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FROM THE LENS OF DAVID WEISBERG

Those who work with me in our Jewish Federation offices have grown accustomed to the fact that I am always losing my glasses. I wear reading glasses, and I have such a habit of misplacing them or breaking them that I have taken to purchasing a half-dozen pairs at a time at the local dollar store. Some days I have three pairs of glasses sitting on my desk; and some days I can’t find any (and it’s especially hard to find my glasses without wearing my glasses).

But, without looking through those lenses, I can’t read a thing.

The lenses that we look through can make all the difference in the world.

A kaleidoscope is another one of those types of lenses. Look at the world through a kaleidoscope and all of a sudden you can see colors and shapes that weren’t there before but that help to highlight the beauty and light in the world we live in.

The Federation for Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield County, our local Jewish Federation, has created our new semi-annual KALEIDOSCOPE publication with the hope that it can be a similar type of lens, shining a light and highlighting all the radiant colors in our local Jewish community, from vibrant congregations to exciting programs and events, from diverse Jewish educational opportunities to resources for every stage of Jewish life.

We hope that KALEIDOSCOPE will not only become a valued asset for those who have lived in Upper Fairfield County for many years but will also become a welcoming resource to those who have just moved to the area (or even those who are considering our community as their new home).

In an effort to create a publication that truly engages our entire community, we have invited all of our community congregations to be partners in this effort, providing space for content in exchange for the opportunity to send the publication to congregational members. We are grateful to the many congregations that have jumped on board enthusiastically for this partnership, as it only builds on our strength as a Jewish community.

And we are incredibly grateful to our publishing partners at Ledger Publications without whose teamwork KALEIDOSCOPE would simply not be possible.

I remember a number of years ago being given a pair of holographic glasses around Chanukah time that made every light I looked at transform into a Jewish star. As you read this inaugural issue of KALEIDOSCOPE, we hope that you will also feel like you’re looking through a very special lens, bringing a spectrum of color to the wonderful Jewish community that we share.

David I. Weisberg
Executive Director

Federation for Jewish Philanthropy of
Upper Fairfield County
4200 Park Ave., Suite 300
Bridgeport, CT 06604
(203) 226-8197
jewishphilanthropyct.org

Guided by our Jewish values of Tzedakah (righteous giving), Chesed (loving kindness) and Tikun Olam (repairing the world), we work together to meet vital needs at home, in Israel and around the world, and to cultivate a vibrant and inclusive Jewish community, now and for future generations.

With your support, our Federation annual campaign supports our extended Jewish family here at home and around the world through partners including:

ISRAEL & OVERSEAS PROGRAMS
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee • Birthright Israel • Emunah-Sarah Herzog Children’s Center • Jewish Federations of North America • Project Kesher (Former Soviet Union) • Southern New England Consortium Programs LOCAL & U.S. — COMMUNITY Anti-Defamation League • BBYO • Camp Gan Israel • JCC of Greater New Haven Day Camps • Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut • Mikvah Israel of Fairfield • LOCAL & U.S. — EDUCATION Bi-Cultural Day School • Bennett Center for Judaic Studies, Fairfield University • Carmel Academy • UConn Center for Judaic Studies & Contemporary Jewish Life • Ezra Academy • UConn Hillel • Holocaust Child Survivors of Connecticut • Jewish High School of Connecticut • Merkaz Community High School for Judaic Studies • Southern Connecticut Hebrew Academy • LOCAL & U.S. — SOCIAL SERVICES Circle of Friends • Friendship Circle • Jewish Senior Services • Kesher Project for Adults with Developmental Disabilities • LifeBridge Community Services • Positive Directions • Schoke Jewish Family Service

To support our annual campaign, visit jewishphilanthropyct.org.

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SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT JEWISH FOOD FESTIVAL: BRINGING TOGETHER MODERN VALUES AND TRADITIONAL FLAVORS

Cooking demonstrations, food tastings, discussions about Judaism and food, workshops on sustainability, do-it-yourself pickling, guidance on starting home composting, and a crazy upside-down double-decker bus. All that and much more will be on offer at the Federation for Jewish Philanthropy’s inaugural Southern Connecticut Jewish Food Festival: Bringing Together Modern Values and Traditional Flavors on Sunday, June 11 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Temple Israel in Westport.

