

The Voice of the Greater New Haven Jewish Community

SHALOM



On the Road to Spain
to help Ukrainian
Refugees *page 15*

NEW HAVEN

SUMMER 2023 • TAMMUZ/AV 5783

New Haven Holocaust survivor goes on a mission

page 14





Why the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven is music to my ears!

I love folk music. I find this genre to be quite soothing, somewhat emotional, very poetic and the melodies simply wonderful. A little game I enjoy is thinking of a song that reflects the mood I am in or the situation I am facing, or a song that may even provide guidance.

For example, as president of this amazing organization, I am often faced with challenging situations that usually deal with the different perspectives people have. In whatever manner we may view an issue, the lens we look through really colors our response.

And so, my mind often goes to the beautiful song, “Both Sides Now,” as written by Carly Simon and later sung by Judy Collins. A child looks at clouds with wonderment: “Rows and floes of angel hair and ice cream castles in the air.” While the jaded adult only sees those clouds “block the sun, they rain and snow on everyone.” Same clouds, totally different view!

Joe South took this on a different path with his hit, “Walk a Mile in My Shoes.” Every word in this song is poetic, but my favorite is: “Walk a mile in my shoes and before you abuse, criticize and accuse, walk a mile in my shoes.”


When I think of Amy Holtz, and how she readily and wholeheartedly stepped up when Judy Alperin moved on to Hadassah, one song sticks in my mind: “You’ve Got a Friend,” written and sung by Carole King and then popularized by James Taylor. Amy has been such a terrific friend to so many of us, and a terrific friend to all Jewish people. “You just call out my name, And you know, wherever I am,

I’ll come runnin’.” These words epitomize Amy’s devotion and caring for each and every one of us, and all our agencies, donors, staff, and partners.

Now, with Gayle Slossberg joining us as our new CEO, I was thinking about what song I am feeling. So many people have told me how thrilled and excited they are to welcome Gayle, that one song keeps popping into my mind: “Anticipation” by Carly Simon. I think we are all anticipating the start of Gayle’s term later this summer and we all know “how easy it feels to” have Gayle as our next CEO. Gayle’s family has been involved in the Greater New Haven community for a very long time, and her husband, David, is currently a Federation board member. The couple are parents of three grown children: Jeremy, 30, Alex, 28, and Rebecca, 25.

For those who contribute to the Annual Campaign in any way they can, I think of another iconic song: “Bridge over Troubled Water,” written and sung by Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel. This incredible song deals with compassion and helping others, which is something that each and every one of you do daily as you support the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven. “When you’re down and out; when you’re on the street, when evening falls so hard, I will comfort you.”

I wish all of you a safe, restful, and pleasant summer. Please remember that the help you provide doesn’t take a vacation. Your support is needed year-round.


Warm regards,
Gerry

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.

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SAVE THE DATE
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 7, 2023 | 7 PM
ANNUAL MEETING

CELEBRATING GENEROSITY: Women’s Philanthropy Wishes ‘Hats Off’ to Donors



Showing off their ‘hats’ are (l to r) Amy Holtz, Iny Karp, Betsy Karp, Gloria Duhl

Over 120 women filled the Vine Family Auditorium at the Beckerman Lender Jewish Community Building on June 1 for Hats Off: Women’s Philanthropy’s 2023 Campaign Closing. Local author Nancy Gerber’s memoir, *Burnt Toast*, captivated the audience with tales of her immigrant grandmother, and Anna Stein from ORT America shared her inspiring journey as a young immigrant from Baku, Azerbaijan.



Leslie Zackin (left) and Sami Merit



Anne Schulman (left) and Beverly Peck

These vibrant photos reflect the palpable energy in the room—a testament to the unity and empowerment felt by all. Special thanks to our esteemed guests, Nancy Gerber and Anna Stein, as well as to the dedicated committee who made this event possible. Hats Off was a celebration of the collective strength and commitment of these extraordinary women, paving the way for a brighter future.

“Haven’t we all needed help?” Jewish Family Service talks about keeping our resources within the community

Historically, Jewish Family Service of Greater New Haven was an organization that people reached out to in time of need. The NEW JFS says, “haven’t we all needed help? Can the neediness of an incident be prevented by community resources and involvement?”

What do we mean? Let’s use the newly minted Care Navigators program as an example for how community members can make use of JFS services, keeping our resources in the community while avoiding a spend-down to outside corporations without being in need. Simultaneously, these users of the Care Navigators system will be engaged in creating their own vibrant quality of life to their own standards and definition.

The Census Bureau reports that within a decade, 1 in 5 people will be older adults, notes Elanit Linder, LMSW and Director of Adult Aging Services at JFS. “If we ignore the fact that in a short 10 years we will have more older adults than any other age group including children, then our entire social service network will be in crisis,” she warns.

AARP reports that an initial assessment by an Aging Life Care Professional can vary widely and generally runs between \$800 to \$2,000 (Julie Wagner, CEO of the Aging Life Care Association). Hourly rates for ongoing services range from \$90 to \$250. JFS’s research showed that the only non-profit Aging Life Care Program in the state is through the Agency on Aging. The Agency on Aging catches those folks in in poverty on Medicaid and cannot serve the middle income poor struggling on their Social Security and pension payments. After months of research, JFS settled on an out of state non-profit model to build a program that serves a diverse cohort of people regardless of background or socioeconomic status.

Care Navigators is made affordable by billing in 10 minute increments or a Care Navigator Unit at \$36. This way clients only pay for what they need. As a non-profit, any fees that come in help the community of older adults who may not have resources. All revenue from Care Navigators is returned to the “pot” and helps to fill in gaps in service. JFS reviews all cases regardless of ability to pay. The number of double chai or \$18 x 2 was chosen specifically to communicate that by using the Care Navigators services a client is not only educating themselves for preventative measures but also giving charity or tzadakah by keeping their resources in aging and in the Jewish Community. Why wouldn’t someone choose to get their information at a lower cost and a benefit to the community?

With an upcoming Aging Mastery program the goal of Care Navigators and JFS as a whole is to re-empower the community. In aging, this is incredibly important. The upcoming Boomers will not live

(Continued on page 20)

A LOOK INSIDE

| | |
|--|----|
| A NOTE FROM FEDERATION PRESIDENT | |
| The Jewish Federation is Music to My Ears | 2 |
| WOMEN’S PHILANTHROPY | |
| Celebrating Generosity: ‘Hats Off’ to Donors | 3 |
| JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES | |
| “Haven’t We All Needed Help?” | 3 |
| COMMUNITY NEWS | |
| Families Take Over the JCC | 4 |
| FEDERATION NEWS | |
| The Judaic Project Impact Grant..... | 6 |
| 2023 Impact Grants Recipients | 7 |
| Building a ‘Lion’ Size Legacy | 8 |
| JEWISH LEARNING | |
| The Saddest Period on the Jewish Calendar | 9 |
| AT THE JCC | |
| Cutting The Ribbon on Café J..... | 10 |
| Groundbreaking Self-Treatment to Improve Quality of Life..... | 11 |
| JCC DAY CAMP | |
| Check Out Instagram for All The Action at Camp..... | 12 |
| Laurelwood is More Than an Overnight Camp | 13 |
| ON THE COVER | |
| Andy Sarkany Takes an Emotional Journey With ‘March of the Living’ | 14 |
| SOCIAL JUSTICE | |
| On the Road in Spain...to Help Ukrainian Refugees | 15 |
| FAMILIES TIES | |
| New Moms Connect at Shalom Baby Café | 16 |



Haddasah and Henrys’ first visit to Shalom Baby Café.

| | |
|--|----|
| FOUNDATION NEWS | |
| Year Four Security Grants Now Available..... | 18 |
| ‘Israel Experience’ Summer Trip Scholarship Recipients | 19 |
| Women of Vision 2023 | 19 |
| COMMUNITY NEWS | |
| Federation participates in Israel Parade in NYC...20 | |
| IN OUR SYNAGOGUES | |
| Beth Israel Synagogue Announces Open House..... | 21 |
| BEKI Welcomes Grandparents | 22 |
| Nursery School Enrollment Opens at Mishkan Israel | 22 |
| Temple Beth David Welcomes New Rabbi | 23 |
| WELCOME TO AMERICA | |
| Hooray for Hollywood!..... | 24 |
| TRIBUTE & REMEMBRANCES | 25 |
| COMMUNITY CALENDAR | 29 |

A DOUBLE HEADER! Happy families took over the JCC...INSIDE AND OUT!



Hundreds of families with young children had a blast on Sunday, May 21 climbing onto fire-engines, experiencing what it's like to be inside an ambulance and police car, exploring the inside of a giant construction truck and more. Held outdoors under a warm and sunny sky,

the annual interactive, community-wide Touch-a-Truck event featured more than 20 different vehicles, plus food, arts & crafts activities, and a rockin' DJ to keep adults and children moving! Many thanks go to event sponsors: All American Waste, Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, Bethany Fuel, Mosquito Squad, B & B Transportation.

While the kids were enjoying the Touch-a-Truck event set up outdoors, parents with infants, as well as those getting ready to welcome infants or hoping to do so someday, were learning about all the local support available to help them, as they embark on this journey from pregnancy to pre-K.

