conversations about Israel, particularly given the need in the current political climate," said Cohen-Fraade.

## Craig Sklar, Jewish Lens *(Continued from page 19)*

instructors, Michael Lustig and Nir Tsuk, have extensive experience in the investment arena and have demonstrated, via course work and guest speakers, how initial investments can provide amplified societal benefits. The hope is to make an initial investment that sustains and "keeps the good going"—in a way, 'profit with a purpose.'

The course, designed in partnership with New York University's Institute

for Impact and Intrapreneurship at NYU Bronfman and the newly formed Jewish Federations Center for Philanthropic Investment, was brought to Sklar's attention by Lisa Stanger, Jewish Foundation Executive Director.

"As Chair of the Jewish Foundation Investment Committee, I felt that it was important to expand my knowledge base and, hopefully, apply what I learn to better serving our community needs and goals," he explains.

"While I served as Foundation Chair, we initiated an investment with JLens; an investment vehicle that helps to advocate for Jewish causes. This was a natural extension."

Would Sklar recommend the course to other Jewish Federation and Foundation lay leaders? He would. "[It is] a means of learning and upholding our fiduciary responsibilities, while striving to improve our world."





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# IN OUR SYNAGOGUES

## Congregation Beth-el Keser Israel

85 Harrison St, New Haven | For information: (203) 389-2108 | beki.org

### New Songleader Joins BEKI’s Religious School

Although she never attended religious school, Rachel Beaver, the new music education director at BINA — Congregation Beth El —Keser Israel (BEKI)’s new religious school — says her role “feels right. This is what I’m supposed to be doing, and I’ve been enjoying it so much. This is a beautiful experience for my Jewish and musical growth.”



Rachel Beaver

The moment she joined the Westville synagogue in February, Rachel began teaching the children songs for Tu Bishvat, the New Year for Trees. Now, in addition to holiday songs, she teaches students to sing Hebrew prayers. When the children join the congregation’s Sunday morning minyan, she leads some of the liturgy. She uses music to make Hebrew fun and as a vehicle for larger Jewish learning, she explained. “Music is such an important part of Jewish education, says BEKI’s Rabbi Eric Woodward, “It helps you learn not just the words and tunes of the prayers, but also to feel them emotionally. Rachel brings real joy and energy to this work, and we are so lucky to have her!”

Experienced as a college tutor and a preschool teacher, at BINA Rachel works with grades K to 6. “I love teaching and am grateful for the opportunity to teach in a new setting,” she says. “I grew up doing music, but Jewish music came to me later,” she notes. As a teenager she taught herself guitar, using YouTube videos. She took vocal lessons and—thanks to growing up in Texas—learned to play a little bit of banjo as well as piano.

Currently a Masters of Arts in Religion student at Yale Divinity School, focusing on Religion and the Arts, she is a graduate of Randolph College and has a MDiv in Biblical Studies from Union Theological Seminary.

Each Friday, she says, she turns away from her academic work and prepares for Shabbat and BINA’s Sunday music. Since moving to Westville, she says, “I’ve been able to settle into a Jewish community, with a group of young Jewish people who care about Judaism.” Previously she lived in New York City where, she explains, “I loved my synagogue, but it was huge, and it was hard to feel in community. I found that here in Westville with BEKI. It’s lovely.”

### Exhibition by Dganit Zauberman at BEKI

“Land in Flux,” an exhibition of work by Israeli-born artist Dganit Zauberman is on view in the BEKI Gallery until June 14.



"Dawn or Dusk" on exhibit at BEKI

“Memories, life experiences, intuitive processes, and curiosity drive my work,” says Dganit. “Early in my life, informed by my upbringing in a Kibbutz, I observed the importance of land as not only a source of life but also as a source of struggle, separation, and death,” she adds. “Now, with the current political and environmental climate, the subject of land continues to be essential to my work; it has, if anything, become even more important in recent years.”

Zauberman moved to North Carolina in 1992, where she began formal art training at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

After relocating to Philadelphia, she received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of the Arts and a Master of Fine Arts degree from the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts.