The idea of a Jewish food festival in Fairfield County was the brainchild of FJP’s new Executive Director, David Weisberg, who came to the community after a stint as CEO of Hazon, the largest food- and sustainability-focused Jewish non-profit in North America. “The secret sauce of the festival model is that bringing together Jewish food and Jewish values related to food and sustainability provides an opportunity to engage the entire community together in ways that other programming cannot,” says Weisberg. “While many of us have different ways of observing Judaism, we can all connect with matzo-ball soup and a good kosher pickle.”

The festival will feature a diverse array of workshops on everything from Torah texts, sustainable seafood, Brazilian Jewish cooking; fun children’s activities; a keynote lecture; an exhibit hall featuring vendors and organizations engaged in Jewish food and sustainability; and, of course, delicious Jewish food.

“Bringing a Jewish food festival to Upper Fairfield County has long been a dream of mine,” says Elise Meyer, the inaugural festival chair, avid organic gardener, and kosher food blogger. “For me, Jewish food is about so much more than pastrami and gefilte fish. Jewish food is about our Jewish values when it comes to sharing our resources with those less fortunate and treating the earth in a way that is mindful and sustainable. I feel incredibly fortunate not only to be leading this festival but to be working with a talented volunteer committee that shares those values. Today more than ever, we have to learn how to take definite steps to secure a future of pure, nutritious food for us, our kids, and the world.”

Festival keynote speaker Jeffrey Yoskowitz is co-founder of The Gefilteria food venture launched in 2012 with the mission of reimagining eastern European Jewish cuisine, adapting classic dishes to the values and tastes of a new generation. Yoskowitz, who also holds the Gefilteria’s title of Chief Pickler, has written about all facets of Jewish food for national publications. He trained as a pickler at Adamah Farm in Falls Village, Conn., where he fell in love with the art of lacto-fermentation, and has worked in the food world as an entrepreneur and a consultant for small businesses. He co-authored The Gefilte Manifesto: New Recipes for Old World Jewish Foods.

“Our intent is to plan a day that is fun and informative for everyone, from young children to senior adults, from singles to families,” says Stacy Kamisar, FJP Program Director. “While some may attend with specific interest in a lecture or workshop, others may simply enjoy learning how to pickle, tasting a wonderful new food, or bringing their kids to participate in an amazing children’s program.”

Kids will enjoy the Teva Topsy Turvy Bus, a mishmash of two school buses, each with their tops cut off and stacked together to create an innovative environmental lab for children. Powered by used vegetable oil, the bus features a crew of charismatic Teva educators who enthusiastically lead Teva children to senior adults, from singles to families,” says Stacy Kamisar, FJP Program Director. “While some may attend with specific interest in a lecture or workshop, others may simply enjoy learning how to pickle, tasting a wonderful new food, or bringing their kids to participate in an amazing children’s program.”

With a strong inaugural festival in 2017,” says Meyer, “it’s our hope that this will become an annual event that the community looks forward to and will only grow in size and scope, attracting both those actively engaged in Jewish life and those looking for a portal for involvement, and bringing food values around sustainability to the forefront of conversation.”

For more information on the inaugural Southern Connecticut Jewish Food Festival, visit jewishphilanthropyct.org or contact skamisar@jewishphilanthropyct.org or call (203) 659-3602.
As a cold snap across Europe and the former Soviet Union (FSU) resulted in more than 60 deaths this winter, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee’s (JDC) Winter Relief program was well underway.

Now in its 25th year, the critical aid program ensures that thousands of poor Jews, including homebound elderly, get the critical provisions they need to survive frigid temperatures in places with little local support to help them.