The Expecting Expo was both fun and educational, with a slew of activities that included everything from PJ Library Story Time to a music & movement program in the Shalom Baby Cafe, made possible by the Jewish Historical Society of Greater New Haven. On a more serious note, parents and caregivers had the opportunity to take a much needed Infant CPR Class and to have their baby's car seat checked for safe installation by local experts and professionals. And, oh yes, there were lots and lots of raffle prizes to be had!

The day-long event was presented primarily by Shalom Baby/Women's Philanthropy in partnership with the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven, and made possible by several presenting sponsors including "Platinum Rattle Sponsors": Generations OB/GYN, Sound Obstetrics & Gynecology, Cord Blood Registry, and others.

Plans are already underway for next year's Expecting Expo and Touch-a-Truck Mega Event, slated for Sunday, June 2, 2024. Save the date!



TOUCH A TRUCK

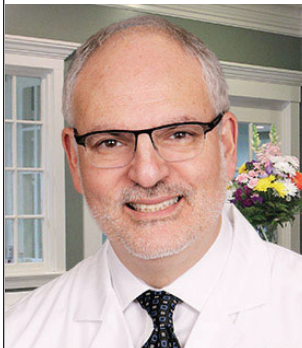


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Mozaic Concierge Living

Mozaic at Home

Mozaic Adult Day Program

Mozaic Memory Workshop

Mozaic Outpatient Rehabilitation

Mozaic Adult Family Living

The Judaica Project Impact Grant: Examining the ritual use of Judaica through the ages

The Judaica Project is one of eight outstanding community initiatives made possible by generous funding from a Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven 2023 Impact Grant.

A collaboration between the Jewish Historical Society of Greater New Haven (JHSGNH) and Rabbi Reena Judd of the Peter C. Hereld House for Jewish Life at Quinnipiac University, this unique project will feature a series of monthly programs hosted on Zoom by JHSGNH. It will include programs presented by Rabbi Judd on the thrifted Judaica box project at Quinnipiac, and the history, religious significance, and ritual use of different types of Judaica. Discussions will focus on different types of Judaica, and will include time for attendees to share their own items and stories.

Program topics will be seasonal — for example groggers for Purim, seder plates for Passover, and menorahs for Chanukah.

In addition to these in-house programs, JHSGNH and the Peter C. Hereld House for Jewish Life at Quinnipiac will host guest speakers, including Jewish artists and crafters, as well as those

involved with Judaica on social media, and resellers of vintage Judaica. Moderators of the Judaica Thrifting Facebook group and Shtetl Baby, a vintage Jewish book and object online store, have also expressed an interest in participating in the program.

To complement these monthly programs, JHSGNH staff will create small exhibits of the same Judaica type from the Historical Society's collection, as holdings and conditions allow. These programs and exhibits will be featured on Facebook and Instagram.

Menorahs in the Jewish Historical Society of Greater New Haven collection, clockwise from top left: Hanging brass oil-burning chanukiah made in Israel prior to 1960; Brass Polish-style chanukiah made in New York City, circa 1915; Electrified brass menorah presented to New Haven's Horeb Lodge No. 25 on its 50th anniversary in 1906 by B'nai B'rith District Grand Lodge No. 1; Brass chanukiah made in Taiwan after 1960.

Rabbi Judd and others will present — including local Jewish artists, crafters, and Judaica collectors interested in presenting in this program series or be featured on social media, may email info@jewishhistorynh.org.





Let's **STRIKE UP**
SOME FUN
for the 

Bowl-A-Thon

AUGUST 23, 2023

AMITY BOWL
30 Selden St, Woodbridge, CT | Wednesday, 1-4 pm

Join us for a fun afternoon of bowling fun with friends and family to support the JCC Sports & Rec Department! We encourage everyone to raise funds for the JCC. All funds will go towards improvements to the playscape.

Contact: Sandy sandyh@jccnh.org or Lindsey lbarger@jewishnewhaven.org



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER NEW HAVEN

Jewish Community
Relations Council



WEDNESDAY
JULY 26, 7:30 PM

Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel (BEKI), 85 Harrison Street, New Haven

“for these things do i weep”

Tisha B'Av in a time of climate change



Tisha B'Av reminds us that we never fully let go of our deepest dislocations. Modern day Jews face another existential crisis—climate disruption. What can Tisha B'Av teach us about this moment? Join us to experience and explore the deep wisdom of Tisha B'Av to meet, live through, and grow from the climate crisis.

To sign up, please go to
jewishnewhaven.org/tishab'av

The Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven is proud to announce the eight new collaborative programs that have been awarded Community Impact Grants for the year 2023.

There was an increased request from many organizations and synagogues to fund creative partnerships that will strengthen the impact of Jewish engagement and programming across Greater New Haven. Seed money has been granted to develop new initiatives to programs based factors such as collaboration, long-term impact, and their ability to affect positive change in the Greater New Haven Jewish community.

The Jewish Federation is grateful to task force members Linda Caplan, Dena Schulman Green, Sami Merit, Stacey Perkins, and Norman Ravski (chair), for their participation in this process.

The 2023 Impact Grants have been awarded to the following programs and initiatives:

COLORS OF MY JEWISH YEAR Beth Israel Synagogue in Wallingford, in collaboration with Quinnipiac Hillel and local area libraries will offer a series of creative, interactive educational programs for children ages 3-8, to provide mean-

Federation Announces 2023 IMPACT GRANTS RECIPIENTS

ingful, Jewish experiences for affiliated, unaffiliated and interfaith Jewish youngsters in the Greater Wallingford area.

JUDAICA PROJECT The New Haven Jewish Historical Society, in collaboration with Quinnipiac Hillel, is creating a series of monthly programs hosted by JHSGNH. University Rabbi Reena Judd, will present programs on thrifted Judaica and the history, religious significance, and ritual use of different types of Judaica. (See story page 6).

CAFÉ J — a community partnership between the Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven, Jewish Family Service, the Towers and Chapel Haven Schleifer Center — helps residents of Chapel Haven learn vocational skills at the newly re-opened Café J through a supervised internship opportunity. A JFS professional will provide training, with food sourced through the Towers catering.

SAFE SPACES FOR GRIEVING AND HEALING Jewish Family Service of Greater New Haven, in collaboration with the Towers,

is providing a program that aims to help different groups of people in our community incorporate Jewish values and traditions in their lives, as a part of their reinterpretation of life after loss. Greater New Haven adults of any age, who are experiencing different types of loss, may participate virtually in this program.

JEWISH AGING MASTERY PROGRAM The Board of Directors of the Jewish Federation has established a new Jewish Seniors Task Force to assist the elderly in our community cope with their burgeoning needs. In partnership with Jewish Family Service, this project builds empowerment, connection, and belonging opportunities for and by aging adults.

PJ GIVES BACK A true collaboration of learning between Ezra Academy, the Beverly Levy Early Learning Center at the JCC of Greater New Haven, and Jewish Family Service with the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven PJ Library, is creating a new initiative to

provide a series of events to educate young families about Jewish responsibility, social justice, and acts of kindness. Each experience will link families with interactive activities to feed the hungry, help those in need, and promote literacy.

COMMUNITY MEAL DELIVERY The Towers has initiated a Kosher Shabbat Meal delivery program. Those identified by Jewish Family Service, local synagogues and the JCC as isolated, at-risk, or in need of community connection, may benefit from this program. The goal is to make vulnerable older adults more connected socially and Jewishly; and better aware of resources available to them through the referral of a volunteer visitor with a kosher meal. This initiative will broaden opportunities for referrals to those in need and educate the community about events, resources and assistance.

UNIPER TECHNOLOGY TO REDUCE ISOLATION FOR HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS Jewish Family Service of Greater New Haven, in partnership with the Greater Hartford Jewish community, will continue to provide a communication program for home-bound elderly to ensure ongoing connection to the community.

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A new Jewish Federation program to create your legacy



Since it was introduced in 1972, the Lion of Judah program — an international initiative of Women's Philanthropy of the Jewish Federations of North America — has grown to include 18,000 dynamic Jewish women worldwide, whose generous gifts in the amount of \$5,000 or more to their Federations' annual campaigns help support Jewish communities at home, in Israel, and across the globe.

The Lion of Judah pin was subsequently created to symbolize the dedication of these philanthropic women. The beautiful gold pin represents a Jewish woman's strong commitment to Jewish values, philanthropy and sisterhood.

But while the pin symbolizes the importance of creating one's own Jewish legacy through philanthropy, it does not define that legacy. Instead, it is the responsibility of each individual Lion to define her own Jewish legacy and to create a plan for passing it on to future generations.

THAT'S WHERE LION BEHIND THE PIN COMES IN

A new and exciting national initiative launched recently by Women's Philanthropy of the Jewish Federations of North America, Lion Behind the Pin encourages Jewish Federation Lions to define and create their own Jewish legacies by providing them with a toolkit thoughtfully designed to help guide



At the International Lion of Judah Conference in Phoenix, AZ, Dec. 2022. (l to r) Robyn Teplitzky, Barbara Green Orell, Judy Skolnick, Linda Caplan, Dana Schwartz, and Lisa Stanger.

them on this journey of self-reflection.

This new program helps them pinpoint their own personal reasons for making the Lion of Judah major commitment, how they would like to designate their pin, and create a legacy to the community.

At the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven we value every gift. Therefore, we welcome all donors at every level to share with us their personal stories about why they choose to give. Our goal is to collect and create an ongoing catalog of stories.

Women's Philanthropy of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven is proud to participate in this important national program and will kick-off the project this summer. Watch for details!

