

The Voice of the Greater New Haven Jewish Community

SHALOM



NEW HAVEN

SPECIAL ONLINE EDITION • JULY 2020

JCC Day Camp is (safely) **BACK!**

Check out
our plans to
responsibly
re-open more
programs

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A GROWING COMMUNITY GARDEN

Temple Beth David' Mitzvah Garden takes off to produce and help community food pantries **PAGE 15**



BAKING CHALLAH FOR COMMUNITY AND CHARITY

Local teenager bakes challahs for congregation with donation proceeds given to Maimonides Fund **PAGE 7**



MARJI LIPSHEZ SHAPIRO RECOGNIZED AS A SHERO

CT's ADL Deputy Director receives award for her decades of inspirational community work **PAGE 16**



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

Summer is STILL FUN!



As we enter summertime in the age of COVID-19, opportunities have changed but creativity has been unleashed to ensure the continuity of connections and unforgettable experiences.

While shorter-term Israel experiences for teens have been put on hold, MASA Israel Journey, a program of our Jewish Agency for Israel, our overseas partner, continues to offer robust, individually tailored immersive experiences for young adults ages 18-30. With a 10-month stay in Israel, spending the first two weeks in quarantine could be a wise investment. For more information, visit masaisrael.org.

Currently in development, Southern New England Consortium (SNEC) is developing a "reverse emissary" program which will offer young adults the opportunity to participate in a 10-month program in the Afula-Gilboa region in Israel. Participants will provide one-on-one education and mentorship to kids in one of the residential settings.

If you are looking for a virtual program, try the brand new Jewish Changemakers program for 20-25-year olds created by Jewish Federations of North America. It offers an online leadership development experience to expand careers, networking opportunities and support the ability to affect positive change.

Participants earn a certificate and a \$500 stipend. The first cohort filled up so quickly that a second is now being offered. We are pleased to have 12 young people from Greater New Haven participating in the first cohort! Learn more at jewishchangemakers.org.

We are fortunate that our state has allowed day camps to operate in modified ways. The JCC Day Camps and Camp Gan Israel are making sure that hundreds of kids have fun in the sun and make happy memories, even if their counselors' smiles are hidden behind masks. After months of being kept inside their homes, children are running, playing, laughing and swimming.

While Connecticut has not allowed overnight camps to open, Camp Laurelwood (camplaulwood.org) and other Jewish overnight camps have developed robust online opportunities. Families can find fun, respite and relaxation at Camp Laurelwood's Family Camp, taking advantage of the beautiful wooded setting, lake, pool, sports and craft activities.

Prioritizing the health, safety and well-being of our community members means that many volunteers and staff have spent countless hours pouring over every shred of available information and guidance. They have discussed

and developed policies and procedures. They have understood that no matter how much we plan, new realities and guidelines could be issued, upending so much work. The situation will continue to evolve and change; we will adapt as best we can. Our virtual programming platform has been well constructed and we will continue offering online opportunities.

The generosity of the community for our annual campaign—which enables us to support our local and worldwide agencies as well as the programs outlined above—has been remarkable. The additional support of almost \$300,000 raised so far for COVID-19-related relief efforts brings the total donated to the Federation recently to close to \$2.8 million. Thank you for acting on behalf of others, especially during these uncertain and difficult times. Your kindness is part of what makes Greater New Haven such a warm and caring community.

I hope the summer months bring you the opportunity to relax in good health.

Judy



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:

- July 31 for September/October issue
- Sept. 30 for November/December issue
- Nov. 30 for January/February 2021 issue
- Jan. 29 for March/April issue
- Mar. 29 for May/June issue
- May 29 for July/August issue

SUBMISSIONS

To submit an article or photo, please email shalomnh@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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How Your Campaign Donations are Powering the Community



Amy Holtz
Chief Development Officer

The Jewish Federation annual campaign is the backbone of our community; it is here in "normal" times and during a crisis such as a global pandemic

(COVID-19), hurricane relief, anti-Semitic incidents and other emergency efforts. We can only help through your support of the annual campaign. The 2020 campaign is "Powered by You" and you power thousands of impactful Jewish moments. You power the transformation of Jewish lives, the rebuilding of Jewish communities and a steadfast commitment to our shared future. You power moments that engage all generations in Jewish life all year long—whether it's a child receiving their PJ Library book or a college student experiencing Shabbat at a college Hillel. You can power life-changing moments for less fortunate members of our extended Jewish family throughout the year. From food to shelter to medical aid to the means to live with simple human dignity, you power sustenance, compassion, possibility and the warmth of human kindness. You power moments of critical relief for vulnerable elderly populations.

The truth is that in one year, your gift powers so many transformative moments. Your contribution to the annual campaign enables us to meet the needs of people in all situations, locally and around the world. Help us power even more with your gift to the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven. If you have not made your 2020 gift yet (our campaign closes July 31st), you can visit jewishfederationofgreaternewhaven.org/givingfuel.com/annual-campaign to give today. Our donors have been keeping busy participating in virtual programming. Our King David Society **CONTINUED ON PG. 17**

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

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

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

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

jewishnewhaven.org/covid



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER NEW HAVEN



Jewish Foundation
OF GREATER NEW HAVEN

Interpreters Help Build Bridges between Cultures

by Jean Silk,
JCARR Coordinator

JCARR's interpreters often facilitate difficult, sensitive and challenging conversations. We spotlight our interpreters here as a token of our gratitude for their work with the Jewish Community Alliance for Refugee Resettlement (JCARR).

CLAIRE GASANA came to the U.S. from Rwanda. She speaks Swahili, Kirundi, Kinyarwanda, French and English. She interpreted for JCARR's first family of four young adult siblings from the Democratic Republic of Congo; they came to New Haven without their parents in 2016.

Gasana remembers some emotional moments. The siblings lived in a refugee camp in Rwanda for 10 years. They had to learn how to function as adults in a different world and in a new language. She realized that the family put their trust in her as she served as their bridge between two cultures.

"They felt safe when I was there. It was important that I was able to speak their language," Gasana says about explaining how JCARR could help them.

MOHAMMED ENNEJJAR is a language teacher from Morocco. With JCARR, he has been the main interpreter for an elderly couple from Iraq.

"I remember when they were preparing to meet with a lawyer about their application for a green card. I had to explain each question so they could express themselves about so many issues. They came to understand how time and bureaucracy work in this country. I think it's because I'm an American, and speak his language and understand his culture; he believed and trusted me so he accepted the information," says Ennejjar.

Ennejjar recalls an experience interpreting for another JCARR family member in a meeting with his doctor after surgery about pain medication. The doctor ended up prescribing a different medication based on the translated information Ennejjar gave.

ELIZABETH (BETH) JACKSON, PHD, teaches at Wesleyan and Yale Universities and is a literary translator from Portuguese. She speaks Portuguese, Spanish, some French, a smattering of Hindi and Japanese.

"I learned about JCARR seeking a Portuguese interpreter for a family from Angola, and I offered to help. When the girls in the family got off the bus in February, they were delighted when I greeted them in Portuguese. I have facilitated conversations on finance, health, technology, groceries, education, employment and legal affairs. Whenever I interpret for JCARR, I am impressed with the commitment and focus as everyone works to integrate and empower the family."

MARILIA VILAS-BOAS MONTGOMERY was born in Portugal. "I was an adult ESL teacher for more than 20 years. I used Spanish, French and Portuguese frequently to help students communicate with me and other staff members. A volunteer in one of my classes contact-

ed me to translate for the Angolan refugee family for JCARR."

JAMILA BENSEGHIR is the founder and president of Language Queen, which provides interpreters for corporate and other clients. She speaks Arabic, French and English. As a child, Benseghir was exposed to diverse languages and religions. She and her staff of interpreters have worked with all of JCARR's Arabic-speaking families.

One of Benseghir's most moving interpreting experiences occurred before she worked with JCARR. "An ambulance



**Top left: Elizabeth (Beth) Jackson; Top right: Claire Gasana
Bottom left: Mohammed Ennejjar and his son; Bottom right: Jamila Benseghir**

was going to the ER and the person was dying. They tried many interpreters but no one could understand what the person was saying. Then they called me. The person was actually saying the prayer for the dying; it's very important for Muslims to say it before they die. I started by saying the first words, he started saying it with me; he said the whole prayer, and then he died."

"I love helping people," Benseghir says. That sums up what makes JCARR's interpreters special. They are essential members of the caring team that works together to build bridges of understanding between people of different cultures; to help families build new lives in our communities; and to create meaningful, long-lasting relationships.

For contact information for any of our interpreters, email jsilk@jewishnewhaven.org. Your donations help sustain JCARR's work, including paying interpreters. Donate online at jewishnewhaven.org/refugee-resettlement/give. Checks can also be made payable to The Jewish Federation, with JCARR in the memo line, to The Jewish

SAMUEL CAMPNER: New Haven's Youngest, Briefest and Only Jewish Mayor

THE JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY spotlights a young Jewish figure who made a difference in New Haven politics and in the local Jewish community during the early 1900s.