Based in a studio in Erector Square in New Haven since 2016, she has exhibited in galleries in Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York, California and Connecticut, including at the Institute Library and ArtSpace in New Haven.



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Email Sandy H for more questions.  
**[Sandyh@jccnh.org](mailto:Sandyh@jccnh.org)**





# Beth Israel Synagogue, Wallingford

22 N. Orchard St, Wallingford | For info: (203) 269-5983 | bethisraelwallingford.org

## Launch of Program for Local Families

Beth Israel Synagogue in Wallingford has been awarded an impact grant by Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven for a regional outreach program. The program, Colors of My Jewish Year, will provide a series of creative, interactive educational programs for children ages 3-8 from affiliated, unaffiliated and interfaith Jewish families in the Greater Wallingford area (specifically Meriden and North Haven). This region is somewhat underserved and Beth Israel is geographically and historically positioned to serve as a hub and Jewish entry point for these families. The 126-year-old



congregation is known for its community programs and through the years has attracted area participants to events such as its highly popular community seders. Beth Israel will collaborate with Wallingford, Meriden and North Haven libraries along with Quinnipiac University on this project.

The series will run from September 2023 — June 2024 and will include six programs of two sessions each (one in Wallingford; one in North Haven or Meriden). Each will serve as an independent event, but participants may attend all six programs.

Using the theme of colors, the program will feature hands-on experiential activities that engage children. Each hour-long session will feature stories, activities, crafts, and a special treat related to that holiday. The child's parent or caregiver must be present for the entire session. The Colors of My Jewish Year program is designed to entice unaffiliated Jewish and interfaith families to connect with other Jews by joining an area synagogue. It will be run by Beth Israel's education director Marcy Thom-aswick. Quinnipiac students from the Peter C Herald House for Jewish Life will help facilitate each series.



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A donor wall is now established at the pool, recognizing two giving levels. Come join us and "Make a Splash!" Help sustain this special place that means so much to so many in our community.

Sign up today at  
[jewishnewhaven.org/splash](https://jewishnewhaven.org/splash)





# A Jewish Mother and Blue Jeans

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

One hundred and fifty years ago, in May 1873, a Jewish peddler turned Gold Rush merchant created the garment of choice for forty-niners and cowboys. Now, a century and a half later, blue jeans are an international symbol of independence, equality, freedom, and youth. Two Jewish men made it possible - Levi Strauss and Jacob Davis.

Originally named Loeb, Levi Strauss was born in Buttenheim, Bavaria, Germany. As Jews living in Bavaria, his family experienced religious discrimination. His widowed mother, Rebecca Haas Strauss, decided to emigrate to the United States. Levi Strauss came to New York in 1847. Toting 100 pounds of sewing goods, blankets, and kettles, he walked New York and environs as an itinerant peddler, coming back to lower Manhattan every Friday evening Shabbat.

Jacob W. Davis was a tailor who invented copper rivet reinforcement for pants. Born to a Latvian-Jewish family in the city of Riga in 1831, he emigrated to the United States in 1854 and opened a tailor shop. He used heavy duty cotton “duck” and heavy duty cotton “denim” fabric for making tents for prospectors, horse blankets for teamsters, and wagon covers for stagecoach companies. He bought fabric from Levi Strauss & Co. from San Francisco. In the late 1870s, a woman came to him for a pair of “cheap” pants for her “large” husband. Having found that thread alone did not always adequately hold the pockets onto work pants, Jacob decided to try out rivets.

Unable to afford a patent application, Davis proposed a partnership with Levi Strauss & Co. in 1872. Strauss agreed, and the Nevada man moved to San Francisco to become head tailor and production foreman. By the end of 1873, workers around the globe were wearing Strauss and Davis’s durable pants.

On May 20, 1873, Strauss and Davis received US patent № 139121 for the riveting process to strengthen the pockets of denim work pants. “Waist overalls” with rivets were worn by workers and children until World War II.