For more information about the "Lion Behind the Pin" program and how you can take part, contact Robyn Teplitzky at rteplitzky@jewishnewhaven.org.



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JEWISH LEARNING: The 'Three Weeks'

The saddest period on the Jewish calendar...begins July 6



By Rabbi Josh Pernick

By the year 70 CE, there had been a degree of Jewish political autonomy in the land of Israel for over 200 years, but this autonomy was wavering. The story of the Maccabean revolt of 200 years prior was now ancient memory. The Greeks were no longer the regional superpower.

At this point in time, the Jewish people had spent more than a century under the thumb of Rome. Under Roman rule, the Jews were allowed to maintain at least a semblance of independence. But the burden of functioning as a vassal state was taking its toll. The taxes to Rome were ever increasing, as were the expected gifts. It was clear that things could not continue on their current path.

A small group known as the Zealots decided to capitalize on this moment, arming themselves to fight against the Romans. They even achieved short-term successes, taking over the palace in which the Roman overseer Gessius Florus dwelt. But the success was short-lived. As Rome began to send reinforcements, the battles

gradually moved from the countryside of Judea to the national center in Jerusalem. As the Romans blockaded the walls of Jerusalem from the outside, the Zealots imposed an internal blockade, refusing to allow any emissaries through to negotiate with Rome.

On the 17th day of the Hebrew Month of Tammuz, the same day over 650 years earlier in which the walls of Jerusalem were breached during the siege of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylonia, the Romans breached the walls of the city. Precisely three weeks later – on the same day on which the First Temple fell in the year 586 BCE – the Second Temple fell in the year 70 CE.

The period between the breaching of the walls of Jerusalem and the destruction of both Temples is the saddest period on the Jewish calendar. This period, often referred to as the “Three Weeks,” begins with a fast day on the 17th of Tammuz, which this year falls on Thursday, July 6.

There are numerous customs that are traditionally practiced throughout the subsequent three weeks, including

refraining from scheduling weddings. These mourning practices are expanded during the first nine days of the Hebrew month of Av; in addition to refraining from weddings, people traditionally refrain from eating meat and drinking wine and from listening to many forms of music.

This mourning period concludes with the saddest day on the Jewish Calendar – Tisha B'av, or the ninth day of the Hebrew month of Av. In addition to commemorating the destruction of both Temples on this fast day, we also commemorate calamities that befell the Jewish people throughout the ages.

The mood shifts fairly dramatically after Tisha B'av, as just six days later we celebrate one of the happiest days on the Jewish calendar, known as Tu B'av. As our calendar shifts from mournful to celebratory, we also begin to recognize the looming High Holidays on the horizon, reading a series of special readings from the Prophets each Shabbat for seven weeks leading up to the celebration of the Jewish New Year – Rosh Hashanah.



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AT THE JCC

JCC cuts the ribbon on Café J!

Sure, the JCC’s brand new Café J, housed in the JCC of Greater New Haven, is a great place to stop by and enjoy a cup of coffee and a bite to eat. But If you think it’s all about the food, think again.

“Café J isn’t only serving up coffee and food,” Michael P. Storz, president of Chapel Haven Schleifer Center (CHSC), a renowned nonprofit organization that empowers adults of varying abilities to live independent and self-determined lives.

“It’s also serving up inclusivity and opportunity. And it’s the continuation of a beautiful friendship,” he told the crowd of well-wishers gathered for the grand opening of the Café J eatery on May 22, also known as the “Café with a Cause.”

A unique collaboration between CHSC, the JCC, Jewish Family Service of Greater New Haven and The Towers, the JCC’s Café J provides internship opportunities to individuals with developmental and social disabilities to help CHSC meet its goal. These agencies work in partnership with The Towers at Tower Lane and with Jewish Family Service of Greater New Haven (JFS) who is helping to train and coordinate mentors and interns.



Café J manager Jeremiah Redmond gets acquainted with CHSC intern Erin who can’t wait to start working at the cafe.

Café J is made possible in part through a generous Community Impact Grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven. In addition to Storz, other speakers at the grand opening included David Sirowich, JCC President



Open for business! Community well-wishers gathered to watch local leaders officially open Café J by cutting the ceremonial ribbon. Pictured here are: (l to r) Sarah Elsdon (CHSC); Shelley Gans (JCC) (behind Shelley is Gus Keach-Longo (The Towers)); Michael Storz (CHSC); David Schleifer (intern); Alissa Wurtzel (JFS) (behind David Schleifer); Scott Cohen (JCC); Dave Sirowich (JCC); Maia (intern); Erin (intern); behind Erin is Rachel Scolnic-Dobin (JFS); Matt (intern) – (behind Maia is Suzanne Snowden (CHSC)).

and JCC Executive Director Scott Cohen; Amy Holtz, Interim CEO and CDO of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven; and Rabbi Josh Pernick — Jewish Community Relations Council Director and Rabbi in Residence, Jewish Federation.

Also on hand were Café J Consultant Shelley Gans; Jennifer Bayer, Associate Vice President, Strategic Initiative of the Towers; Rachel Scolnic-Dobin of Jewish Family Service who is overseeing the CHSC interns working at Café J.

Doron Krakow, President and CEO of the Jewish Community Center Association of North America, who made the trip to New Haven from the organization’s headquarters in New York, talked about his recent visits to both the CHSC and the New Haven JCC.

“And when we come to a place like New Haven and have a chance to spend some time at the Chapel Haven Schleifer Center, and then we come here to the JCC of Greater New Haven and see how these institutions are working not just in partnership but in the warm embrace of a community committed to the success of one another, we find that we have something in New Haven that we need to share with the 169 other [JCC] communities across the continent because you are a roll model — a guiding light for the building of a greater Jewish community and a greater jewish community everywhere that there is a JCC.



Harriet Schleifer, Chair of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, a CHSC supporter and mother to Intern David Schleifer celebrating the ribbon cutting.

“So, we couldn’t wait to be back here and share in this celebration; to revel in the magic of this community; to spend time with Harriet Schleifer and her son David...with Mike and his team...with Scott... with Amy and the Federation leadership. We are very proud to be among you today, and may we all continue to go from strength to strength.”



The ribbon cut, the community celebrated the opening of Café J with...cupcakes! Pictured here: (l to r) Dave Sirowich (JCC), Michael Storz (CHSC), Jen Bayer (The Towers), Shelley Gans (JCC), Alissa Wurtzel (JFS), Rachel Scolnic-Dobin (JFS), Scott Cohen (JCC), Amy Holtz (Federation), and Gus Keach-Longo (The Towers).

“My favorite part of being an intern at the JCC’s new **Café J** is learning how to make coffee and smoothies...and socializing with our customers.” Maia



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Café J is made possible in part through a generous Community Impact Grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven.

AT THE JCC

Popular Self-Care Method: Melt™

By Susan Donovan

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



An acronym for Myofascial Energetic Length Technique, MELT™ is a method of self-treatment providing therapy for the body's connective tissue known as fascia. Under the direction of a certified Melt Method Practitioner, practicing Melt has been proven to improve flexibility, provide relief from chronic pain, and can facilitate a natural balance and state for the body.

Created by therapist Sue Hitzmann, drawing on the cutting-edge of neurofascial science and proven manual therapy practices, this groundbreaking self-treatment utilizes bodywork techniques that support health, fitness, and quality of life.

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Melt also improves flexibility as it restores the elastic qualities of the fascial tissue that surrounds all muscles, bones, and joints. By rehydrating on a cellular level, the Melt Method works to reestablish the unique fluid quality throughout the body, also providing greater support and range of motion at the joints.

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REHYDRATE: Improving fluidity to relieve tension that causes muscle and joint pain.

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According to Certified Melt Method Practitioner Betsy Bell-Osterholm, "The Melt Method practice can benefit all body types, ages, and activity levels. My clients often see significant improvements in mobility, energy level, pain management, and even improved sleep!"

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JCC Day Camps
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Summertime is such a special time of the year. Kids are on break—spending extra time with friends, playing at the pool, or maybe even having ice cream for dinner. And then there's going to the JCC Day Camps!

At the JCC Day Camps, anything is possible. One day you can be among the trees on the ropes course. The next you can be channeling the Avengers on the archery range. There's something special about camp. Maybe it's that kids can be their true, authentic selves. Maybe it's that kids can learn about themselves and others in a way that doesn't exist in the classroom. Maybe it's because... Summer camp is magical! **Discover how to make a kids dreams a reality this summer at: [jewishnewhaven.org/give](https://www.jewishnewhaven.org/give)**

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Summer is shining through at JCC Day Camps!



Check out our Instagram account for a week-to-week peek at all the fun in photos!

Join us as we lead JCC DAY CAMPERS, ages 4-15, on a summer of adventure, discovery and exploration. Follow the fun, as they make memories and build lasting friendships, while experiencing a whole world of activities, both indoors and out –

- the beautiful outdoor pool where campers hone their swimming skills
- the popular Israeli-inspired Gaga pit
- the archery range
- the low ropes course
- the basketball courts
- nature trails
- PLUS...facilities for indoor arts & crafts and woodworking



So, Whether you're a parent or grandparent or simply a friend, check us out on instagram at [jccdaycamps](https://www.instagram.com/jccdaycamps).