Samuel Campner was New Haven's first and, so far, only Jewish mayor. He was also the youngest New Haven mayor as well as the mayor with the shortest term of office. He was born in 1887 in Courland, Russia. His parents brought him to New Haven when he was an infant. Besides working with his father as a painter and paperhanger, Campner worked as a newsboy, a hotel clerk and a surface car conductor.

After graduating from New Haven High School and Yale Law School, he worked for several older lawyers before opening his own law office. He was respected as one of the leading trial lawyers in New Haven.

Early in his career, like many Jews of his generation, Campner joined the Republican Party and, for a time, was president of the Young Men's Republican Club. In 1911, he was elected to the Board of Aldermen. After two terms in office, he was elected President of the Board of Alderman. In January 1917, Mayor Frank L. Price died in office and Campner became acting mayor. The state legislature passed a special law to allow Campner, who was only 29, to become mayor. Later in 1917, he ran in the election for a full term of his own, but a Democrat, David Fitzgerald, defeated him.

In his short time in office, Campner's major achievement was to make the police and fire departments accountable to elected officials rather than to a commissioner appointed by the mayor.

After losing the mayoral election, Campner was president of a real estate company and then a bank. He was deeply involved in Jewish affairs and in the Jewish community. Like most of New Haven's Jewish elite in the early 20th century, Campner was an active member of Congregation Mishkan Israel. He was president of Horeb Lodge of B'nai B'rith as well as a mentor, advisor and confidant to Jewish students at Yale. For many years, the Campner home was open every Sunday evening to Jewish students at Yale University for fellowship and discussion.

Samuel Campner died in December 1934. He was only 47 years old.

From "Samuel Campner, First and Only Jewish Mayor of New Haven" by Sadie Platcow Ratner in *Jews in New Haven Volume II*, edited by Barry Herman.

As Our Community Contracts and Expands



by Dr. Jeffrey Hoos
Jewish
Federation
of Greater
New Haven
President

When we are facing difficult times, we have a tendency to contract or expand by either going into ourselves or reaching out. Maybe we can do both. These last few months have been hard as we are all trying to make sense of being more isolated. Somehow we can manage that. Some of us have tried new things, such as baking bread for me (turned out terrible). But I (we) tried. Some of us, such as my daughter, are finally celebrating a birthday and being healthy after 18 days of suffering from the COVID-19 virus. My son-in-law and wife were amazing, taking care of and isolating her. What we did as a family was contract into our world and expand our

roles. We became more aware of our surroundings and contracted in our homes. While in our houses, we had to expand our roles to help each other get through.

The events of the past few weeks have put more on us. What more do we have to deal with, comprehend and act upon? How much more can we "take"? We can take plenty more. We, as a community, can "take" a lot, and we can do this together.

To the people who have made funds available to the Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundation COVID-19 Response/Maimonides Fund, thank you. To the people who are supporting the agencies through your pledges and payment to the Jewish Federation, thank you. We as a community contracted because of the virus. And we as a community expanded our reach to help people in need. This is how we are doing it and how we are going to do it in the future.

As President of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, I cannot thank our professional staff enough. They have stepped up and should make us all very

proud. Thank you to Judy Alperin, Scott Cohen, Lisa Stanger, Amy Holtz and their hard-working teams as well as our committee leaders who have been expanding our reach. Our agencies have contracted to keep everyone safe and expand their services. Where would we be without our Tier One agencies; the JCC of Greater New Haven, The Towers at Tower Lane, Jewish Family Service, Ezra Academy, Southern Connecticut Hebrew Day School and Camp Laurelwood and the many other Jewish service agencies, programs and camps and especially synagogues have maintained important connections and supports for so many.

We are coming back, and we are coming back strong and committed to our community. We are all working together to help each other expand our services.

Jeffrey Hoos
Sincerely written,
Dr. Jeffrey Hoos

Celebrating Freedoms Celebrating Others



Courtesy of JWB
Jewish Chaplains
Council / JCC
Association of
North America

Independence Day, so often equated with fireworks, cookouts, and summer sales also has an important and meaningful history. It not only commemorates the birth of our country, but also celebrates the freedoms that have enabled the Jewish community in the U.S. to thrive. It is fitting, then, to think about Independence Day as an opportunity to reflect on those freedoms and how we can protect and defend them.

Created by JWB Jewish Chaplains Council (jcca.org/what-we-do/jwb), a signature program of JCC Association of North America (jcca.org), "Celebrating Freedom & Serving Others: Jewish Community Honors July 4th" is a new initiative that gives us a wonderful framework for reflections on this day. It offers a Jewish lens through which we can view the holiday, explore its meaning to us as Americans and as Jews, and take actions to make our country and our world a better place, a Jewish concept known as *tikkun olam* (repair of the world).

THIS 4TH OF JULY WE SHOULD ASK OURSELVES:

- How am I honoring our Jewish tradition of service?

- What am I doing to celebrate and show gratitude for the freedoms America has bestowed on me and how will I commit to securing these freedoms for others?

There is no limit to the actions we can take to give back to our country and our communities. If you need suggestions where to start, check out our list of resources below.

CONNECT WITH SERVICE MEMBERS BY SENDING A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT.

- uso.org/message/thanks-a-million

- kosher troops.com/letters

REGISTER TO VOTE, AND REMEMBER TO VOTE ON ELECTION DAY!

- Rock the Vote (rockthevote.org/how-to-vote/register-to-vote)

- Learn how your nonprofit organization can help others register to vote at nonprofit.vote.org. They provide checklists, guides, and other resources to help your nonprofit navigate the logistics of planning events, what staff can and cannot do, and other facets of mobilizing voters in voter registration, voter education, and voter turnout.

Give back to your local community by participating in this JCC social action project.

LEARN ABOUT THE HISTORY OF JEWISH MILITARY SERVICE IN THE UNITED STATES.

- National Museum of American Jewish Military History (nmajmh.org)
- The Jewish American Military Historical Society (jewishmilitary.com)
- Jews in the American Military Recommended Reading (nmajmh.org/education/resources-for-educators/jews-in-the-american-military-recommended-reading)

BELOW YOU CAN FIND RESOURCES FOR DAY CAMPS AND JEWISH EDUCATORS.

- TAGtivity: Welcoming the Stranger in a Nation of Immigrants (jcca.org/app/uploads/2020/06/July-4-TAGtivity-Welcoming-the-Stranger.pdf)
- TAGtivity: The Blessings of Liberty (jcca.org/app/uploads/2020/06/July-4-TAGtivity-The-Blessings-of-Liberty.pdf)
- TAGtivity: An American Talmud (jcca.org/app/uploads/2020/06/July-4-TAGtivity-An-American-Talmud.pdf)
- TAGtivity: Fourth of July Quote Gallery (jcca.org/app/uploads/2020/06/July-4-TAGtivity-Fourth-of-July-Quote-Gallery.pdf)
- TAGtivity: Songs and Spirit: A Fourth of July Singdown (jcca.org/app/uploads/2020/06/July-4-TAGtivity-Songs-and-Spirit.pdf)
- TAGtivity: The Chesed Brigade: Giving Back to Those Who Have Given (jcca.org/app/uploads/2020/06/July-4-TAGtivity-The-Chesed-Brigade.pdf)
- Sheva Center Resource: Community Helpers: Our Nation's Men and Women in Uniform (jcca.org/app/uploads/2020/06/July-4-Sheva-Center-Community-Helpers.pdf)

Source: jcca.org/July4

Westville Synagogue: A Place of Safety

by Leonard J. Honeyman

A \$10,000 grant from the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven, given in memory of Arthur and Yvette Eder, has enabled the Westville Synagogue to make recent safety improvements. The grant enabled installation of a new security system and other work. The system includes eight cameras, an intercom between the office manager's desk and the lower lobby entrance, and several panic alarms. That is in addition to door locks that had been previously installed.

Synagogue Board Chairman Elliott Croll, who coordinated the effort, said that although the synagogue always had considered security important, the impetus for this latest effort was the Oct. 27, 2018 murders at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh. After collecting a lot of information about what city, state and federal resources were available from the Jewish Federation, the New Haven Department of Police Service and government agencies—and after a walk-through with Lt. Rose Dell, the area police commander at the time—the synagogue figured out what was needed and applied for the grant.



A good security system also protects the perimeter of the building.



Cantor Jennifer Boyle Joins Temple Beth Tikvah



Temple Beth Tikvah is delighted to announce Cantor Jennifer Boyle as the new cantor-educator as of July 1. She was ordained in June 2020 from Hebrew College in Boston, has a master's degree in Jewish education, and a certification in interfaith family Jewish engagement from Hebrew College. In addition to being the cantor, Cantor Boyle will lead Temple Beth Tikvah's Religious School.

Before cantorial school, Cantor Boyle graduated magna cum laude from Hofstra University Honors College with a B.S. in Music History and a minor in Jewish Studies. In addition, she completed a Fellowship at the Shalom Hartman Institute in New York.

Cantor Boyle has been a cantorial soloist, religious school educator and B'nei Mitzvah tutor, receiving high praise for her musical ability, strengths as a communicator, creativity as an educator, and her can-do style as a member of a team. Rabbi Offner and the Temple Beth Tikvah community are excited to welcome Cantor Boyle into our spiritual family.

To learn more about Cantor Boyle, visit tbtshoreline.org.