Strauss and Davis, two Jewish immigrants, struck it rich, not in the gold mines, but in making clothing.

One of the Jewish mothers we honor on Mother’s Day in May is Rebecca Strauss. Eastern European Jewish culture fostered in her an intense style of mothering, which served to equip the children for survival and for success, in an often hostile environment.

Levi Strauss supported numerous religious and social causes. He helped establish the first synagogue, Temple Emanu-El, in the city, and gave money to Pacific Hebrew Orphan Asylum and Home, the Hebrew Board of Relief, the University of California and other civic and cultural institutions.

The New American Acculturation Program is grateful to our Jewish community for helping students learn about American and Jewish history and traditions.

*The New American Acculturation Program provides educational classes, programs and holiday celebrations. For more information, including program sponsorships, contact Yelena Gerovich at (203) 387-2424 x321, or email [ygerovich@jewishnewhaven.org](mailto:ygerovich@jewishnewhaven.org).*

# Еврейская мама и джинсы

Сто пятьдесят лет назад, в мае 1873 года, еврейский разносчик, ставший торговцем во время Золотой лихорадки, создал одежду, которую полюбили золотоискатели и ковбои. Теперь, полтора века спустя, синие джинсы стали международным символом независимости, равенства, свободы и молодости. Это стало возможным благодаря двум евреям — Леви Страуссу и Джейкобу Дэвису.

Первоначально названный Лейб, Леви Страусс родился в Буттенхайме, Бавария, Германия. Евреи, жившие в Баварии, подвергались религиозной дискриминации. Его овдовевшая мать, Ребекка Хаас Штраус, решила эмигрировать в США. Леви Страусс приехал в Нью-Йорк в 1847 году. С 100 фунтами швейных принадлежностей, одеял и чайников, он ходил по Нью-Йорку и его окрестностям в качестве странствующего торговца, возвращаясь в нижний Манхэттен каждую пятницу вечером в Шаббат.

Джейкоб В. Дэвис был портным, который изобрел медные заклепки для брюк. Он родился в 1831 году в городе Риге в латышско-еврейской семье, в 1854 году эмигрировал в США и открыл ателье по пошиву одежды. Он использовал сверхпрочную «утиную» хлопчатобумажную ткань и прочную хлопчатобумажную «джинсовую» ткань для изготовления палаток для старателей, конских одеял для погонщиков и чехлов для повозок и дилижансов. Он покупал ткань у Levi Strauss & Co. (компания к тому времени уже находилась в Сан-Франциско). В конце 1870-х годов к нему пришла женщина за парой «дешевых» брюк для своего «крупного» мужа. Обнаружив, что сама по себе нить не всегда надежно удерживает карманы на рабочих брюках, Джейкоб решил попробовать заклепки.

Не имея возможности подать заявку на патент, Дэвис предложил партнерство с Levi Strauss & Co. в 1872 году. Страусс согласился, и Дэвис из Невады переехал в Сан-Франциско, чтобы стать главным портным и мастером производства. К концу 1873 года рабочие по всему миру носили прочные брюки Страусса и Дэвиса.

20 мая 1873 года Страусс и Дэвис получили патент США № 139121 на процесс изготовления заклепок для укрепления карманов джинсовых рабочих брюк. Джинсы с заклепками носили практически только рабочие и дети до Великой Отечественной войны. Страусс и Дэвис, два еврейских иммигранта, разбогатели не на золотых приисках, а на пошиве одежды.

Одной из еврейских матерей, которых мы вспоминаем и чествуем в День матери в мае, является Ребекка Страусс. Восточноевропейская еврейская культура создала уникальный стиль материнства, который готовил детей к выживанию и успеху в зачастую очень враждебной среде.

Леви Страусс поддерживал многочисленные религиозные и социальные проекты. Он помог основать в городе первую синагогу, Храм Эману-Эль, дал деньги Тихоокеанскому приюту для еврейских сирот, Еврейскому совету помощи, Калифорнийскому университету и другим общественным и культурным учреждениям.