Take the Vasiliev-Klochkovs family from the remote city of Prishakhtinsk in Kazakhstan, where temperatures drop well below 0°F. The family of four lives in a dilapidated house without indoor plumbing or central heating. Their only source of heat is a charcoal-burning furnace. In January, the JDC-supported Hesed social-welfare center – one of a network of more than 100 across the FSU – provided a four-month supply of coal to the family, which the Vasiliev-Klochkovs would probably not have been able to afford on their monthly income of just $176.

Without JDC and the support provided by the Federation for Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield County, the Vasiliev-Klochkovs would be left alone to shiver in the dark—and they are not alone. For needy Jews from the Baltics to Hungary to Kazakhstan, winter relief comes in the form of warm blankets and jackets, wood, coal, electric heaters, and desperately-needed utility subsidies.

Among the poorest Jews in the world, JDC provides life-saving assistance beyond winter relief – home care for thousands of elderly Jews like those in the Volga region, and medical care for hundreds of needy Jewish children and families.

JDC also engages and empowers younger generations of Jews around the world, at the international summer youth camp at Szarvas, and through the JDC Entwine young-adult community-service platform for 20-somethings. In Israel, JDC partners with the government and the NGO sector to create innovative strategies, solutions, and pilot programs to combat the country’s biggest social challenges and empower Israel’s most vulnerable groups, like a new employment-training program for Israelis with disabilities.

And for decades, JDC has provided a Jewish response to natural and manmade disasters, aiding hundreds of thousands of people with food, medicine, job training, and rebuilding efforts in places like Nepal, Haiti, and Ecuador in the wake of earthquakes and storms.

Learn more about JDC’s work at jdc.org.
JEWISH COMMUNITY RESOURCE DIRECTORY

SPIRITUAL LIFE

Bridgeport
Congregation Bikur Cholim
2365 Park Ave.
(203) 981-4458
Orthodox
Congregation B’nai Israel
2710 Park Ave.
cibipt.org
(203) 336-1858
Reform
Congregation Rodeph Sholom
2385 Park Ave.
rodephsholom.com
(203) 334-0159
Conservative
Jewish Senior Services
Pastoral Services
4200 Park Ave.
seniors.org
(203) 396-1001

Fairfield
Chabad of Fairfield
452 Brookside Drive
chabadff.com
(203) 373-7551

Congregation Ahavath Achim
1571 Stratfield Road
ahavathachim.org | (203) 372-6529
Orthodox
Beth El Fairfield
1200 Fairfield Woods Road
bethelfairfield.org
(203) 374-5544
Conservative

Georgetown
Temple B’nai Chaim
82 Portland Ave.
templebnaichaim.org
(203) 544-8695
Reform

Norwalk
Beth Israel Synagogue of Westport/Norwalk
40 King St.
bethisraelct.org
(203) 866-0534
Orthodox
Congregation Beth El-Norwalk
109 East Ave.
congbethel.org
(203) 838-2710
Conservative
Temple Shalom
259 Richards Ave.
templateshalomweb.org
(203) 866-0148
Reform

Ridgefield
Chabad Jewish Center of Ridgefield
27 West Lane
chabadridgefield.com
(203) 748-4421

Congregation Shir Shalom of Westchester and Fairfield Counties
46 Peaceble St.
ourshirshalom.org
(203) 438-6589
Reform

Trumbull
Chabad Lubavitch Foundation of Southern Connecticut
18 Cell Road
(203) 371-0104

Congregation B’nai Torah
5700 Main St.
bnaitorahct.org
(203) 268-6940
Conservative

Congregation Mishkan Israel
77 Mount Pleasant Drive
mishkanisrael.com
(203) 268-0740
Orthodox

Westport
Beit Chaverim Synagogue of Westport/Norwalk
85 Post Road West
beitchaverim.com
(203) 227-3333
Orthodox
Chabad Lubavitch of Westport
79 Newtown Turnpike
chabadofwestport.com
(203) 226-8584

Congregation for Humanistic Judaism of Fairfield County
humanisticjews.org
(203) 293-8867
The Conservative Synagogue of Westport, Weston & Wilton
30 Hillspoint Road
tcs-westport.org
(203) 454-4673