Baking Challah for Community and Charity

by Abby Sauberman

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, my family found it difficult to make it to the grocery store each week to get a challah for Shabbat. Additionally, ingredients like flour and yeast were sparse in grocery stores, but I was able to get my hands on a large quantity of these ingredients. Being an avid baker and aspiring pastry chef, I started using my free time to bake challahs for my family. But I wondered how I could use this skill for the people in my community facing a similar problem. That's when I reached out to my rabbi, Rabbi Farbman, to help me spread the word that I would be baking challahs for members of my synagogue. I decided that rather than profit off of this, I would donate all of the proceeds to The Jewish Federation's and Jewish Foundation's Maimonides Fund. Each challah is a minimum donation of \$10 and delivered straight to my customers' doorsteps. Over the past five weeks, I have donated over \$500 to the fund.

My challah-baking Fridays have become the highlight of my week. While baking 10-12 challahs in my oven is time consuming and exhausting, it is a challenge that I enjoy. I have gotten to know more members of my synagogue and community; I value these newly formed connections. Hearing positive feedback from my customers and seeing pictures of their half-eaten challahs or French toast creations make my weekends extra special. I hope to continue this project all summer and possibly even longer. I plan to document my progress on my Instagram account (@baking_by_abby) where I feature some of my other products.

To place an order, email abby52903@gmail.com. Challahs can be delivered to Bethany, Orange, Woodbridge and New Haven. Abby Sauberman, who lives in Woodbridge, will be a senior at Amity High School.



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JCC DAY CAMPS

Camp is opening June 22 & preparing for a fun & safe summer

2020 CAMP SEASON

Session 1: 6/22 - 7/17
Session 2: 7/20 - 8/14

jccnh.org/camp

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

JCC

OF GREATER NEW HAVEN

360 Amity Road Woodbridge, CT (203) 387-2424

New Funding for Jewish Elderly Initiatives

THE JEWISH FOUNDATION RECENTLY LAUNCHED THEIR NEW GRANTS FOR THE JEWISH ELDERLY INITIATIVE WHICH AWARDED \$130,000 IN GRANTS FOR THE JEWISH ELDERLY

“This is the inaugural year of an annual grant program which was made possible and permanently endowed by funding from the Jewish Home Building, Corporation,” says Dr. Craig Sklar, the Jewish Foundation’s Chair. “Our intention is to award \$130,000 every year, and as the fund grows, that amount can increase.”

The first year grant awards went to three organizations providing essential programs for our area’s seniors: Jewish Family Service for their geriatric social work, The Towers at Tower Lane to feed residents in need, and Madison’s Temple Beth Tikvah for their 2 Way L’Dor V’Dor intergenerational program targeted to reduce risk of social isolation and loneliness for the Jewish elderly.

Foundation Board member and past Jewish Home Building Fund, Corporation President, Gary R. Ginsberg feels, “privileged to have served as a board member for the Jewish Home and the Building Fund for over 50 years.”



The Jewish Home for the Aged on Davenport Avenue was, at one time, the primary caregiver to the Jewish elderly of Greater New Haven. It also functioned, as an important gathering place for the large Jewish community that resided in the Hill. It included a synagogue that served the local community, its daily minyan was important and it served the traditional holiday function as well as a place for many bar mitzvahs, Ginsberg recounts. When the Home ceased operations, Building Fund members diligently sought to find a way to continue their mission. After exploring several options, it was recognized that establishing a fund with the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven was the best alternative, says Ginsberg. He notes that the transition of Building Fund assets to the Jewish Foundation—including the transfer, storage and archiving of the Jewish Home’s historic artifacts—has been extraordinarily successful.

“For JFS, this vital funding allows us to greatly increase our impact,” says CEO Amy Rashba. “Most importantly, it expands our ability to offer individual and group therapy to isolated seniors and to also provide emotional support to their families.” JFS Aging Adult Coordinator Andrea Joseph, LCSW, looks forward to, “working with another part-time social worker to help meet the surging demands for our services.”

“I am grateful have the support of the broader Jewish Community,” says Jennifer Bayer, M.A., the Director of Development and Community Relations for The Towers at Tower Lane. “This has been incredibly helpful in reducing anxiety, exposure and risk for our most vulnerable population at The Towers safe, providing meals in-house and

by subsidizing those in financial need.”

A gerontologist, Temple Beth Tikvah member and project leader of 2 Way L’Dor V’Dor, Donna B. Fedus details how grant funds will be used to nurture a greater understanding between younger people and older adults. “We are creating two-way connections between generations through religious school interactions and home delivery of special items a few times a year,” she points out. “We are doing it to decrease social isolation of older adults and to strengthen community as well as to reduce stigma about aging while preparing younger people for the age-diverse world in which they will live and work.”

“It is extremely gratifying to carry out the mission of the Jewish Foundation,” Sklar emphasizes. Through the Jewish Elderly Initiative, we will continue to provide essential financial support and services to our community, he states.

For more information, visit jewishnewhaven.org/grants.

NEW JEWISH ELDERLY FUNDS AND TRANSFERRING OF ASSETS

The Jewish Home for the Aged on Davenport Avenue and the Jewish Home Building Fund, Corporation, were always separate corporations. In December 2019, The Jewish Home Building Fund Corporation irrevocably transferred all of their assets to the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven to establish two new, Foundation-owned restricted funds to benefit the Jewish elderly: the *Leo Links Fund for the Jewish Elderly* and the *Jewish Elderly Services Fund*.

In addition, previously existing funds for the benefit of the Jewish Elderly, held at the Jewish Foundation—which also funds this initiative—are Isaac & Mary Liveten Fund for the Jewish Home for the Aged, Marion Litsky Fund for the Jewish Elderly and Congregation Or Shalom, 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, and the Community Endowment for the Jewish Elderly.

Upon receiving the assets, the Jewish Foundation’s board formed a grants committee to develop policies and procedures. The goals for this initiative include:

1. enhancing the quality of life for Jewish elderly currently residing in greater New Haven;
2. funding new and innovative projects for the benefit of the Jewish elderly;
3. encouraging collaboration between Jewish organizations in order to maximize use of resources; and/or
4. conducting outreach to the Jewish elderly.

Lisa Stanger, the Jewish Foundation’s Executive Director, discussed that, in addition to receiving the funds of the Jewish Home Building Fund, Corporation, the Jewish Foundation received many tangible assets from the former Jewish Home, they had been in storage since the Home’s closing. This included many of the Jewish Home’s synagogue’s artifacts, such as memorials for donors, yartzeit plaques, and photos and painted portraits of founders and contributors—including many of prominent members of our Jewish community. These items remain in a secure, climate-controlled storage facility.

“The Jewish Foundation will be working with the Jewish Historical Society to properly catalog and archive these items, which will include a digital archive. The hope is for all of these items to be available and searchable online and, for some if not all of these items, to have a wall to hang on somewhere in our community,” states Stanger.

Members of the Jewish Elderly Grants Committee include Craig Sklar (Foundation Chair), Rabbi Richard Eisenberg, Betsy Hoos, Jocelyn Hurwitz, Edward Konowitz, Ken Sandberg and Richard Weiss.

Mazal Tov to Yale Hillel



Congratulations to Yale Hillel, the newest member of the Jewish Initiative for Animals’ Jewish Leadership Circle. The Joseph Slifka Center for Jewish Life (Yale Hillel) was recognized for meeting the requirements of the Jewish Leadership Circles’ Animal Welfare track by sourcing certified higher welfare eggs.

“The staff and students remain committed to advancing more sustainable

practices through the food they serve. We are heartened by institutions’ dedication to building a healthier food system and a more resilient Jewish community, especially during this difficult and disruptive time,” stated the Jewish Initiative for Animals on its Facebook page.

“It is wonderful to share this news and let other Greater New Haven organizations, shuls and agencies that prepare or arrange food know that they too can take this important step to align our food choices with our Jewish values through the JLC program; it’s easy to do and a really special opportunity for our community to be models in a way our world needs now more than ever,” says Josh Weinstein, “As it becomes clearer that our relationship to the environment and animals really matters in the public health conversation, there is an opportunity to lay more groundwork during this time as we all look ahead together.”

For more information on the Joseph Slifka Center for Jewish Life, visit slifkacenter.org.



For more information on Weddings and Events, please contact Traci Pessina.



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Welcoming You Back!



After many weeks of only engaging remotely, we are excited to welcome you back into our facility as we reopen and begin launching many of our great services. The Jewish Federation and JCC of Greater New Haven prioritize the safety and health of our community above all else. As such, we have worked tirelessly to develop a reopening plan that includes compliance with the latest state and federal guidelines and CDC recommendations, including social distancing and extensive cleaning protocols. We remain committed to providing you and your family with the safest and most enjoyable experience possible.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation during these unprecedented times as we all come together. From all of us here at the JCC, welcome back!

WHAT IS CURRENTLY OPEN AT THE JCC?

The JCC Day Camps and our indoor pool are now open for JCC members. Most fitness center activities will resume on July 6, and indoor cycling will be active on July 13. Learn more about the reopening schedule by visiting our JCC reopening hub (jccnh.org/coronavirus), get more specific information about the experience at the indoor pool (jccnh.org/jcc-reopening-pool), and learn more about the reopening of our fitness center (jccnh.org/jcc-reopening-fitness-center).