Summer After Camp at the J

The Sports and Recreation department will run an After Camp program to extend the camp day! The perfect opportunity for campers who want to spend more time with friends, are looking for afternoon activities, and for parents who need care after 4 pm. Families can register for the days of the week they need care for, and activities will last as late as 6 pm. Activities will include outdoor play, water games, crafts, GAGA, games, free swim (Fridays) and many more pre-planned activities. Fun for all ages.

Email Sandy H for more questions.

Sandyh@jccnh.org



Our sun-filled entrance is one of the first things to greet campers and staff every morning when they arrive at JCC Day Camps for a day of fun in the sun...and the last thing they see at the end of each adventure-filled day!

So, why not show your support for JCC Day Camps by purchasing a brightly colored sun that will be displayed for all to see at the entrance to camp?! It's the perfect way to honor your favorite camper...commemorate a special milestone...or just shout out your belief in the value of the camp experience.

For information on how you can purchase a JCC Day Camp sun, contact: Lindsey Barger at lbarger@jewishnewhaven.org, or visit [jccnh.org/sunshine](https://www.jccnh.org/sunshine)



IN THE COMMUNITY

An Overnight Camp, and more



Some people say there’s nothing new under the sun. But, after 85 years, new and exciting programs just keep on coming to Camp Laurelwood, the beautiful and bucolic overnight Jewish camp located in Madison, CT.

Here’s a quick look at the program additions and enhancements that have been instituted over the past few years to make Connecticut’s only Jewish overnight camp a shining star.



Though the seven weeks of overnight camp are still the core of Laurelwood’s programming, in recent years new Jewish families have joined the Laurelwood community through program partnerships with PJ Library, Jewish Federation of

Greater New Haven, Mandell JCC of Greater Hartford’s Camp Shalom (and other Mandell JCC programs), and the Jewish Federation of Western Mass.

Laurelwood launched a small day camp a few years back, that numbered about 20-30 kids per week. Our day camp was put on hold for the 2020/21 seasons due to COVID, but when we brought it back in 2022 we had a huge increase in interest. We currently have about 100 day campers a week, from rising kindergartners to rising 7th-graders.

Two Family Camp opportunities are now offered in partnership with Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, Mandell JCC of Greater Hartford, and the Jewish Federation of Western Mass. Family Camps feature fun in the lake and pool, a family-friendly Shabbat celebration, and a wide variety of camp activities, such as arts and crafts, archery, and sports. Camp is stroller-friendly, our camper cabins are transformed into family housing, and camp traditions are shared with younger generations.

Beyond the summer, we are engaged in year-round programming with our community partners. We hold community events at camp, and in public places, at JCCs, Federations and synagogues. This past year, we held events at locations like the Essex Steam Train and the Shoreline Trolley Museum — we brought PJ Library books, snacks, and opportunities to follow up with other Jewish families. The relationships we have helped foster between families has helped to build a stronger Jewish community on the shoreline.



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Kids Klub at the J



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New Haven's Andy Sarkany takes an emotional journey with March of the Living

On April 19, 2023, Andy Sarkany, a resident of New Haven, walked through the gates of the notorious Auschwitz concentration camp, as part of a delegation of 27 adult members of Connecticut's Jewish community, most of them, like Sarkany, Holocaust survivors. Sarkany, the longtime Donor Services & Campaign Manager of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, was invited to join the Voices of Hope delegation as part of the 35th annual March of the Living.

"It has been a goal of Voices of Hope to send a delegation to the March of The Living since its inception," says Kathy Fishman, Voices of Hope Executive Director, who invited Sarkany to join the trip which spends 10 days visiting Auschwitz and Birkenau concentration camps before heading off to Israel in time to celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut — Israel Independence Day — in Israel for three days.

"We were slated to go in 2021, but due to the pandemic, we had to cancel our trip," explains Fishman. "This year, we had a group of 27 people, mostly from Connecticut, that included Andy Sarkany, as well as descendants of survivors, Voices of Hope board members, Rabbi Zerim of West Hartford's Beth El Temple, Sam Kassow, Voices of Hope educator and historian, and Joel Lohr of Hartford International.

On Yom HaShoah — Holocaust Remembrance Day — the group marched from Auschwitz to Birkenau with 10,000 others, mostly students, from 25 countries in triumph of those who survived and in remembrance of the six million Jews murdered.

"Having Andy join us on the trip was truly an honor, as he was one of 45 survivors in attendance. One of the highlights was hearing Andy share his story with 750 students from Panama. They were in awe of his presentation, positivity and the lessons he shared and serenaded him at the end with a rendition of the song Hallelujah," she said.

Andy Sarkany's Holocaust story is well known throughout the New Haven Jewish community.

Sarkany was born in Budapest, Hungary on October 31, 1936, just after Hitler rose to power, but before what he calls the "real Holocaust activities" in Hungary took place.

In 1943, he moved with his family into the Seventh district that about a year later became part of the Budapest ghetto. The ghetto was managed by the Arrow Cross party — Hungary's Nazi party — who were antisemites and abused the Jews even before the opening of the ghetto.



In a talk arranged by Voices of Hope, Andy Sarkany spoke to 750 Panamanian students in Poland as part of March of the Living.

After Germany occupied Hungary in March 1944, Adolf Eichman appeared on the Hungarian scene to expedite the transportation of Hungarian Jews to concentration camps. Hungary had between approximately 650,000 to 700,000 Jews, the majority living mostly in Budapest and the surrounding big cities. When Eichman came he organized the transport to Auschwitz-Birkenau of about 550,000 Hungarian Jews. Very few survived. But, many people living in the ghetto survived, because the Nazis believed that at the right moment they would just go from building to building and take the Jews to the railroad station and ship them to concentration camps. But they were running out of time. The Soviets were coming much faster than the Nazis anticipated. By the time they realized what was going on, it was too late for rounding up the Jews from the ghetto.

So, over 80,000 Hungarian Jews transferred into a smaller area, among them approximately 150 kids, including Sarkany, were housed in the building's cellar — of, as Sarkany calls it, the "dungeon."

The conditions were miserable. The cellar had only two windows and one light bulb. The children were continuously told to be quiet and have very little movement. They were given only one meal a day and were watched all the time. They were always cold and hungry. The guards came into the ghetto often and the kids were physically and verbally abused.

Of his experience in the ghetto, Sarkany says: "You never forget these things."

Recently, Shalom New Haven had the opportunity to speak with Andy Sarkany from his home in Westville about his experience as a member of the Voices of Hope delegation on March of the Living.

SNH: When did you come to the United States?

ANDY SARKANY (AS): The Soviets liberated the ghetto in January 17, 1945, and they liberated Hungary by end of February. The conditions under Soviet communism from 1950 on were really very brutal. The revolution started in October 1956 and ended after eight days of fighting on October 21 — my 20th birthday. We had hoped that Soviet communism was overturned, but the Soviets came back and took over the country. By that time there were about 50,000 Hungarians lost in the fighting and over 250,000 of them escaped to Austria.

After the Soviets came back and took over the country again, I told my parents I have no future in our country, and I'm willing to take a risk with my life to escape. So, on November 23, 1956, I said goodbye to my family and, with only an overcoat, I left. It took me four weeks to go from Budapest to Vienna — about 160 miles. I did a lot of walking and finally got to Vienna, where I crossed the Hungarian border into southern Austria. From there I eventually ended up in Vienna and got to the American Embassy. In January 1957, I entered the United States as a Hungarian refugee and sailed on a Marine Corps transfer ship into the United States.

SNH: How did you become connected to Voices of Hope?

AS: I received a scholarship or financial aid from a small Christian College in East Tennessee. I got my degree in mathematics and physics, then received my masters degree in applied mathematics and computer science at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. But I eventually left graduate school [for financial reasons]. Eventually, I worked for IBM for 25 years, until IBM downsized back in the 90s. Thousands of employees were let go, and I was forced to retire because I was already 55.

I decided not to continue my career in science, particularly computer science. Instead, I decided to be part of the Jewish community and Jewish life. I eventually became executive director at a small Jewish Federation. Then, I took a position in the Hillel Academy of Pittsburgh, an Orthodox Jewish day school, as chief financial officer and director of development. I was there five years.

My wife and I decided that if he wanted to be close to our grown children, we'd better move to the East Coast. So, I saw an ad in the Chronicle of Philanthropy for a fundraiser at the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven. I lived in Binghamton, New York when I worked at IBM, and there I was very involved as a volunteer with the city's day school, and with Federation and the JCC. I was raising money for them. So, I felt comfortable in that environment.

I was a full-time employee at the New Haven Federation for about 16 years and then I became a half-time employee. I work from home on the annual campaign.

In Connecticut, I affiliated with a non-profit organization called Holocaust Child Survivors of Connecticut. Agnes Vertes was president at the time and she still is. I also participated in the Bridgeport JCC's Adopt A Survivor — a program in which high school juniors and seniors adopt a Holocaust survivor who creates an understanding of what really happened during the Holocaust by discussing the survivor's individual experience. Shortly after, I was able to bring the program to New Haven.

Eventually, people got to know me at Voices of Hope, which is located in West Hartford, and they reached out to me to support this effort to send Holocaust survivors to give talks in schools. I also affiliated with an organization in White Plains, New York, called Holocaust and Human Rights Resource Education Center. They do sort of the same thing there as Voices of Hope.

So I am involved in these three organizations for Holocaust survivors and whenever **(Continued on page 26)**

On the Road in Spain... to Help Ukrainian Refugees



Rabbi Michael Farbman (kneeling, front) with his wife Olga Markus (2nd from left) with some of the Ukrainian refugees they came to help in Spain.