Temple Israel
14 Coleytown Road
tiwestport.org
(203) 227-1293
Reform

COMMUNITY AGENCIES & ORGANIZATIONS

Anti-Defamation League Connecticut Regional Office
connecticut.adl.org
(203) 288-6500

Bridgeport
Federation for Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield County
jewishphilanthropyct.org
(203) 227-1656, ext. 312

Bonim Preschool
Congregation B’nai Israel, Bridgeport
cibipt.org | (203) 335-5058

Carol Schoke Early Childhood Center
Temple Israel, Westport
tiwestport.org
(203) 227-1656, ext. 312

Dayschools
Bi-Cultural Day School
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cbds.org | (203) 329-2186

Carmel Academy
270 Lake Ave., Greenwich
carmelacademy.com
(203) 863-9663

End of Life
Abraham L. Green and Son Funeral Home, Fairfield
greensfuneralhome.com
(203) 255-8993

LIFECYCLE

Mohel
Rabbi Yitzchok Adler
(860) 798-9555

Mikvah
Mikvah Israel
1326 Stratfield Road, Fairfield
(203) 274-2191

The Jewish Community Foundation, Bridgeport
dweisberg@jewishphilanthropyct.org
(203) 226-8197

YOUTH & EDUCATION

Early Childhood
PJ Library: Free Jewish-themed books and music for kids 8 and younger
Federation for Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield County
skamiser@jewishphilanthropyct.org
jewishphilanthropyct.org
(203) 659-3602

Aleph Bet Early Childhood and Dacyare Center, Westport
myalephbet.org | (203) 635-4118

B’nai Torah Nursery School, Trumbull
bnaitorahct.org/nursery
(203) 268-0227

Bonim Preschool
Congregation B’nai Israel, Bridgeport
cibipt.org | (203) 335-5058

Carol Schoke Early Childhood Center
Temple Israel, Westport
tiwestport.org
(203) 227-1656, ext. 312

Gan Yeladim Preschool
Temple Shalom, Norwalk
templateshalomweb.org
(203) 866-0148

K’tanim Preschool
Beth El, Fairfield
congbethel.net | (203) 374-5544

Nitzan Nursery School
Congregation Beth El-Norwalk
congbethel.org | (203) 838-6019

The Conservative Synagogue Preschool, Westport
tcs-westport.org | (203) 454-4673

Dayschools
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2186 High Ridge Road, Stamford
cbds.org | (203) 329-2186

Carmel Academy
270 Lake Ave., Greenwich
carmelacademy.com
(203) 863-9663

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Youth Activities
BBYO Connecticut Valley Region
Fairfield Chapters
bbyo.org | (203) 389-2127
Circle of Friends, Norwalk
circleoffriendsct.org
(203) 293-8837
Friendship Circle, Stamford
friendshipct.com
(203) 329-0015, ext. 131
Keshet Jewish Enrichment for Children with Special Needs and Their Parents
Congregation B’nai Israel, Bridgeport

cbilpt.org/kesher.html#keshet
(203) 336-1858
Merkaz Community High School for Judaic Studies
4200 Park Ave., Bridgeport
merkazct.org | (203) 450-5303
Westport USY
The Conservative Synagogue, Westport
tcs-westport.org/communities/youth-groups | (203) 454-4673

Day Camps
Camp Gan Israel of Westport, Weston & Wilton
ganisrael.com | (203) 226-8584
JCC of Greater New Haven
Day Camps
jccnh.org/jcc-summer-day-camp
(203) 387-2424, ext. 253

LIFELONG LEARNING
Bridgeport Community Kollel
bridgeportkollel.com

Fairfield University Carl & Dorothy Bennett Center for Judaic Studies
fairfield.edu/judaic | (203) 254-4000, ext. 2065
Kesher Project for Developmentally Challenged Adults
Congregation B’nai Israel, Bridgeport
cbilpt.org | (203) 336-1858
Schneerson Center for Jewish Life, CT
schneersoncenter.org
(203) 635-4118

CULTURAL
Connecticut Jewish Ledger
jewishledger.com | (860) 231-2424
Jewish Arts & Film Festival of Fairfield County
jewishartsandfilm.org
(203) 487-0941
Israelis-in-CT
israelisinct@hotmail.com
Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County
jhsfc-ct.org | (203) 321-1373, ext. 150