IS ADVANCED REGISTRATION REQUIRED?

Yes, current JCC members need to register in advance for their preferred activity. This is required to limit the

number of users in the various areas of the building and to enable hourly and daily cleaning routines. JCC members can register for 45-minute sessions by logging on to their JCC account (hnd-p-ols.spectrumng.net/jccnewhaven/Login.aspx). Visit jccnh.org/jcc-reopening-register-for-visits for a quick tutorial on how to sign in.

DO I NEED TO WEAR A MASK?

Yes, all visitors and staff must wear a face cover while at the JCC, except when on a cardio machine or in the pool.

CAN I CHANGE CLOTHES AND SHOWER AT THE JCC?

For the health and safety of our community, all of our locker rooms and showers are closed. Therefore, you will need to wear your swimsuit (if you come to the pool) or workout clothes (if you come to the fitness center) when you come to the J.

WHAT SHOULD I BRING WITH ME?

When you come to the J, wear your workout clothes or swimsuit as our locker rooms and showers are currently closed. You must wear a mask when entering the JCC. It is very important that your own towel and water bottle are filled from home since all our water fountains and towel service are not in use. If you are going to the pool, you will also need your own goggles and flip flops to wear on the pool deck. As always, you will need to present your membership card when checking in for your scheduled workout.

WHERE DO I ENTER THE BUILDING?

Fitness center activities are accessible from the main door as usual. However, to get to the pool, you will need to park by the side of the building and follow the signage to the pool entrance. We enabled direct access to the pool to minimize traffic inside the building for the health and safety of our community.

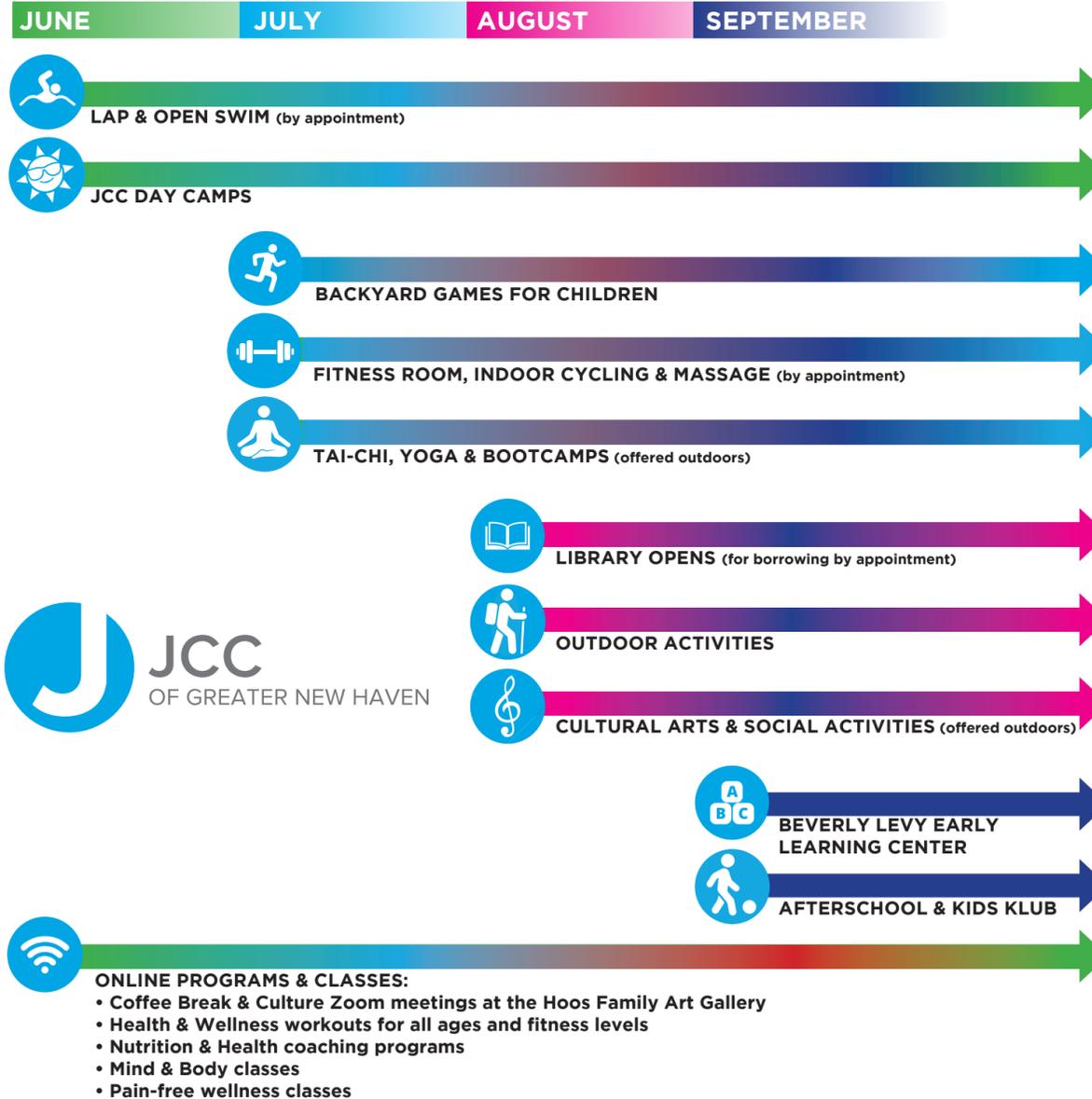
WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW BEFORE MY FIRST VISIT?

All JCC members will need to read and sign a waiver when they first come to the JCC. You can print it at home and bring it signed if you wish. We highly recommend that you arrive 15 minutes before your scheduled timeslot to allow for the check-in process.

HOW ARE YOU PROTECTING THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF JCC MEMBERS?

We comply with the latest state and federal guidelines and CDC recommendations, including social distancing and extensive cleaning protocols. Everyone entering our building is required to go through a temperature check and a health screening. All visits to our facilities are by appointment only. This is how we assure that the safe number of users in each area of the building is not exceeded. Every piece of equipment, doorknob and railing will be cleaned between sessions; all areas will be closed for 1-2 hours during the day for additional deep cleaning. Everyone is required to wear a mask while at the JCC (except when on a cardio machine or in the pool) and floor/wall markings guide one-directional traffic and facilitate safe-distancing.

Keeping Our Community Healthy and Safe Adding On-site Services to JCC Members



CAN I COME TO THE JCC IF I RECENTLY TRAVELED OUT OF STATE?

The State of Connecticut Department of Health issued a 14-days self-quarantine order for people who traveled to certain states. The list of states (portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/Covid-19-Knowledge-Base/Travel-In-or-Out-of-CT) is constantly updated and it can be viewed on the government's portal.

CAN NON MEMBERS USE THE FACILITIES?

No. At this time only current JCC members can use the facility. Learn about our JCC membership options at jccnh.org/membership-rates-and-benefits.

DO YOU STILL OFFER LIVE ZOOM CLASSES?

Yes, Zoom classes are still offered. They are free to JCC members and require a fee for non-JCC members.

I VISITED THE JCC AND WOULD LIKE TO OFFER SOME FEEDBACK.

Please write to MyJ@jccnh.org and share your feedback with our team. We always look to recognize the good work of our staff and/or improve the way we do things for our community.

DON'T SEE YOUR QUESTION HERE?

Please contact our dedicated membership team at membership@jccnh.org.