In the spring of 2022, the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) and American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) asked for Russian and Ukrainian speaking clergy to travel to Poland, Hungary and Moldova to support the Jews fleeing war in Ukraine, to help them celebrate Passover, and lift their spirits.

Rabbi Michael Farbman did not hesitate to answer the call.

In April 2022, when the spiritual leader of Temple Emanuel in Orange returned from spending a week in Poland as a volunteer, he wrote to congregants: “I have spent a week on the ground, visiting multiple refugee centers, running programs for adults, playing with kids, sharing simple meals, and listening to stories. I have also tried, as much as I could, to offer some support to the volunteers and professionals on the ground, helping to run the response to this unprecedented humanitarian crisis.”

Armed with a credit card and the generosity of his congregants, Rabbi Farbman also provided the Ukrainians with everything from clothing to medications to snacks and treats, board games and toys — some of which were bought there and much of which was collected by congregants prior to his departure.

Four months later, in August 2022, Rabbi Farbman had just returned from a trip to Israel, when he learned that there were many Ukrainian refugees who had found their way to Spain, and that the local Jewish community — most notably Beth Shalom, a Reform synagogue in Barcelona — was organizing programs for them, with the support of the World Union for Progressive Judaism’s Ukraine Crisis Fund. Dedicated volunteers and coordinators were working very hard to create special summer experiences for these children displaced by war, and they really needed help.

The Rabbi was off again. Accompanied by his son, Samuel Farbman, the two boarded a flight to Barcelona, where they spent, again with the help of Temple Emanuel members and friends.

“The 9th of Av fell right in the middle of our trip,” the Rabbi wrote to TE congregants. – we were so grateful for this opportunity to do something meaningful, helping to heal the world, and our people.”

“We helped with shopping, sang songs with kids, and met with a few families. I gave a talk about the upcoming 9th of Av and led Shabbat services (in Russian, simultaneously translated into Spanish by an amazing local coordinator, with readings in Spanish, Catalan, Russian and of course Hebrew).” At the same time, Sam helped set up the computers they had brought, cooked pizza with the kids, and answered their myriad of questions, especially about education in America.

A REPORT FROM RABBI FARBMAN AND OLGA MARKUS

This spring, Rabbi Farbman made his third trip abroad to help Ukrainian refugees — his second to Spain. This time he was accompanied by his wife, Olga Markus, who was



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making her first such trip. Markus is Program Director of Community & Jewish Life at The Jewish Federations of North America and the Temple Emanuel Religious School Director. Markus has been coordinating the volunteer work all over Europe on behalf of JFNA from the very beginning, so while this was her first trip in person, she has been (and continues to be) involved in this sacred work pretty much every day for over a year now.



Among those Rabbi Farbman and Olga Markus helped in Spain were Ukrainian children.

The couple chronicled their recent trip to help Ukrainian refugees in Spain in the following report to congregants:

It’s been over a year since the war in Ukraine broke out and [Rabbi Farbman] boarded a flight to Poland as an official volunteer with JDC; and then to Spain to support Ukrainian refugees in Europe as part of the JFNA’s Global Volunteer Hub Initiative.

A year is a long time. In Poland in April 2022 People were utterly disoriented by the physical and emotional ordeal they have just survived. The war was devastating. The people were hurting and shaken. There was shock, disbelief, and a hope that the war would soon be over and that Ukrainians would return to their homes.

In Barcelona in August 2022, the immediate pain and shock felt more distant, and people were facing the reality that their lives were not going to be the same again, and they had to make some difficult choices and long-term decisions for their families. They needed help, reassurance, and support as they were trying to figure out their next steps. They needed someone to watch over their children as they navigated bureaucracies and sought work. They needed to hear from those who had already gone through the immigrant experience to tell them that they would be okay.

(Continued on page 27)

New moms connect at Shalom Baby Café

In 2020, COVID hit — and Rebecca Gerber and her husband packed up their New York City apartment, scooped up their young daughter, and moved back home to New Haven. Her move was made easier by the Jewish Federation’s Family Outreach Coordinator Kayla Bisbee, who was instrumental in introducing her to the Jewish community, says Gerber.

Gerber wanted to help other young moms make a similar transition, so she was quick to say yes last August when Bisbee asked her to co-chair Shalom Baby, together with her mother and mother-in-law.

“My goal through Shalom Baby is to help moms and families meet each other and form communities since it can be very isolating in the early years,” says Gerber, who was pregnant with her second child at the time.

The group went so well that Gerber took it a step further. “We launched Shalom Baby Café in January,” says Gerber. “We started with just a few moms and have grown outside of our regular space with an average of 10-15 groups each week with babies up to two.”

As it turns out, Shalom Baby Café was especially welcoming for first time moms, like Sydney Brosler. “Shalom Baby was a group that I was nervous to join,” says Brosler, mother of Ari. “However, Shalom Baby Café is extremely welcoming and warm, especially to young new moms. It made opening up very easy and natural as everyone was in the same or similar phase of life with their children. “I look forward to going each week! I always wanted to be a part of this type of group once I had a baby and this was the perfect place to start. I look forward to many events and gatherings in the future.”



Rebecca with Ari (left) with her sister Jill and baby Jack (right).



Sydney with Ari (left) and Shannon with Moshe at Tot Shabbat in May.



Kayla Bisbee.

Shannon Garfield felt the same after the birth of her first child, Moshe. “Since Moshe was only four weeks old, each Wednesday morning we’d go to the JCC of Greater New Haven for Shalom Baby — time to gather with other new parents with babies, sit on the floor to play and drink coffee. This weekly gathering has consistently been a highlight each week and has meant so much to me on my parental leave. As a family we’ve truly gained an incredible community,” says Garfield.

“During our weekly time together, I learned so much, including tips for keeping socks on little baby feet, how to increase my breast milk supply, and where in town were the best children’s consignment shops. I saw other awesome moms with children older than mine, prep for their first date night, go back to work, plan for their first family vacation...” and more.

“I’m so thankful we’ve found this community and even more grateful that he has made some of his first friends,” said Garfield. Gerber wishes Shalom Baby Café was around when her now three-year-old daughter was born. “It’s been great for me and Ari, who is eight months old, to meet other families in the area. I feel like I missed out on building a community when my daughter was a baby due to COVID, so I’m really enjoying getting out of the house and finding new friends. I’ve learned a lot from the other moms already!” she says.

Shalom Baby is an initiative of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven’s Women’s Philanthropy, and meets as a Tot Shabbat on Fridays at 11 am. There is also a What’s App Group, “Shalom Baby on the Go” for meetups around Greater New Haven. For more info or to provide the names of new families, contact Kayla Bisbee at kbisbee@jewishnewhaven.org or (203) 387-2424 x300.



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Throughout the enormous challenges of the past few years, our Federation, with your support, has helped our community to stay strong and connected—while also helping those in need here at home, Israel, Ukraine, and worldwide.

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Foundation News

Year Four Security Grants Now Available!

Year 4 of the Jewish Foundation's security grants cycle began January 15, 2023 (and the deadline is August 3, 2023). This security grants initiative, for synagogues, day schools, JCC, and Camp Laurelwood (from the Arthur Eder Family Fund, in memory of Arthur & Yvette Eder) has awarded over \$780,000 since 2020 to Congregation B'nai Jacob, Congregation BEKI, Congregation Or Shalom, Hebrew Congregation of Woodmont, the Israeli Jewish Center, Temple Emanuel, Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek, Slifka Center for Jewish Life at Yale, Chabad of the Shoreline, Chabad of Hamden, Congregation Mishkan Israel, Westville Synagogue, Temple Beth David, Temple Beth Shalom, Ezra Academy, Camp Laurelwood, Camp Gan Israel, Southern Connecticut Hebrew Academy, Temple Beth Tikvah, and the JCC.

Grants were made for armed guards, new alarm and monitoring systems, protective window film, gates, cameras and much more. Most grants were part of larger security initiatives where the organization worked with the Jewish Federation's Regional Security Advisor, and/or local, state or federal law enforcement, to assess and prioritize its security vulnerabilities.

NEW REQUIREMENT FOR 2023 & FORWARD:

Applicant must have had a security site consultation with Michael Shanbrom, Regional Security Advisor, mshanbrom@securecommunitynetwork.org; (203) 916-3054. Go to jewishnewhaven.org/grants for more information.



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

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- 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

For more information on the Israel Experience Scholarships go to newhavenjewishfoundation.org/scholarships.

Women of Vision 2023



The Women of Vision Society of the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven met at the Towers at Tower Lane on Tuesday, June 6 to celebrate a successful implementation of the grant "Adopt A Bubbe: An Intergenerational Jewish Program for Women and Girls" that was funded last year in the Women of Vision grants cycle. As part of the grant, the students from Southern Connecticut Hebrew Academy met monthly with their "bubbe" to socialize and make a project together. The students and residents really enjoyed their time together and formed lasting bonds that will go beyond their scheduled meet ups. As one resident Lilian put it, "This program made me so happy. Today was one of the best days I have had in a long time! There was so much warmth and love in that room and to think that this lovely little girl is actually related to my family! We call that *b'shert* that we were paired together. It was a perfect afternoon!" *Lilian Liberman*



SYNAGOGUE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

The Jewish Foundation offers needs-based assistance for New Haven area synagogue schools. The deadline for the online application is October 2, 2023.