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS
Jewish Twenties & Thirties
cjfs.org | (203) 921-4161
Young Jewish Professionals, CT
yjpct.org | (203) 354-3090

WOMEN
Hadassah, The Women’s Zionist Organization of America, Inc.
Connecticut Region
hadassah.org/regions/connecticut
(203) 307-1319

SENIORS
Jewish Senior Services
Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Campus, Bridgeport
jzensiors.org | (203) 365-6400
Seymour I. Hollander Apartments
Greater Bridgeport Jewish Housing Corp.
hollanderhouse.org | (203) 374-7868
Books2Connect: Improving Childhood Literacy in Our Own Backyard

Books2Connect, a hands-on volunteer program started by the Federation six years ago, promotes literacy and enhances self-esteem by expanding the horizons of young readers with the gift of books. Through Books2Connect, FJP distributes new and gently-used books to children to encourage them to build their own home libraries and create a foundation for life-long learning.

“Although Connecticut is one of the wealthiest states in the country, nearly one in ten children live in poverty. For many families, books are a luxury item that parents cannot afford,” says Stacy Kamisar, FJP Program Director. “Children who live near the poverty line have lower reading scores, yet studies have shown that being read to as a child and having books in the home are the two most important indicators of academic success. Through Books2Connect, we can make a difference for many children right here in our own backyard.”

Books collected are donated to organizations in Connecticut that serve children and families in need. Children who attend programs will receive books to take home and own forever.

Books2Connect seeks donations of children’s books from individuals and through book drives run by organizations such as honor societies, sports teams, key clubs and other service organizations. Books2Connect is also a great project for individuals looking to fulfill community-service requirements. If you are interested in donating books, running a book drive, or joining the Books2Connect Advisory Board, contact Stacy Kamisar: (203) 659-3602 skamisar@jewishphilanthropyct.org.

Books2Connect volunteer Sheri Warshaw delivers books to the George Washington Carver Community Center in Norwalk.

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Magic in your mailbox! Every month, PJ Library sends a Jewish-themed book or CD to your child (aged 6 months to 8) for free. What’s more, PJ Library families gather for special story-music-craft programs to celebrate Jewish holidays. To join us for the fun, contact Stacy Kamisar at FJP: skamisar@jewishphilanthropyct.org / (203) 659-3602.

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A special PJ Library craft to spread the Chanukah light.

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THE STARS CAME OUT FOR FJP GALA 2017!


Gala co-chairs Ivy Gosseen & Karen Ferleger

Gala honorees Neil & Amy Katz and Mindy & Jeff Siegel

“Jazz Rabbi” Greg Wall, pianist Seth Farber, Jill Sobule, Neshama Carlebach, and Lori Wilner

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Michael Kassen and Sheri Warshaw

Linda Mettel, Joanne Ehrlich, honoree
Amy Katz, Janet Mendell, Amy Gross, Tammy Zelkowitz, and Shari Goldstein

Rabbi Marcelo Kornis, Cheryl Green, Bobbi Cohen, Anita Rosnick, Lori Berger, and Sheryl Santiago

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Westport USY prepares to distribute essential items to the homeless in New York City on a Midnight Run relief mission.

 Beit Chaverim Westport Youth Group knows how to chill!

 Temple Shalom Chelsea Youth Program at a hibachi party

 BBYO Connecticut Valley Region’s annual Beau Sweetheart Gala celebrates members’ community service.

 FJP Israeli Young Emissary Rotem Rotner with Temple Israel Senior Youth (TISY) members at It Adventure Indoor Ropes Course at Jordan’s Furniture in New Haven

See full list of teen groups on P. 11.
Merkaz Community High School for Judaic Studies students participate in the Better Together program with seniors from Jewish Senior Services in Bridgeport.

Circle of Friends Teen Volunteers receive their Certificate of Friendship Awards for over 10,000 “Friendship Hours” at the 2016 Evening of Recognition.