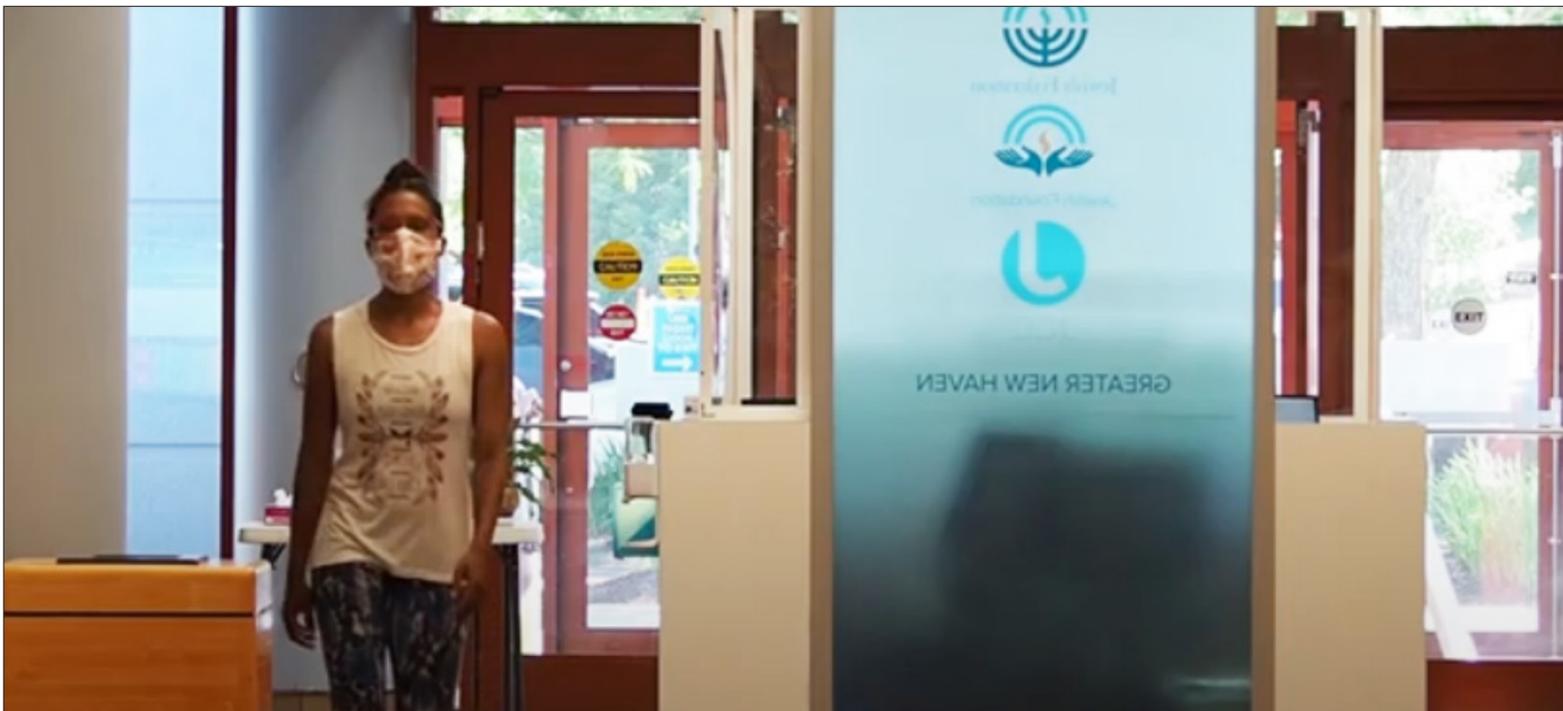
Mark your calendars for these important dates:

JULY 6: The JCC fitness room, Pilates studio and personal training will open for member use. Registration for fitness activities will open July 3.

JULY 13: We will resume on-site spin classes and massage therapy

JULY 20: We will offer expanded virtual group exercise schedules for members only. Details to be announced.

COMING SOON: We hope to be adding racquet sports to our offerings. Stay tuned!



Stay updated! Sign up to receive email updates at jewishnewhaven.org/contact-us.

#Blacklivesmatter: A Sermon for the Books

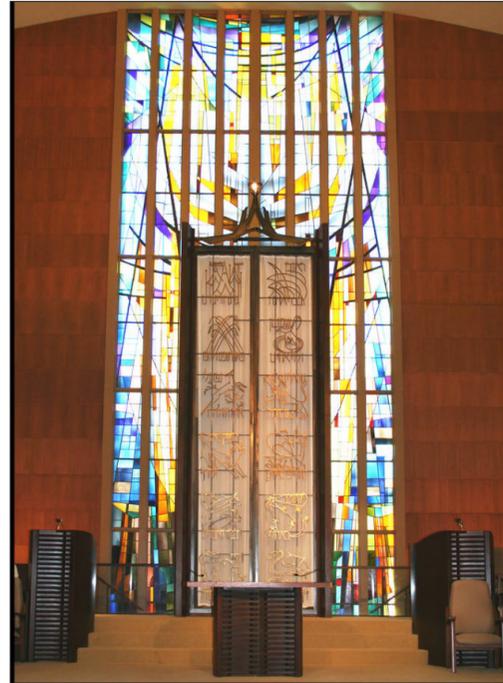


by **Rabbi Rona Shapiro**
Congregation B'nai Jacob,
Woodbridge

The Book of Numbers is, in some ways, one long journey into nostalgia. It is hard to imagine that the Israelites could be so nostalgic for such a terribly flawed past, until we think a little bit more about our own situation. I believe that

America, at this moment, instead of looking toward a bright future, is enthralled with a vision of a halcyon past. After all, what is Make America Great Again if not an appeal to some imagined past in which everyone was happy and prosperous, big bands played the concert halls, Father knew best, and the Yankees always won. But if you were black, Hispanic, Jewish, poor, Asian, female or gay, it wasn't so great. And yet, like the Israelites in a time of rapid and unpredictable change, we want to return to some halcyon past. At this very moment, in the midst of a global pandemic that has dramatically altered all of our lives, a nation has risen up in protest saying, "No. The past you long for was wretched for us and the present is also not acceptable." It is a powerful cry across the land.

I think we know that these protests are about much more than police brutality and that racism is about much more than a few bad apples on the force. That is the place where this conversation gets difficult. Many of us may say we are not a racist, do not hate black people or see color, were raised to respect everyone equally. Although these statements may be true to some extent, they all belie the issue. They all add up to some version of, "I am not a bad person" and, while that is undoubtedly true, it is also beside the point. The issue is that we live in a culture that is deeply racist, and we are part of that culture. The police only act as they do because we as a society have effectively empowered them to. When we enjoy the privileges of a "safe suburb" and an "excellent



school system," and I have never ever feared that I will be denied a job or a home or healthcare because of the color of my skin, I benefit from that system; I therefore subtly endorse it. I don't challenge it because it is uncomfortable to look at my own privilege and, because, frankly, in the history of the world, no one ever gave up privilege or power without being compelled to. I know things have not always been easy for us as Jews. Our people have suffered. But we are beneficiaries of enormous privilege. When I get stopped for a traffic violation, I trust that the cop will be respectful and that if I am duly sweet and contrite and lucky, I'll get off with a warning or a ticket. I have never worried that I will be hauled out of my car, thrown up against it, handcuffed, arrested or, God forbid, hurt. And I have never told my children to be fear-

ful of cops. This also covers demanding help for my child is a hospital, getting tutors as my child prepares for college and more. I say all this not so you should feel guilty. I don't think guilt will help anything. But I do think that if we are aware of our privilege, we might examine ourselves closely, educate ourselves about racism a little better, listen a little more carefully, question more what we have learned, interrupt racist comments and more to help level the playing field and make America a true home to all its citizens.

It is just too easy to point fingers at the police right now. It is easy to act as if they are enacting racism as we stand by innocently. But the fact is that we have had this discussion for decades after incidents and deaths. Each time, laws were passed, police practices were reformed and review boards were established. Yet we are still having the same conversation and facing the same problem. Which suggests to me that we haven't really gotten to the root of the problem; this is not a technical problem to which we can apply some technical solutions and fix it.

What can we do? I return to the Bible. The Israelites are liberated from slavery and given a noble vision of the society they are to build, a society in which the vulnerable are cared for, a society governed by just laws, a society grounded in G-d's love for us and our love for our neighbor and strangers. It would be nice if we could leave it there. But the rest of the Bible is about Israel's failure to live up to that ideal. So, why do I feel hopeful? Because I believe that the story you tell is the story you live. The Bible—like the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution—plants a notion of Eden deep within our hearts. Deep within human consciousness is a vision of a perfect world; as long as we have that vision, we can march from here to there. No, we won't ever get it perfect. But we can make a world more just and whole, more free and equal. But only if we first take a hard look in the mirror. What can we do concretely? We can educate ourselves. We can have conversations with one another around the dinner table. We can commit to a level of honesty. We can connect to friends and neighbors who are black, and let them know we care and we support them. We can donate to organizations that are making a difference. We can advocate for the things we believe. Showing up matters. I have hope. This great stirring across our land—this great unleashing of anger and despair—can awaken us yet again and can bring lasting change. Things have improved. We have also failed and fallen short of our noblest ideals. And we have picked ourselves up and moved forward, however imperfectly, stumbling, but with a vision of the Promised Land planted in our hearts, faith in the goodness of the world we inhabit, and the firm knowledge that we are here on earth as G-d's partners to perfect a not yet perfect world.

This is an edited version of a longer sermon Rabbi Rona Shapiro, gave on June 20, 2020. The full text can be found at files.constantcontact.com/08b3d549001/2d4c0748-baa5-47c5-b48f-ea1a5589996e.pdf.

Job Seekers Workshop and Support Group

Have you been furloughed or lost your job due to COVID-19? Are you overwhelmed and don't know where to start a job search? Are anxiety or depression making it difficult to take the first step?

Join Rachel Scolnic, LMSW, and Hannah Leiterman, LCSW, for the free Job Seekers Workshop and Support Group at Jewish Family Service of Greater New Haven. They will meet virtually on Zoom on July 7 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

You'll receive guidance on job search strategies during the pandemic and help coping with the emotional toll a job loss takes. Hear from others experiencing similar obstacles, and share ideas and leads. They will provide individualized assistance as needed for participants, including resume assistance and mental health counseling.

To register for these workshops, contact rsdobin@jfsnh.org. If you have a resume you would like to use during this workshop, forward that as well. Once registered, you'll receive a Zoom invitation.

On My Way Home: Some Reflections on Israeli and US Jewry Relations



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

Starting my journey back to Israel after spending three years in the Greater New Haven Jewish community brought me to once again reflect on the connection between Israeli and American Jewry. As a "professional Jew," I have been asked in different forums what is the nature of the relationship between the two communities. "What should our communities learn from each other?" I've been asked. "What should be the proper contract?"