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\*Tributes listed are up to April 14, 2023

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In memory of Daniel Hoffnung, husband of Sarah and father of Nick & Alex to the Barry Vine Send-a-Kid to Camp Fund
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In memory of Carmen “Babe” Carpentieri, father of Tricia Robinson to the Barry Vine Send-a-Kid to Camp Fund
In memory of Marilyn Margolis, mother of Bruce Margolis to the Barry Vine Send-a-Kid to Camp Fund
In memory of Peter Sachs, brother of Ricky Sachs and Jennifer Forti and cousin of Robert Sachs to the Barry Vine Send-a-Kid to Camp Fund <i>Debra, Seth &amp; Eric Kirschner</i>
In honor of Stanley & Donna Hersh on the birth of their new granddaughter <i>Janice &amp; Steve Miller</i>
In memory of Ed Brovitz <i>Betty Lou &amp; Joe Blumberg</i>
In Honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Lincoln Joseph Skope <i>Maxine &amp; Robert Wallace</i>
In memory of David Robbins <i>Sharon &amp; Jay Alpert</i>

In memory of Ruthann Beckerman to the Barry Vine Send-a-Kid to Camp Fund <i>The Negrin Family</i>
In memory of Ruthann Beckerman to the Make a Splash Fund <i>Jimmy &amp; Melanie Wolf</i>
JCAR
In memory of David Robbins <i>Susan &amp; David Millen</i>
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BECKERMAN FAMILY SUPPORTING FOUNDATION, INC. JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER ENDOWMENT FUND
In memory of Ruthann Beckerman <i>Ann &amp; Bob Cole</i> <i>Carol Robbins</i> <i>Richard &amp; Ilene Bronen</i> <i>Sheryl Udell</i> <i>Helen Felice</i> <i>Alan &amp; Regina Ufland</i> <i>Randi Vishno</i>
VELMA & STUART GRODD FUND FOR JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER MEMBERSHIP
In memory of Arlene Cahill <i>Velma Grodd</i>
BECKERMAN FAMILY SUPPORTING FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT FUND FOR THE BENEFIT OF HAMDEN HALL COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL
In memory of Ruthann Beckerman <i>Kenneth Greenblatt</i> <i>Armina &amp; Harold Murtha</i> <i>Jodie Mysel</i>
THE LEONARD MARGOLIS ATHLETIC ENDOWMENT FUND
In memory of Marilyn Margolis <i>Stephen &amp; Ronda Margolis</i>
THE JULIE KOVAR FUND
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THE HENRY & MARION BIXON FUND
In memory of Henry & Marion Bixon, Harry & Jennie Bixon, Harry & Ethel Labowitz <i>Harvey Bixon</i>

EMMA KOHN PODOLOFF SCHOLARSHIP OF GNH SECTION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN
In memory of Elaine Weiss <i>Emily Resnik Conn</i> <i>Jessica Auerbach</i>
DR. ALLAN & CLAIRE FRANKEL PACE FUND
In memory of Ed Brovitz <i>Lisa Stanger &amp; Gregory Colodner</i> <i>Mary Lou Winnick</i>
In memory of David Robbins & Dr. Stephen Edelstein <i>Claire L. Frankel</i>
ELLIOT S. ALDERMAN MEMORIAL FUND FOR THE BENEFIT OF TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM
In memory of David Robbins <i>Diane Alderman</i>
RABBI HERBERT N. BROCKMAN RABBINIC ENDOWMENT FUND
In honor of Mark Sklarz <i>Ellen Lane</i>
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In memory of Saul & Bea Sidlofsky <i>Rabbi Paul Sidlofsky</i>
MAZE FAMILY FUND
In memory of Evelyn Maze <i>Alyssa Lappen</i>
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In memory of our beloved Ann and her vision <i>Judith Katz</i>
ELLIOTT KERZNER MEMORIAL PERPETUAL ANNUAL CAMPAIGN FUND
In memory of Elliott Kerzner <i>Judith Berman</i> <i>Martin E. &amp; Dorie Cobern</i> <i>Nancy U. Cohen</i> <i>Jeffrey &amp; Barbara G. Orell</i> <i>Rebecca &amp; Scott Barancik</i> <i>Tami &amp; Eric Shatanof</i> <i>Robert Nathman &amp; Keith Proto</i> <i>Marilyn Fishbone</i> <i>Mitch &amp; Abby Goldblatt</i> <i>Dana &amp; Harry Schwartz</i> <i>Amy &amp; Mark Holtz</i>
FOUNDATION UNRESTRICTED FUND
In honor of David Silverstone's landmark birthday <i>Nanci &amp; Craig Sklar</i>
In memory of Dr. David Robbins <i>Mark &amp; Judy Sklarz</i>