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

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BECKERMAN FAMILY PACE CHALLENGE



Established in partnership with the Beckerman Family Foundation, this is now a \$5 million community campaign for PACE. To date, \$4,008,333 has been raised and we have met our goal for the \$2 million Beckerman Family PACE Challenge match. This campaign is intended to secure the future of the Greater New Haven Jewish community through

newly established and increased Perpetual Annual Campaign Endowment (PACE) funds. Thank you to the families listed below for helping us successfully complete our challenge. If you would like to join them in helping us reach (and surpass!) our \$5 million goal, contact Lisa Stanger at (203) 387-2424 x382, lstanger@jewishnewhaven.org, or Amy Holtz at (203) 387-2424 x254, aholtz@jewishnewhaven.org.

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*= new fund established
**= added funds to existing PACE/LOJE

Jewish Family Service helps (Continued from page 3)

like their parents. This is an intentional, self-sufficient generation that advocated not only for themselves but also for social justice and equity. They will not “receive care” but will empower themselves to make decisions. Care Navigators wants to take the fear out of aging and tackle the hard questions.

Says Elanit, “I cant stand it when people put death, dying and disability on the aging. People live or die at every age and stage of life. One of my favorite linguistic changes that I’ve implemented is to change the language of death to ‘life completion.’ I didn’t find this in an existential book on aging and life like Guande’s Being Mortal, which should be read by everyone, I stole it from a Trevor Noah joke. When people asked what the Queen of England died from, he pauses, stares into the camera and shouts “she died from completing her life!”

That makes so much sense to me. We are all on a spiritual journey. A woman I grew up with passed away in her 30s, another friend lost a child, and I work with sharp healthy centenarian folks! Life is about living and life completion is a part of that process. I also follow a lot of the disability arts and am passionate about the work of Gaelynn Lea. There are many paths to live a meaningful life at every stage of health and wellbeing. Please check her out!”

Care Navigators helps untangle messy family relationships and historical trauma so that everyone can age well in the best communication possible. They educate to truths about how we age in this for-profit healthcare system and in the state of Connecticut. They share resources such as palliative and hospice care information, helping folks to choose what end of life decisions they make.

Please reach out to Elanit at elinder@jfsnh.org to find out how you can get more invested and excited about your aging, as well as more involved in this important community program. Read her profile at: [Expert Details \(aginglifecare.org\)](https://www.aginglifecare.org) And she is available to share in a scheduled appointment or at your local book club, synagogue or community center.

SIGN UP NOW for the National Council on Aging’s evidence based Jewish Aging Mastery Program (JAMP)! Made FREE to you by a generous Community Impact Grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven. Learn the core competencies of aging well and empower yourself and your friends to be the champions, advocates and masters of your own aging. This is the 10 Best Ways to Healthier, more Satisfying Life as You Age without the Fears (and magical thinking) of Growing Old! Tuesdays Aug 22nd through Nov 7th 15 minutes after the Silver Sneakers Exercise program ends, i.e. at 11:15am, in the Terrace Room. Post your JAMP certificate to Facebook, LinkedIn, your resume... anywhere colleagues, friends and family will see that you have mastered this program and are ready to support your community! Program Sign Up is limited, so ACT FAST contact Elanit Linder, LMSW Director of Aging Adult Services at elinder@jfsnh.org.



On June 4, members of the Greater New Haven Jewish community, including staff from the Jewish Federation along with members of Congregation Or Shalom led by Rabbi Alvin Wainhaus as well as families from PJ Library and Ezra Academy, marched in the annual JCRC-NY Celebrate Israel Parade in New York City, in celebration of Israel’s 75th birthday.

IN OUR SYNAGOGUES

Beth Israel Synagogue, Wallingford

22 North Orchard Street, Wallingford, CT | (203) 269-5983 | bethisraelwallingford.org

Open House on September 8-10

Beth Israel Synagogue in Wallingford is hosting an Open-House the weekend of September 8-10 to give prospective members a chance to experience its variety of services and programming prior to the high holidays.

“We’re an intimate congregation,” says synagogue president, Phyllis Gordon. “We’re always trying to provide our members with a rich Jewish experience that nourishes the mind, the body and the soul. And the best way to learn about us is to participate. That’s what this weekend is all about.”

The weekend begins with Shabbat (September 8) evening services at 6 pm, followed by an ice cream oneg. On Saturday, September 9, Shabbat morning services begin at 9 am. Beth Israel uses its own siddur that draws on elements from all three of American Judaism’s major movements, together with prayers and reflections written by the rabbi and members of the congregation. “Our services contain a lot of singing,” says Rabbi Bruce Alpert. “The more voices we have, the more meaningful our prayers become.”

Torah Study follows the service around 10 am. “Torah study really is the heart of who we are,” says Rabbi Alpert. “We use both ancient and modern Jewish texts to try and plumb the depths of the weekly portion. The discussions are almost always stimulating, which is why our study has been going strong for sixteen years now. Or maybe it’s the lox and bagels.”

On Sunday morning, September 10, from 11 am till noon, parents are welcome to bring their kids to experience Beth Israel’s Hebrew school taught by our teacher and Education Director, Marcy Thomaswick. “Our focus in the Hebrew school is on growth,



on getting kids comfortable in a synagogue and helping them to be proud of their Jewish identities. We give our kids hands-on, experiential activities with authentic problem-solving and collaboration that really deepens their appreciation of their heritage.”

Then on Sunday afternoon at 3 pm, join us for a screening of Ushpizin, a wonderful Israeli film that focuses on holiday themes of faith, repentance, relationship and starting over. Plus all the freshly-popped popcorn you can eat!

“We are a small, 125-year-old congregation,” says Rabbi Alpert. “We are always mindful of our traditions, and always seeking to make those traditions engaging for our members.” Adds Mrs. Gordon, “Our intimacy is what makes us so special. We are a place where every member counts, and our members see this place as a second home. We are really aiming to make this weekend a wonderful chance to experience Beth Israel in all its intimacy, all its diversity, and all its joy.”

For more information, contact Phyllis Gordon at (203) 606-3611 or email info@bethisraelwallingford.org.

12TH ANNUAL

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IN OUR SYNAGOGUES

Congregation Beth-el Keser Israel

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

Where the children go...the grandparents follow!

In the past year, Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel [BEKI] has enjoyed a surge of new members, bringing the congregation to more than 300 membership units for the first time since the 1960s.

Many of these newcomers are young families with children, but there's another growing demographic: the grandparents.

Before moving from Long Island, "we spent a lot of time on the ferry or stuck in traffic on I-95 to see our children," Tema Leviter explains. So, Tema and her husband Coleman moved north, close to children and grandchildren.

"We're so happy we made the move. We love being part of our kids' lives," Alisa Levine says. "It's really worth it. It's a big step, but we are so glad. Join a good synagogue because that's what keeps you connected." She and her husband, Glenn Levine, Glenn, who works remotely, notes, "I wanted to be able to help the kids before they need to help us." Tema loves it here. "This area is incredible. There's lot of opportunities to do things at BEKI as well as volunteer work in the larger community," she notes. She's met new people, though she acknowledged that cultivating meaningful relationships is more difficult when you're older. Her husband says he is meeting people through golf and professional associations.

Being part of the grandchildren's lives as they grow up is important, Tema says. "It's such a wonderful thing to be nearby. Your kids need you when they are raising kids." But remember to set boundaries, she advises, "Open lines of communication are important." Says Alisa: "It's great to be creating this history with our kids. To be part of a multi-generational experience at BEKI is so special. To sit in shul and know our grandson will come find us is lovely."

"Synagogues are one of few multigenerational spaces in the world today," says BEKI's Rabbi Eric Woodward, whose own parents recently relocated from the Philadelphia area. "Children learn from the parents and grandparents, and vice versa. But more than that, other people's children benefit from the multigenerational nature of our synagogue. It's nice that we have an upsurge in membership, but it's even better that this brings with it an upsurge in wisdom and care."



BEKI Tema & Coleman Leviter.



Alisa and Glenn Levine celebrating Chanukah with their grandchildren.

Congregation Mishkan Israel

785 Ridge Road, Hamden, CT | ((203) 288-3877 | cmihamden@cmihamden.org

Enroll now for fall Nursery School, Daycare

Congregation Mishkan Israel Nursery School and Daycare, an early childhood center for children six weeks to five years old, is now accepting applications for fall enrollment.

Our program is designed to promote children's social, emotional, cognitive, and physical growth. The school's dedicated teachers and warm classroom environment create a community where children learn to care about others and develop a positive self-image. We encourage children to become creative, active learners with good problem-solving skills. We provide a Judaic focused continuum of educational opportunities for children of all faiths and promote an environment of diversity, equity, and inclusion. The school offers responsive and supportive classroom activities designed to meet the needs of all young children.

To learn more, visit cmihamden.org/nursery-school or call to schedule a meeting or tour at (203) 288-2375.

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19TH ANNUAL

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Temple Beth David, Cheshire

3 Main St, Cheshire, CT | (203) 272-0037 | tbdcheshire.org



Rabbi Rebecca Gutterman

Welcoming a New Rabbi

Temple Beth David (TBD), a Reform congregation in Cheshire, is preparing to welcome a new spiritual leader this July.