These kinds of questions increase as our communities face many challenges nowadays. One controversial issue is the

upcoming annexation/applying sovereignty of Israel over parts of the West Bank. The response to this plan threatens to widen the gap among the Jewish people.

Few paradigms have been offered in the past as to what the "contract" should look like. I will briefly mention two of them.

In Israel's first years, due to the post-Holocaust currents, it was perceived as a place of shelter for persecuted Jews, a safe home for a homeless nation. Nonetheless, Israel couldn't have built itself without the huge philanthropist support from American Jewry. A contract was shaped; Zion will be the safe home, and the wealthy Jewish community in the US will help build it.

In some ways, this paradigm prevails. But after a few economic crises in the US—most recently related to COVID-19—and given Israel's strong economy, some argue that US Jewry should rethink their philanthropic strategy considering the needs of the local community. In addition, many argue that even though we are now experiencing a growing number of anti-Semitic incidents, the US is still a safe place for Jews. Most don't experience any mortal threat and feel safe here, sometimes more than Israeli Jews.

If the first paradigm was of physical and survival exchange of needs, the next paradigm is of belonging and identity. With a growing alienation of young Jews from their Jewish identity, some say a visit to Israel can strengthen it. A week with Taglit (Birthright) in Israel can often be as meaningful as several years of Jewish education. In return, American Jewry brings to Israel the pluralist notion that "there is more than one way to be Jewish." This enriches the Orthodox Israeli mainstream.

Having said that, research shows that Israelis who visit America also strengthen their own Jewish identity. As many say about the emissaries' experience, they come here to the US as Israelis and return as Jews. In other words, maybe something about traveling outside your comfort zone, and understanding new ideas and different kinds of Jewishness might contribute to their Jewish identity. It goes both ways. Others might challenge the supremacy of American pluralism. While American Jewry are more exposed to non-Orthodox streams, Israeli Jews are intensively exposed to ethnic differences and social-economic diversity within the Jewish community. Israel seems more inclusive in this regard. Moreover, Israel has a lively Jewish renewal movement.

Apparently when we come to think about Israel-US Jewry relations combined with a contract notion of give and take, those paradigms collapse in some way. It often leads to places of interests and power struggles.

But if we think of this question a bit differently and ask not how but why should we learn from each other, we remind ourselves that we are an extended family. Like all



families, we care about each other even if we sometimes have bitter disputes. As family, we want to know each other, to deepen our love for each other, to care. How if we asked not what we should learn from each other but rather focused on how we can learn about each other? Instead of building a contract, we can start rethinking our covenant through the willingness to learn more about our sister community.

The steps that Israel is possibly going to take soon could also be an invitation to listen and hear the pain, frustrations and fears from both sides of the ocean. It is a chance to nurture our empathy and understanding as a first step. On this basis, we might be able to revive the relationship between our communities.

As I go back to Israel, I will take all I have learned here and will share with others my love to my extended family on both sides of the ocean. Le'hitraot!

Jewish Cemetery Association Announces Price Increase

The Jewish Cemetery Association of Greater New Haven announced an increase to the purchase price for grave sites in its cemeteries. This is the result of the rising weekly maintenance costs and the increased costs to repair and improve the cemeteries. The price increase will take effect August 1, 2020.

The association strongly urges community members to consider purchasing graves now before the price increase, and before spaces are no longer available. Graves are available in West Haven at the Workmen's Circle Cemetery, Shara Torah Cemetery and Congregation Sinai Cemetery. Graves are also available in Bristol at the Kol Ami and Beth Israel Cemeteries.

To purchase a grave or for more information, contact Andrew Hodes at (203) 387-2424 x303 or ahodes@jewishnewhaven.org.



Celebrating Independence Together

by **Yelena Gerovich**
New American Acculturation Coordinator

On July 4, 1778, George Washington ordered a double ration of rum for his soldiers to celebrate the Independence Day holiday.

While many things are now beyond our control, the way we eat and drink is not. It is true that we usually want comfort food during this stressful time, and holidays give us an excuse to enjoy it. When you are working online while staying home, you are tempted to have food and drink on your table.

The Independence Day celebration traditions give us tips on how to enjoy healthy food for the holiday. The tradition of eating salmon on the Fourth of July began in New England as a coincidence. It just so happened that during the middle of the summer, salmon was in abundance in rivers throughout the region; salmon was a common sight on tables at the time. The late June ripening of peas made for a clear choice of pairing for a flavorful, nutritious dish. Then many New Englanders added small, freshly harvested potatoes to round out the meal. We have had many reasons to say “L’chaim” when raising a glass celebrating Victory Day, Mother’s Day and Shavuot in May; Flag Day and Father’s Day in June; and Independence Day in July.

On May 10, the Russian-speaking community had a virtual Victory Day celebration. Shabs Mashkautsan, a 96-year-old World War II veteran and hero of the Soviet Union, started the program. This year is a special year because we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the victory in World War II. More than 500,000 Jews fought against Nazi Germany in the ranks of the Soviet Red Army, and over 200,000 of them lost their lives. Our program combined a Victory Day celebration with a



Mother’s Day celebration, which was on the same day. The celebration was recorded and placed on YouTube for those who had trouble connecting via Zoom. Almost 500 people all around the world had the opportunity to enjoy our program.

All our programs were a great success due to the team effort of performers Michael Tsechansky, Ethan Burke, Thomas Petrushka, Yosif Gorenbeyn, Dalia Medovnikov, Michael Shekman, Anastasia Sidorova and Jack Kessler. Marina Milgram, the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven’s bilingual IT Manager, helped with our virtual programs and performances on Zoom. She offered trainings on how to use Zoom video and telephone conferencing for those who were unfamiliar with the application. The New American Acculturation Program uses every opportunity to educate members of our community, and to help them learn more about American and Jewish history and traditions.

On June 14, 1777, less than a month before the very first Independence Day celebration, the Continental Congress passed a resolution creating America’s first official flag. Throughout its 243 years of existence, the American flag has been officially modified 26 times for various reasons. Most Russian-speaking members of our community have passed the citizenship test and proudly display the American flag on their property or car celebrating Flag Day in June and Independence Day in July.

There were many different reasons for Jews from the former Soviet Union to emigrate. One reason was common to all of them: the desire to have freedom and independence. We spent almost three months in lockdowns, but we were not isolated. We had the support of our community; we tried to stay connected with everyone. “The most fatal thing a man can do is try to stand alone,” said Carson McCullers. It is good to be connected with your community at such a difficult time.

For more information about the New American Acculturation Program, including sponsorships of specific program, contact Yelena Gerovich at (203) 387-2424 x321, ygerovich@jewishnewhaven.org.

Welcome to America

Reset, Recommit and Reconnect

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

The social, physical and emotional distancing has not been easy for anyone. However, it has revealed a number of opportunities for us to tune in, transform and really connect with what is important in your life.

RESET For many, this time has redefined fitness and exercise. It is less about a buffed and nicely shaped body and more about health, a strong immune system and overall wellness.

As you begin to emerge from this challenging time of isolation, I invite you to approach your fitness routine by connecting with your intention. Focus on small, sustainable goals that will lead you toward lasting positive change. If you were thrown off of your routine and spent more time on the couch these past few months, then recognize the type of support you need and reset your plan by achieving these goals slowly and safely.

RECOMMIT As you recommit to perhaps a more regular pattern of exercise, our JCC Wellness & Fitness Center has responded and adjusted to a “new normal” of operations. We will remain steadfast in our resolve to focus our efforts to welcome our members back into our building safely, providing the quality

of programming our members have come to rely on. In addition to great guidance and customer service, here’s what you can expect when you visit:

- All equipment, weights and exercise props have been divided up into multiple rooms for safe spacing.
- Appointments and check-in protocols ensure no overcrowding.
- A robust cleaning and sanitizing practice will keep members and staff safe.
- Personal training services are offered live in safe spacing areas.
- Spinning classes will run daily in our spacious Vine Family Auditorium, allowing bikes to be placed at a distance where you will be allowed to remove your mask while riding.
- Spa services, such as massage, will resume under appropriate health guidelines.
- Online health coaching, nutrition consulting, and wellness workshops and sessions will continue via Zoom.
- A strong virtual group exercise schedule will offer a variety of over 30 classes per week streaming live with your favorite instructors.

Visit our website at jccnh.org for updated policies, schedules and reservation guidance.

RECONNECT

Can we choose the “physical distancing” or “safe spacing” phrases as opposed to “social distancing” as part of our new language? Social is synonymous with community, companionship and connection; isn’t this what we need most to restore our mental and emotional health? Although we may be unable to shake hands and hug and we must continue to be mindful of physical closeness for now, we need more than ever to reconnect, support and enjoy the company of each other. After all, aren’t we are much stronger together?!

For more information on programs and schedules, visit jccnh.org.



Mitzvah Garden Growing Strong at Temple Beth David

COVID-19 can’t stop the Mitzvah Garden at Temple Beth David in Cheshire. With appropriate social distancing procedures in place, the 2020 season of the Mitzvah Garden is in full swing. The need for donations to local food pantries during the pandemic has been high, especially for fresh produce. Therefore, volunteers felt that the need for the Mitzvah Garden was as important as ever.