## "Café with a Cause" (Continued from page 2)

excited me to come back and work on this project,” she notes. “It was something I was really passionate about — the combination of food, the JCC’s mission, a big community partnership with many moving pieces... It just excited me to be involved.

“I also believe food is central to any gathering place,” she adds. “And the JCC was sort of a home without a kitchen. I knew food was important to make the JCC a gathering place.”

In addition, says Gans, “We knew that we would always be struggling to have the café make money, but we knew that we could have it make a difference. And that’s really the goal.”

Looking ahead, Gans says, “People should to know that this is work-based learning. So as we get started, and as the staff group gains confidence, we’ll continue to

expand services. The hope and dream is that we will be able to grow our own paid staff—many from Chapel Haven will start out as interns, and then as they gain confidence and skills we’ll be able to move them into hours where maybe they’e not supervised and where they’re really working at the café.”

Gan’s final step in preparing to open on Monday, May 22 is to hire a manager who will oversee the operation. (As SNH went to press, she and Cohen were pouring over several resumes.) Not that she plans on waving goodbye for good. “I’m going to be there through the beginning phases in June, and we’re launching in May, to help guide them. I’ll certainly still be involved because I care passionately about this project.”

As for Cohen, he thinks 27 years is a charm. “It finally feels right to me. I think it makes sense for the café to have something with a deeper meaning.

I think this is the right thing. This is the right combination. I feel like this has staying power.” Elsdon sees the JCC as a leader in the area of vocational training. “We are looking forward to our students having more opportunities for work-based learning and career training. The most exposure to work and experience they can get, the better,” she says. “We hope to help the JCC create a long-term model for individuals with disabilities to receive retail/culinary training. This initiative will foster the JCC’s inclusive community environment and provide added value to the members and staff.

Café J will have its opening event on Monday, May 22 at 11 am, and invites all to join the celebration. The café will start its regular opening hours, on Tuesday, May 23 and will be open Monday-Friday 8 am to 2 pm.





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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### MAY EVENTS

**Exhibition by Dganit Zauberman at BEKI**

**MAY-JUNE 14.** Call for Gallery hours.

Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel (BEKI), 85 Harrison Street, New Haven Contact: Peggy Hackett, (203) 389-2108, office@beki.org,

**JCC's Beckerman Cultural Arts FILM: Jews and the Blues**

**MAY 1-7.** Watch at your convenience via zoom. \$10. Visit jccnh.org/beckerman-cultural-arts-series or contact Susan Skalka at susans@jccnh.org

**JCC's Beckerman Cultural Arts AUTHORS**

**C & J Weiss: Fighting Back MAY 1,** \$5, Via zoom. jccnh.org/beckerman-cultural-arts-series. Contact Susan Skalka at susans@jccnh.org

**JFACT Advocacy Day MAY 3,** 9 -11 am.

Legislative Office, 300 Capitol Ave., Hartford. To register, go to fact.salsalabs.org/newadvocacyday

**Congregation Or Shalom's Coffee & Learn**

**MAY 3,** 11 am - 12 pm. EVERY WEEK UNTIL MAY 31, 2023. Congregation Or Shalom, 205 Old Grassy Hill Road Orange. Contact: Rachel Steigleder (203) 799-2341, or email at congregationorshalom.rachel@gmail.com