Rabbi Rebecca Gutterman, a second-generation rabbi and native of Providence, RI, feels an immediate connection to the tight-knit congregation and is excited to breathe new life into it. Her father, Rabbi Leslie Gutterman, served as religious leader at Temple Beth-El in Providence for over 40 years.

“My goal has been to join a spiritual community just like this one, where members know and take care of each other. One rooted in tradition while also embracing innovation,” says Rabbi Gutterman. “I look forward to building a home in Cheshire for myself and my family, as I know firsthand from my own upbringing what a gift that is.”

Rabbi Gutterman, who previously served as spiritual leader of a 60-year-old congregation in New Jersey, sees this transition as both a return to familiar territory and a chance to rediscover, reimagine, and rebuild Beth David. She looks forward to connecting with members and introducing new and exciting programming to increase

membership and member engagement.

“One of the things that has impressed me about Temple Beth David from the beginning is the commitment of congregants to maintain and build on beloved traditions even in the midst of difficult times,” she says. “I look forward to partnering with TBD’s committed lay leadership, to meeting individuals and families, and engaging with New Haven County’s strong Jewish community with the rich opportunities that affords.”

And she’s not waiting to get started. Though she does not officially take the pulpit until July, Rabbi Gutterman is already visiting Connecticut, where she has been in dialogue with the congregation’s Religious School Director and leadership, ahead of her relocation this summer with her husband, Michael Simons, and their seven-year-old son, Jonah.

According to TBD’s Board President Debra Gaudette, “Finding the right person to lead your spiritual community – someone whose personality, enthusiasm, and wisdom are that of the congregation – is no easy task. In Rabbi Rebecca Gutterman, we have found our perfect match. Together, with our visions aligned, our partnership will bring engaged learning, worshiping and fulfillment, not only to our temple community but our Cheshire and greater New Haven communities as well.”

To learn more about Temple Beth David, visit tbdcheshire.org.

Israel trip aims to forge ‘ambassadors for ACCESSIBLE travel’

By Howard Blas

(JNS) A group of 30 residents of Connecticut, including adults with disabilities, their parents and staff members who work with them, spent nine days in Israel learning about accessibility in the Jewish state.

The trip, which ran from April 26 to May 4, was a joint program of New Haven’s Chapel Haven Schleifer Center (CHSC) and the nonprofit Access Israel and Accessibility Accelerator—the U.S. partner of Access Israel, based in Kfar Saba, Israel.

“Disabilities should not hinder individuals and their families from traveling, navigating all terrains and participating in cultural exchanges like any neurotypical individual would,” Michael Storz, CHSC president, told JNS.

The trip not only taught Chapel Haven’s staff and adult community members about how Israeli counterparts remove barriers to independence, but the group also “learned about multiple cultures” and “the beauty of Israel and its people,” according to Storz. And it focused on creating “ambassadors for accessible travel.”

Jamie Lassner, executive director of Accessibility Accelerator, told the group: “Your experience and knowledge have made you an important advocate for inclusive and accessible travel.

Harriet Schleifer, who does not live in Connecticut but is a CHSC donor and board member, suggested the idea of a trip to Israel. She participated with her 36-year-old son, David Schleifer, who was visiting the Jewish state for the first time.

The itinerary included a tour of Agamon Hula-JNF Nature and Ornithology Park in the Hula Valley in northern Israel, where participants had an opportunity to ride on the back of a tandem bike driven by a professional bike rider. They were encouraged to cover their eyes and experience the park as if they were blind person. Others rode recumbent bikes. David said his favorite part was the golf carts (while observing birds at Agmon Hula) and seeing his Israeli



cousins who them at the nature center and stayed for lunch afterwards.

At Tel Aviv’s Herod Hotel, participants heard from Shirly Pinto , the only deaf person to serve in the Knesset. The former Knesset member told the group about addressing that legislative body with an interpreter. She recounted that it was unusual for the Knesset to remain so silent and attentive, she said.

The group also visited Palmachim Airbase, near Rishon Letzion and Yavne on the Mediterranean coast, where participants saw mechanics working on Black Hawk helicopters. Driving his wheelchair, Yuval Wagner, president and founder of Access Israel, led the group to a monument to a Cobra helicopter that crashed on a 1987 training mission when a rotor broke off. Wagner was paralyzed in that crash, which killed his commander. At the base and over dinner at his home outside Tel Aviv, Wagner told the group that he was inspired to create Access Israel after being unable to access a bathroom at a guest house while vacationing in the north of Israel.

The itinerary also included a visit to Masada, which the group found to be accessible for those with wheelchairs or scooters, and a stop at the Dead Sea. The latter, where the group took wooden steps to reach a beach, was not accessible, although participants were told that other parts of the area were. At the Tower of David Museum of Jerusalem, Reut Kozak, head of access and inclusion, explained that the museum has recently upgraded an elevator and its galleries to make them more accessible.

Other stops included the Jerusalem headquarters of the emergency services first-responder agency United Hatzalah; and Ma’arag Mevo’ot HaChermon , a job-training program for people with disabilities, which includes a coffee shop and art workshop.

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Hollywood's Influence on American Independence: Celebrating Freedom and Jewish Contributions

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

The desire for independence and freedom is a universal aspiration. Often intertwined, independence and freedom drive countless individuals to emigrate to other countries whenever the opportunity arises.

Here in the United States, Independence Day holds immense significance for many, symbolizing the pursuit of liberty and resilience.

In Hollywood, the quest to live a free life is often depicted in films that chronicle the struggles of leaving totalitarian regimes, adapting to new environments, grasping the meaning of independence, and experiencing personal freedom.

For the American Jewish community, Hollywood and Independence Day carry a special meaning, intertwining the themes of freedom, resilience, and the pursuit of liberty. At the beginning of the 20th century, Jewish immigrants made a lasting impact on Hollywood, profoundly shaping the American film industry.

Several factors contributed to the significant influence of Jewish immigrants and their descendants on Hollywood. Fleeing persecution and seeking new opportunities, many Jewish immigrants arrived in the United States during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Their entrepreneurial spirit and willingness to take risks led them to recognize the potential of motion pictures as a popular entertainment medium and a business opportunity.

Jewish immigrants and their descendants established major Hollywood studios that endure to this day. Often referred to as “moguls,” studio heads like Louis B. Mayer, Samuel Goldwyn, Carl Laemmle, William Fox, and Harry Warner founded successful studios such as MGM, Paramount Pictures, Universal Pictures, 20th Century Fox, and Warner Bros., respectively.

Jewish filmmakers and industry professionals made significant contributions to both the technical and artistic aspects of filmmaking. For instance, Irving Thalberg, a prominent producer at MGM, revolutionized film production practices and played a pivotal role in establishing the studio system. Drawing from their cultural backgrounds and experiences, Jewish filmmakers infused their work with distinct stories and themes. Immigration, assimilation, and the pursuit of the American Dream were recurring subjects explored in their movies. Notably, “The Jazz Singer” (1927) featured a Jewish protagonist and delved into issues of identity and tradition.

Independence Day serves as a moment of reflection for American Jews, allowing them to contemplate their unique journey, the contributions they have made to the nation, and the shared values that bind them with their fellow Americans.

Jews from the former Soviet Union joyfully celebrate their independence and embrace their place in American society. As we commemorate July 4th, we embrace the spirit of freedom, justice, and resilience, acknowledging the invaluable contributions of the American Jewish community in shaping our nation's diverse tapestry.

The New American Acculturation Program offers a wide range of topics for discussion and study, including culinary recipes. When preparing food for Independence Day while incorporating Jewish recipes and traditions, one can draw inspiration from Jewish culinary heritage while adding a patriotic twist. Israeli Salad with a Red, White, and Blue Twist: Prepare a traditional Israeli salad using diced cucumbers, tomatoes, red onions, and bell peppers. Add a patriotic touch by incorporating blueberries and feta cheese or white cheese cubes for the white element. Happy holiday!

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>).



Праздник свободы: оливуд и уникальный еврейский вклад в развитие американского общества

Стремление к независимости и свободе — всепроникающая сила. Они переплетаются, побуждая людей мигрировать в другие страны, когда появляется возможность.

Для американской еврейской общины Голливуд и День независимости имеют особое значение, воплощая в себе темы свободы, стойкости и стремления к независимости.

В Голливуде стремление к свободной жизни часто становится главной темой фильмов, которые рассказывают о борьбе с тоталитарными режимами, адаптации к новым условиям и поиске смысла жизни и личной свободы.

В начале 20-го века еврейские иммигранты оказали огромное влияние на Голливуд, прочно укоренившись в американской киноиндустрии и оставив незабываемый след.

Значительное влияние еврейских иммигрантов и их потомков на Голливуд было обусловлено несколькими факторами. Спасаясь от преследований и в поисках новых возможностей, множество евреев прибыли в США в конце XIX - начале XX века. Их предпринимательская жилка и готовность идти на риск привели к тому, что они осознали потенциал кино как популярного средства развлечения и как возможности для бизнеса.

Еврейские иммигранты и их потомки основали крупные голливудские студии, которые существуют и по сей день. Часто называемые “магулами”, такие главы студий, как Луис Б. Майер, Сэмюэл Голдвин, Карл Леммле, Уильям Фокс и Гарри Уорнер, основали успешные студии, такие как MGM, Paramount Pictures, Universal Pictures, 20th Century Fox и Warner Bros. соответственно.