The Mitzvah Garden is an award-winning, 1,156-square-foot, impeccable growing space established in 2011. The garden was planned with perfect orientation and soil, superior irrigation, and well-thought crop rotation and companion planting. As of the final harvest of 2019, the garden has yielded 16,121 pounds of produce! Temple Beth David has donated the fresh vegetables to Cheshire Community Food Pantry, Masters Manna (Wallingford), St. Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen (Waterbury), Shelter Now (Meriden), Jewish Family Service (New Haven), Southington Food Pantry and The Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen (New Haven).

Temple Beth David is 200-families strong, and takes tremendous pride in the Mitzvah Garden. It has been recognized by the Cheshire Town Beautification Committee and received the 2016 Beauty Spot of the Month Award (Cheshire Garden Club).



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Supporting Our Seniors' Needs during this Time

by Sarah Lessing
Shalom New Haven Staff Writer

The COVID-19 crisis has hit all communities on different levels, impacting health, employment and social needs. The scene for our senior citizens was particularly devastated by the virus and left many of our elderly neighbors in a state of loneliness and vulnerability. The Towers at Tower Lane was able to answer in a quick and caring manner with the help of the COVID-19 Response/Maimonides Fund. Jennifer Bayer, Development/Community Relations Director at the Towers, tells us how they were able to care for their residents during the pandemic.

"Our seniors have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19 because of their age and the congregate housing setting, so we had to take early action," Bayer explains. The two buildings offer both affordable housing for those in need and regular priced apartments for over 320 seniors with an average age of 86. Given the large number of residents, appropriate and quick action was a necessity. The COVID-19 Response/Maimonides Fund was able to provide sustainable support to allow the Towers at Tower Lane residents to live in a safe environment that would not only protect their physical health and well-being, but also their mental health and social needs. The program focuses on allocating emergency grants and direct assistance to communities, families and individuals in need, through Jewish organizations and local rabbis who help facilitate the support. As of June 7, this fund had reached \$186,600 in emergency grants, which were distributed to multiple organizations such as the Jewish Family Service of Greater New Haven, Temple Emanuel of Greater New Haven, local Chabad Houses and the Joseph Slifka Center for Jewish Life at Yale.

At the Towers, the program ensures that all residents receive three meals a day regardless of their ability to pay. Getting groceries usually involves public transportation, time, carrying items and/or grocery shopping online; all these carry huge risks for this specific demographic. The Towers immediately began delivering three meals a day with disposable items at the front door for every resident, Bayer says. All meals were prepared and cooked, "in our in-house kitchen. Everything was taken care of from inside. We also took charge of delivering items," she recalls. And that meant adding much more work for the staff members to ensure the residents were living in a safe environment.

"We went from 200 meals a day to almost 1,000 meals a day depending on the day. We really believed it was how to protect lives," Bayer proudly states. As a result of this proactive strategy, there were only a few cases of COVID-19 in the building.

The board was also able to purchase personal protective equipment—including masks, hand sanitizer and gloves—for residents, staff and those entering the building with funds from the Jewish Federation/Jewish Foundation's



COVID-19 Response/Maimonides Fund and from Yale University. About 1,500 masks were provided to them through Masks for Connecticut, a program of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven.

"Our delivery for personal protective equipment was delayed so the Jewish Federation offered us these masks; it was a huge help," she gratefully says.

Physical health was also a priority; additional support was needed to reduce the effects of the isolation the residents were facing. Seniors citizens are particularly vulnerable to loneliness and depression due to social isolation. The health crisis impacted them tremendously.

"Being a resident in a one-bedroom apartment presents its own unique challenges," Bayer points out. They decided to broadcast special programs on televisions with classes and Shabbat services. However, the interactive element was missing for the residents to communicate with each other.

"We applied to the Maimonides funds for 40 iPads and we received the funds," Bayer says. "We have very user-friendly card games they can play with each other. They can speak with family members, and do Facetime," she mentions. The Towers at Tower Lane will be receiving the iPads in a few weeks. They will be used if there is a resurgence of the virus or a particularly hard winter; it will be a way to connect people and make them less isolated.

The global pandemic was and still is a big change in our everyday lives, but The Towers at Tower Lane managed to face its challenges with the support of the Jewish Federation.

"The Maimonides fund helped us in an unprecedented way. No other organization or grant organization helped us through the three components the way they did with meals, personal protective equipment and technology to keep our residents social, states Bayer. These difficult times highlight what it means to be a community. It is through selflessness—such as those who have donated to the Maimonides Fund—that we are able to ensure the most vulnerable in our community are taken care of.

A SHERO

by Elizabeth Friedman-Rubin
Special for Shalom New Haven



Growing up in Hamden, Marji Lipshez Shapiro helped neighborhood children learn how to read. A lifelong educator, her ability to connect with others has positively impacted thousands of lives as Deputy Director of the

Connecticut Anti-Defamation League (ADL). On June 6, Shapiro was honored with the Shoreline SHERO Community Award.

A collaboration of agencies recognized 31 women and girls that are SHEROs. The recipients were honored during a virtual ceremony featuring speaker U.S. Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro.

Along with other awardees, Shapiro is the first to receive the SHERO Award, which is bestowed on a woman or girl who inspires others through her actions. She is a person who leads with kindness, helps others, and makes positive changes for herself and the community.

Originally working in higher education, Shapiro had focused much of her energy on fighting racism and creating a better world for all. It was this element of tikkun olam that drew her to ADL's mission to fight anti-Semitism, and ensure justice and fair treatment.

"That's what I care most about. I want to fight prejudice. In 1990, I was tasked with bringing a national program on bullying and bias called A World of Difference to Connecticut to help create safe and inclusive school environments."

Shapiro went on to create Names Can Really Hurt Us, a student-centered assembly program to combat bullying and prejudice. Twelve years ago, she launched Echoes and Reflections in Connecticut to train middle and high school teachers to teach their students about the Holocaust.

With reports to the ADL of anti-Semitic incidents exploding, and the continued fight to eradicate racism, Shapiro's mission to educate has grown even stronger.

"I'm putting out a call to action for all of us—including myself—to keep going. There's something we can each do no matter what age; I don't care if you're 6 or 96," says Shapiro.

In a lifetime of work committed to making a positive difference and connecting with others, Shapiro's dream has always remained true. "When I was two years old, I told my mother that I wanted to meet everyone in the world, and I'm still working on that!"

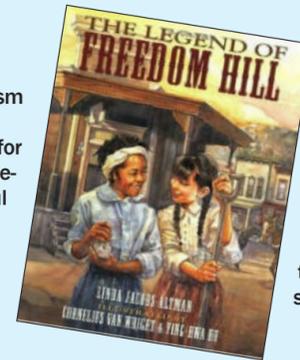
Freedom for All to Teach Our Jewish Families



by Stacey Battat
PJ Library Program Professional

There are many values and concepts in Judaism that emphasize the importance of respecting and learning from others. Adam yehidi nivra, for example, means, "every person is a unique creation." This means appreciating the wonderful things that make each person an individual and celebrating differences.

At this auspicious time in history, we can help our children begin to understand that many people continue to be treated harshly, and



to begin to explore ways that our families can integrate this knowledge.

A discussion guide related to The Legend of Freedom Hill by Linda Jacobs Altman (pjlibrary.org/PJLibrary/media/PJ-Library/books/reading%20guides/legend-of-freedom-hill.pdf) can prompt a discussion with children about freedom as we enter Independence Day celebrations. Watching resources such as the 13th documentary has personally given me a much richer perspective on equality and justice. I hope you will continue to teach your children that history is never black and white, literally and metaphorically speaking.

PJ Library Resources for Talking With Kids about Racism

Source: pjlibrary.org/beyond-books/pjblog/june-2020/resources-for-talking-to-kids-about-racism

Repairing the world, tikkun olam (pjlibrary.org/beyond-books/pjblog/2020-01/7-books-about-making-the-world-a-better-place), starts at home. Right now, even if it feels uncomfortable, it's important for families to talk about race and racism together.

The following resources offer starting points for parents, educators, and caregivers about how to handle conversations about race, racism, diversity and inclusion, even with very young children.

Since there is such a wealth of information available online, the PJ Library team has curated a selection for parents to get started with these discussions at home. This post is by no means an exhaustive list, and we will continue to update it as well as share pertinent posts, videos, and book lists on our Facebook page ([facebook.com/pg/PJLibrary/posts](https://www.facebook.com/pg/PJLibrary/posts)).

FOR PARENTS

Quick Links for Parents:

- 10 Tips for Teaching And Talking to Kids About Race (embrace-race.org/resources/teaching-and-talking-to-kids) via Embrace Race and MomsRising
- An Anti-Racist Reading List ([nytimes.com/2019/05/29/books/review/antiracist-reading-list-ibram-x-kendi.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/29/books/review/antiracist-reading-list-ibram-x-kendi.html)) via New York Times
- They're Not Too Young to Talk About Race (childrenscommunityschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/theyre-not-too-young-1.pdf) via The Children's Community School

SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS TO FOLLOW:

- Embrace Race has a wealth of resources, including free webinars, to "help parents practice raising and caring all kids, in the context of race." ~ Follow Embrace Race on Facebook at [facebook.com/weembracerace](https://www.facebook.com/weembracerace).
- The Conscious Kid is "an education, research and policy organization dedicated to

reducing bias and promoting positive identity development in youth. We partner with organizations, children's museums, schools, and families across the country to promote access to children's books centering underrepresented and oppressed groups." Follow Conscious Kid on Instagram at [instagram.com/theconsciouskid](https://www.instagram.com/theconsciouskid).