**Israeli Dance class at the JCC MAY 2, 9, 16, 23, 30,** 6:45 pm - 8 pm. \$16/member

\$20/public per class. EVERY TUES. UNTIL JUNE 20, 2023, Contact: Leng Tan (293) 912-4086. IsraeliDanceTeacher@gmail.com

**Westville University, with Bruce Altman**

**MAY 3,** 7:45 pm - 9 pm. The Westville Synagogue, 74 West Prospect Street, New Haven. Contact: Josh Pernick, jpernick@jewishnewhaven.org

**Jewish Federation's Shalom Baby Cafe/**

**Tot Shabbat MAY 5, 12, 19** 11 am -12 pm, EVERY WEEK UNTIL AUGUST 18. FREE. Beckerman Lender Jewish Community Center, 360 Amity Road, Woodbridge. Contact: Kayla Bisbee (203) 387-2424 x300, or email at kbisbee@jewishnewhaven.org

**BEKI Shabbat Schmooze: Book Talk with**

**Poet James Berger MAY 6,** 12:45 - 2 pm. Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel (BEKI), 85 Harrison Street, New Haven, Contact: Peggy Hackett, (203) 389-2108, office@beki.org, beki.org

**Author Liz Edelglass on Frankly Feminist:**

**Short Stories by Jewish Women MAY 6,** 1 - 2:30 pm. Congregation B'nai Jacob 75 Rimmon Road, Woodbridge. Contact: Lynn Ginzberg (203) 389-2111, lynnnginzberg@bnaijacob.org

**Tour De Faith MAY 6,** 12 - 2 pm. 14

Woodside Drive, Woodbridge. Contact: Nancy Kline at (203) 915-7799, nancykline@gmail.com

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Event details subject to change.

# JUNE EVENTS

**Jewish Federations Dignity Grows Packing Party JUNE 1**, 5-6 pm. Beckerman Lender Jewish Community Center, 360 Amity Road, Woodbridge. Contact: Robyn Teplitzky (203) 387-2424, rteplitzky@jewishnewhaven.org

**Jewish Federations Women's Philanthropy Closing Event JUNE 1**, 6:30 pm. \$36\*. Beckerman Lender Jewish Community Center, 360 Amity Road, Woodbridge. Contact: Robyn Teplitzky, rteplitzky@jewishnewhaven.org.

*\*This event is open to all donors to the 2023 Annual Women's Philanthropy Campaign.*

**Jewish Federation's Shalom Baby Cafe/Tot Shabbat JUNE 2, 9, 16, 23, 30**, 11 am -12 pm, EVERY WEEK UNTIL AUGUST 18. FREE. Beckerman Lender Jewish Community Center, 360 Amity Road, Woodbridge. Contact: Kayla Bisbee (203) 387-2424 x300, kbisbee@jewishnewhaven.org

**Jewish Federation's & Or Shalom's Celebrate Israel Parade in NYC JUNE 4**, 8 am-3 pm. Group will meet at 8 am for train, 50 Union Ave., New Haven, CT. Contact Rabbi Josh Pernick (jpernick@jewishnewhaven.org) or Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus (armwainhaus@gmail.com) if you are interested in participating.

**Israeli Dance class at the JCC JUNE 6, 13, 20** 6:45 pm - 8 pm. \$16/member \$20/public per class. EVERY TUES. UNTIL JUNE 20, 2023, Contact: Leng Tan (293) 912-4086. IsraeliDanceTeacher@gmail.com

**BEKI Shabbat Celebrating Graduates JUNE 10**, 9:15 am - 1 pm. Annual Service and Kiddush lunch celebrating BEKI's graduates. Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel (BEKI), 85 Harrison Street, New Haven Contact: Peggy Hackett, (203) 389-2108, office@beki.org, beki.org