Еврейские кинематографисты и профессионалы индустрии внесли значительный вклад как в технические, так и в художественные аспекты кинематографа. Например, Ирвинг Тальберг, выдающийся продюсер MGM, произвел революцию в практике кинопроизводства и сыграл ключевую роль в создании студийной системы. Опираясь на свое культурное происхождение и опыт, еврейские кинематографисты наполнили свои работы особыми сюжетами и темами. Иммиграция, ассимиляция и стремление к американской мечте были постоянными темами их фильмов. В частности, в фильме “Певец джаза” (The Jazz Singer, 1927) с еврейским главным героем рассматривались вопросы идентичности и традиций.

День независимости служит моментом размышления для американских евреев, позволяя задуматься о своем уникальном пути, о вкладе, который они внесли в развитие страны, и об общих ценностях, которые связывают их с соотечественниками.

Евреи из бывшего Советского Союза с радостью празднуют свою независимость и осознают свое место в американском обществе. Во время празднования 4 июля мы поддерживаем дух свободы и справедливости, признавая огромный вклад американской еврейской общины в формирование нашей нации. Мы вспоминаем трудности, с которыми столкнулись на пути к свободе, и признаем ценность и разнообразие, которые евреи вносят в эту прекрасную страну.

Наша образовательная программа предлагает широкий спектр тем для обсуждения и изучения, включая кулинарные рецепты. При приготовлении блюд ко Дню независимости, используя еврейские рецепты и традиции, можно не только приготовить вкусное блюдо, но еще и добавить к нему патриотическую изюминку. Израильский салат с красно-бело-синим оттенком: Приготовьте традиционный израильский салат, используя нарезанные кубиками огурцы, помидоры, красный лук и болгарский перец. Добавьте патриотическую нотку, добавив чернику и сыр фета или кубики белого сыра для белого элемента. Приятного аппетита и с праздником!

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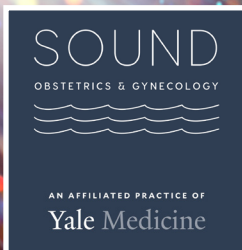
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New Haven's Andy Sarkany (Continued from page 14)

they asked me I tried to accommodate the need. Through my affiliations with these organizations, I developed a large network of schools inviting me back. Last year, I gave over 80 talks in Connecticut — in public libraries, churches and, of course, the majority are in public schools to kids ranging in age from fifth-graders to high school seniors. Also, giving talks on Zoom has allowed me to speak about the Holocaust in places like Tennessee, Virginia, Florida, Texas, New York City, and Seattle.

SNH: How did your participation in March of the Living as part of Voices of Hope delegation come about? What was the experience like?

AS: I was very fortunate that an organization actually sponsored me to join the trip as a Holocaust survivor.

Going to Poland is very, very difficult. Even though I read a lot about it and have seen a lot of pictures. But being on the grounds of Auschwitz-Birkenau, getting into the barracks and the various places of those two institutions where the Nazis deported and slaughtered over 1.2 million Jews... It's a different feeling when you know you are in a barrack where hundreds of Jews were crammed in, in awful conditions and starved to death... knowing that they were taken to the gas chambers and burned to death, taken to the crematoriums. And you see that. It's very difficult.

At March of the Living, we were about 35 Holocaust survivors who survived some of the camps. It's horrifying, what Hitler and his cohorts actually did.

SNH: It's only been recently that March of the Living took adults, let alone Holocaust survivors. Is that correct?

AS: It was originally designed 35 years ago as March of the Hopes, for high school kids. Even this year, there were over 10,000 of us and 90 percent of the marchers were young people. It was delightful to see thousands of young people who are enthusiastic about learning about the Holocaust, and making the commitment that it will never be forgotten or happen again.

Majdanek was especially difficult to see because we were able to see the gas chambers and crematoria about three feet apart.

SNH: Would you go again with groups of young people?

AS: I'd really have to think about it because it's very difficult. Of course, it is important to have [young people] understand. I was only seven and a half years old when the Nazis occupied Hungary, and the brutality was going on.

But was very fortunate because if the Soviets were moving slower from the east to the west by a couple of weeks, I would not be around. Because the efficiency of the Nazi Fascist government was unbelievable. The whole mechanism they built up in Majdanek, in Treblinka, in Sobibor; in creating the various ghettos in Krakow, in Lodz, in Warsaw, and in all other countries — in Hungary, in Germany; in all the transports that took place — from Holland, Denmark, France, Hungary, even from North Africa. Unbelievable efficiency.

SNH: So you think it's important for kids to go?

AS: Oh yes. And not only kids. I highly recommend it for every Jew who has the opportunity to participate to do so. Because every Jew is a spokesperson to prevent the atrocities that occurred.

To me, when you see the swastika on the armband it means feeling a hate. That's the only thing that it represents. So, when the Nazis occupied the various countries, that's what it meant — not only the Jews, but all kinds of people who were slaughtered by them: the blacks, the handicapped and various other groups — they were all killed.

There are all kinds of pictures you can see in the various barracks of the concentration camps who are not Jewish and were slaughtered by the Nazis. Treblinka is particularly significant in a sense that Himmler recognized that the Soviets were coming too fast, and he made sure that it was completely destroyed, leveled off. The mass graves were exhumed and burned, making sure there were no memories of what happened there.

It's very hard to comprehend the efficiency and the brutality of camps like Majdanek. What they did to human beings for no other reason than one person's glorification of himself and his surroundings. It's humanly unbelievable, isn't it? It just boggles the mind. It's incomprehensible.

And when you look at the United States, and what happened on August 17, 2017 in Charlottesville, you can see these thugs, these white supremacists...the hate. What particularly shocked me were the slogans they were shouting: because I heard that as a seven-year-old in 1943 and 1944. That the Jews are bloodsuckers. Then, just yesterday morning, I was listening to the news and I heard about some 18-year-old who rented a truck and was trying to get close to the White House. And he had a flag with a swastika on it — in the 21st century! And it had the same slogans I heard when I was a seven years old. Again, the Jews are bloodsuckers.

SNH: So you're saying that nothing has changed? That we haven't learned from history?

AS: Yes. And how sad is that? I recently read a quotation from Winston Churchill: "Those that fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it." And, this is happening today. Every day in the news, over the last few years, our synagogues are broken into and our people are killed because they are Jews. And our leadership — both in the Senate and the Congress — is full of antisemites.

And we need to stand up for it. And that's why we need to go on March of the Living and see the reality of what happened in a particular field. It is overwhelming in size. People don't realize how big it was. It's not just a small village or two. The territory is huge. Jews were beaten to death. They forced them to work until they collapsed and then they just shot them. It's very hard not to feel devastated. Just think about it: six million Jews and about six million others. What kind of a brain drain did that produce? What could that have meant for what we would have been able to produce for the future?

I encourage anybody who has the means to participate to come back with the energy and enthusiasm to educate everybody, because knowledge is critical to be able to go forward and never look back. As they say, knowledge is power.

And we need to support our communities. It doesn't matter how young or old you are. You have an obligation. And, the reason I feel comfortable with doing solicitation is because I try to bring Jewish values into everything I do. I try to promote the existence of the Jewish people for the future.

SNH: Finally...how were the final three-day Israel portion of the trip?

AS: Israel is such a beautiful country. It's a great country. And I don't care about politics. I just care about the vibrancy of the country. Jewish people survive forever. And there are three reasons for that.

—Number one: We have a homeland. Many times I said if things get bad, I can pack my suitcase and go there.

—Number two: We have tradition which can live on. We can look back on our ancestors and go forward.

—Number three: Yizkor. We remember. We say four times a year "Yizkor" — we remember. Those three qualities ensure that the Jews will survive forever.

Religion starts with your heart. If you have a Jewish heart, you are a religious person. The heart will carry us on.

On the Road to Spain... (Continued from page 15)

In April 2023, the reality is different once again. People are learning Spanish and are beginning to have basic daily interactions in supermarkets and corner stores with more confidence. Kids are settling into school. Their parents have moved on from temporary Red Cross housing into rented accommodations. Many have secured employment and have found ways to keep in touch with friends made during these difficult days.

As the basic needs of their lives begin to slowly fall into place, their need for community, support and camaraderie becomes more focused—the early childhood center, the women's club, the Spanish lessons, the hiking group, the teen art project— all continue to be life savers. There is an odd yet comforting sense of a 'new normal', when the same person who invites us to visit her in her new home in Spain simultaneously invites us to visit her in her beloved Odessa in the Ukraine (someday soon, we all hope!).

This year we arrived in Spain in the middle of the holiday of Passover. We brought with us iPads for the preschool program, matzo ball mix and chocolate covered matzah (a huge hit!), Passover snacks and a PJ library book in Ukrainian.

We shopped and cooked and hosted a Passover Seder, we taught and shared; played with kids and read stories with adults, We took people on walks and trips and picnics. Together, we sang and prayed and laughed and hugged and cried. We talked about the pain that people carry, and about freedom and hopes for the future. And we listened — the importance of speaking the same language is key and cannot be overstated! We gave a lot. Of course, it was not enough – it can never be enough.

As we return home we try to process our experiences and take into account what we are bringing home. And what we are bringing home are names and faces...a sense of devastation and a sense of hope...lessons of resilience and optimism.

Most of all we, are returning filled with gratitude to our Temple Emanuel for recognizing this urge we have to play a small role in making this world a little friendlier for people whose lives have been turned upside down. We couldn't have done any of this without their love and support.



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