• Here Wee Read is run by a diversity and inclusion expert (and mom) Charnaie. The mission is to help fellow parents find diverse books, and educational products to help raise curious kids. Follow Here Wee Read on Instagram at [instagram.com/hereweeread](https://www.instagram.com/hereweeread).



FOR CHILDREN UNDER 5

- Diverse Board Books for Babies and Toddlers (pjlibrary.org/beyond-books/pjblog/june-2020/diverse-jewish-childrens-books)
- Early Childhood Books for Talking about Racial Identity via Social Justice Books (socialjusticebooks.org/booklists/early-childhood/racial-identity)
- Multicultural Board Books for Babies via Pragmatic Mom and Multicultural Children's Book Day (pragmaticmom.com/2015/03/top-10-multicultural-books)
- Coming Together: A Town Hall on Standing Up to Racism via Sesame Street and CNN ([cnn.com/2020/06/06/app-news-section/cnn-sesame-street-race-town-hall-app-june-6-2020-app/index.html](https://www.cnn.com/2020/06/06/app-news-section/cnn-sesame-street-race-town-hall-app-june-6-2020-app/index.html))

KIDS AGES 6 AND UP

- Curated Book Selections about Race and Racism via ADL (adl.org/education-and-resources/resources-for-educators-parents-families/childrens-literature)
- How to Talk to Kids about Race: Books and Resources That Can Help via Read Brightly (readbrightly.com/how-to-talk-to-kids-about-race-books-and-resources-that-can-help)
- Picture Books That Help Children Tackle Race and Rac-

ism via What Do We Do All Day (whatdowedoallday.com/picture-books-that-teach-kids-to-combat-racism)

PODCASTS AND VIDEOS

- Talking Race with Young Children via NPR ([npr.org/2019/04/24/716700866/talking-race-with-young-children](https://www.npr.org/2019/04/24/716700866/talking-race-with-young-children))
- Helping Kids Process Violence, Trauma, and Race in a World of Nonstop News via Common Sense Media ([youtube.com/dhjMyOqu2G8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dhjMyOqu2G8))

JEWISH VOICES

- What We in the Black Community Need From Jews Right Now via The Forward ([forward.com/opinion/447721/what-we-in-the-black-community-need-from-jews-right-now](https://www.forward.com/opinion/447721/what-we-in-the-black-community-need-from-jews-right-now))
- The Black Jews Are Tired via Reform Judaism ([reformjudaism.org/blog/2020/06/01/black-jews-are-tired](https://www.reformjudaism.org/blog/2020/06/01/black-jews-are-tired))
- Try to See Me via Be'chol Lashon ([globaljews.org/articles/blog/try-to-see-me](https://www.globaljews.org/articles/blog/try-to-see-me))
- Children's Books about the Diversity of Jewish Experience via Be'chol Lashon ([globaljews.org/resources/childrens-books](https://www.globaljews.org/resources/childrens-books))

MORE

- Talking About Race via National Museum of African American History & Culture (nmaahc.si.edu/learn/talking-about-race)
- Resources for Race, Equity, and Inclusion via We Need Diverse Books ([diversebooks.org/resources-for-race-equity-and-inclusion](https://www.diversebooks.org/resources-for-race-equity-and-inclusion))

Tributes & Remembrances

JEWISH FEDERATION

In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Adam Fleischman
Rosalind & Stephen Atkins

In honor of Gideon Reiter's achievement as a Bronfman Fellow, Aiden Reiter's accomplishment as a Fulbright Scholar and Howard Reiter's appointment to the JFNA's Board of Directors
Amy, Mark & Sarah Holtz

In memory of Adrian Kleinman, mother of Stacey Trachten

*Robyn & Jeffrey Teplitzky & Family
Judy Alperin
Betsy & Jeffrey Hoos
Amy, Mark & Sarah Holtz
Judy & David Skolnick*

In honor of Noah Diamondstein's ordination as a Rabbi
Carol & David Robbins

In honor of Molly Diamondstein's acceptance to Duke University Law School
Carol & David Robbins

In honor of the birth of Dylan Henry Diamondstein
Carol & David Robbins

In honor of the birth of Cornelia Abel-Berei
Carol & David Robbins

In honor of David & Judy Skolnick's 50th wedding anniversary
*Betsy & Jeffrey Hoos
Amy & Mark Holtz*

In memory of Elliot Weinberg, father of Debra Gaudette
Judy Alperin

In honor of Andy & Aniko Sarkany's 50th wedding anniversary
The Teplitzky Family

JCC

In memory of Jennie Kliger
Joan & Stuart Margolis

In honor of John Levy to the Beverly Levy Early Learning Center
Scott Cutler

COVID-19 Maimonides Response Fund

In honor of Abby Sauberman to thank her for baking delicious challah and the added mitzvah of supporting the Jewish Federation and Jewish Foundations Covid-19 Maimonides Relief Fund.
Judy Alperin

In honor of the customers of Barker Specialty Company
Gerry & Debbie Barker

To purchase a tribute card:
jccnh.org, jewishnewhaven.org, newhavenjewishfoundation.org

*Tributes listed are up to June 1, 2020.

JCARR

In honor of Susan Millen
Mary Ricciutti

In honor of Sheldon Natkin's birthday
Heidi & Gilson Sirvas

JEWISH FOUNDATION

ESTHER KREVIK AND ANDREA KREVIK ROSS FUND FOR THE BENEFIT OF SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN

In Memory of Douglas S. Ross
Diane & Harvey Ruben

GEORGE AND SUSAN KRALL FAMILY PACE FUND

In Memory of Renee Silverman
George & Susan Krall

BARBARA GREENBERG PHILANTHROPIC FUND
In Honor of Alvin Greenberg's 85th birthday
Nancy Cohen

NOAH AMICHAH BAYER TZEDAKAH FUND IN HONOR OF NOAH'S BAR MITZVAH

*Stanger Colodner Family
Betty Lou & Joe Blumberg
Lauren & David Hass
Robert & Jennifer Bayer*

BECKERMAN FAMILY SUPPORTING FOUNDATION, INC. JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER ENDOWMENT FUND
In Memory of George Dayharsh
David & Ruthann Beckerman

FRIENDS OF THE JEWISH COALITION FOR LITERACY ENDOWMENT FUND
In Honor of Beth Kaufman
Lauren Sepowitz



Campaign Donations

CONTINUED FROM PG. 3

(KDS) members gathered, via Zoom, with over 1,000 KDS members from across the United States to enjoy an interview with actor Michael Douglas, hosted by the UJA Federation of New York. Douglas is a two-time Academy Award-winning actor, producer, philanthropist, United Nations Messenger of Peace, winner of the Genesis Prize and award-winning star of the Netflix series The Kominsky Method. He spoke about his life, career, Jewish journey, passion for his Jewish heritage and his work promoting inclusivity for Jews of all backgrounds.

Women's Philanthropy Lions have been participating in weekly national programs with Lions around the country. This series has included a wide array of topics and has had over 1,000 women on each Zoom call. The topics covered include Humanitarian Crisis of "Biblical" Proportion, A Behind-the-Scenes Look at COVID-19, How Do We Get Our Groceries and Women Leadership in Unsettled Times. On July 1, all donors to the Women's Philanthropy annual campaign were invited to enjoy a special program about the life and legacy of Judith Leiber through the Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU. A unique curator led a virtual tour of Judith Leiber: Master Craftsman. The exhibition honors the Holocaust survivor-turned-mega-designer's life, work and legacy; it features photographs of Leiber alongside a comprehensive selection of her bags, belts, pillboxes and glasses. It was just like being there in person.

Don't let the inability to gather in person right now be a deterrent to engaging with our community. Watch for details of upcoming events and join us.

CALLING ALL LIONS

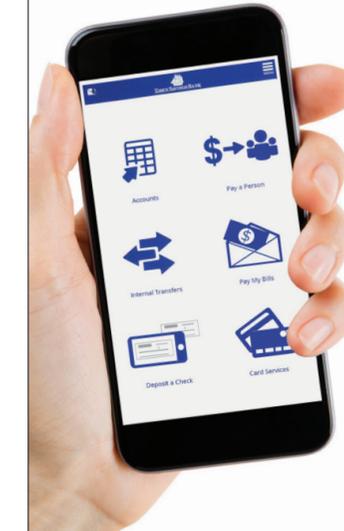
The National Women's Philanthropy is hosting a conversation for Lion members on July 8 at 3 p.m. ET with Norma Kipnis-Wilson, co-founder of the Lion of Judah program. She started Lion of Judah in 1972 as part of a burgeoning field of women-powered philanthropy. Learn how this pioneer launched a movement which now celebrates a sisterhood of more than 18,000. Register at: form.jotform.com/201763137550956.



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

www.jewishnewhaven.org/give



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