**PJ Library Family Camp Weekend Retreat JUNE 9-11**. For families with kids under 12. Contact us for pricing. Camp Laurelwood, 463 Summer Hill Road, Madison. Contact: Elizabeth Kaplan, (203) 421-3736, elizabeth@camplaulwood.org

**Jewish Family Service of Greater New Haven Spring Celebration JUNE 11**, 6-8 pm. Contact: Robbin Seipold, (203) 988-2829, rseipold@jfsnh.org

**Ezra Academy Graduation JUNE 14**, 7-9 pm, Ezra Academy, 75 Rimmon Road, Woodbridge. Contact: (203) 389-5500 lgabor@ezraacademyct.org

**Westville University, with Elliott Kroll JUNE 14**, 7:45-9 pm, The Westville Synagogue, 74 West Prospect Street, New Haven. Contact: Josh Pernick, jpernick@jewishnewhaven.org

**BEKI Pride Shabbat JUNE 17**, 9:15 am - 1 pm. Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel (BEKI), 85 Harrison Street, New Haven Contact: Peggy Hackett, (203) 389-2108, office@beki.org, beki.org

**Discovery To Cure's Beverly Levy Walk and Festival 2023 MAY 7**, 10 am-4 pm. \$30 to register/includes T-shirt. Orange Fairgrounds, 525 Orange Center Road, Orange. Register at: wization.com/discovery-to-cure  
**BEKI: Talmud Study with Rabbi Woodward MAY 7**, 10 - 11 am. Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel (BEKI), 85 Harrison Street, New Haven. Contact: Peggy Hackett, (203) 389-2108, office@beki.org, beki.org  
**Ezra Gala MAY 7**, 5-8 pm., Ezra Academy 75 Rimmon Road Woodbridge. Contact: Amanda Webster-Rizzo, or email at awebster@ezraacademyct.org

**BEKI Lag BaOmer Kumsitz MAY 8**, 7:30-8:30 pm, Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel (BEKI), 85 Harrison Street, New Haven Contact: Peggy Hackett, (203) 389-2108, or email at office@beki.org, beki.org

**BEKI Lunch and Learn in Celebration of Jay & Ina MAY 13**, 12:45 - 2 pm. Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel (BEKI), 85 Harrison Street, New Haven Contact: Peggy Hackett, (203) 389-2108, office@beki.org, beki.org

**JCC's Beckerman Cultural Arts Film: Jellyfish MAY 15-21**. Watch at your convenience via zoom. \$10. Visit jccnh.org/beckerman-cultural-arts-series or contact Susan Skalka at susans@jccnh.org

**JCC's Beckerman Cultural Arts author Ari Mittleman: Paths of the Righteous MAY 16**, 7:30-8:30 pm, \$5, Via Zoom. Visit jccnh.org/beckerman-cultural-arts-series or contact Susan Skalka at susans@jccnh.org

**Westville University, with Dr. Yonatan Hemesh MAY 17**, 7:45-9 pm, The Westville Synagogue, 74 West Prospect Street, New Haven. Contact: Josh Pernick, jpernick@jewishnewhaven.org

**Unpacking Predjudices: Investigating the Connection between Antisemitism and Antizionism MAY 18**, 7 pm, Via zoom. Contact: Josh Pernick, jpernick@jewishnewhaven.org

**Jewish Federation's Expecting Expo 2023 AND JCC's Touch A Truck. MAY 21**, 10 am-2 pm, FREE, 360 Amity Road, Woodbridge, Contact: Kayla Bisbee or Lindsey Barger at (203) 387-2424. Or visit jewishnewhaven.org/expo23 or jccnh.org/tat.

**Jewish Federations New Haven Beit Midrash, Session 4 MAY 24**, 7-9 pm, FREE, Temple Beth David of Cheshire, 3 Main St. Cheshire. Contact: Josh Pernick, jpernick@jewishnewhaven.org

**Westville University, with Professor Steven Fraade MAY 31**, 7:30-9:30 pm. The Westville Synagogue, 74 West Prospect St., New Haven. Contact: Josh Pernick, jpernick@jewishnewhaven.org

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