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“Jazz Rabbi” Greg Wall has a two-pronged approach to enriching Jewish life throughout Upper Fairfield County. Since beginning his tenure at Beit Chaverim Synagogue in Westport four summers ago, the professional jazz musician and ordained rabbi has used both vocations to draw people into a deeper exploration of Judaism.

Wall launched his career as a jazz saxophonist in New York City in 1982, after graduating from the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. And it was music that led him on “a long strange journey” to the rabbinate, he says. Playing at Chasidic weddings as his “day gig” to support his newly-minted jazz career, he was fascinated by the variety of Jews he met at the Orthodox New York scene. Though not raised in a religious home, Wall would eventually go on to earn three ordinations from highly respected Orthodox rabbis in Israel.

Most days (and nights), Wall can be found teaching at Beit Chaverim and throughout the community. But on Thursday night, Wall sermons with his saxophone at 323 Restaurant in Westport, aka his “mid-week pulpit.” Other than packing the tables with jazz-lovers, the gig has been a great way to reach people Wall doesn’t see in his pews.

**Q: How are music and spirituality connected for you?**

A: In some ways, my music and my rabbinate are different manifestations of the same spiritual practice. Through music, I realized what it takes to be able to accomplish something and to acquire some degree of insight, virtuosity, and empathy through the practice. Music requires daily care and feeding. Judaism is the exact same way: it’s not a casual relationship. Ultimately, a satisfying Jewish experience is going to be based on the commitment. Just as it would be impossible for a concert artist to maintain a professional level without practicing every single day, Judaism works the same way.

I’ve always thought it really strange that many people will come to the synagogue only once or twice a year, on those particular days that are the absolute longest prayer services and require the most concentration, and that’s their only experience and it’s not fun. Going into the High Holidays, you need to train the way you would for a marathon. Nobody would just run a marathon without having stretched or prepared – you’d get hurt. It’s the same thing with Judaism. People say, “I went to Yom Kippur services and I didn’t enjoy it.” So come on Purim or Simchas Torah or Shabbat, where it’s very user-friendly and it’s not make-or-break.

**Q: As an Orthodox rabbi serving a nominally Orthodox congregation, how do you engage Jews from other denominations?**

A: I don’t preach Orthodox; I preach literacy, because as people become more literate, they’re more engaged. “Literate” doesn’t necessarily mean improving your Hebrew; people also relate to the Jewish experience in ways that has nothing to do with prayer. I’ve learned, because we have such a diverse community, that everybody has their own way to relate. Pirkei Avot [Ethics of the Fathers] says that the world rests on three things: Torah [study], avodah [worship], and gemilut chasadim [acts of lovingkindness], and I see how most people are attracted to at least one of those. Occasionally, you find people who are engaged in all three; that’s the ideal. But for those not yet able to operate on all three paths, by identifying which one they’re drawn to, I give them an entry-point. There are a lot of roads leading to a satisfying Jewish life and you have to be creative; it’s not one-size-fits-all.

**Q: You’re also known for creating partnerships with other Jewish congregations and community organizations. Why is that important to you?**

A: Our community is too small to be separated, and we need the richest Jewish experience possible. Halacha is broad enough that I’m able to travel in and out of these different circles without compromising on the way I’ve been taught that Judaism should be served. I don’t feel that there’s a need to throw the baby out with the bathwater, and that’s part of a modern Orthodox worldview: we can be citizens of the world and citizens in every sense of the word. Being a citizen means you have responsibility for other people and our responsibility does not stop at synagogues or traditionally observant Jews; it’s every Jew. And more than just every Jew, we’re citizens of our area and that means we don’t want to separate from the community at large either, which is why we have to be volunteering for things that are not just Jewish organizations. We can’t be civic-minded only when it comes to the Jewish community. It can be hard but we’ve got to do it; it’s part of our covenantal responsibility.

**THE KALEIDOSCOPE INTERVIEW: GREG WALL, TWO-PULPIT RABBI**
What’s cookin’ for spring? Inspiration from two of our favorite local food bloggers.

**Quinoa Salad with Spring Vegetables and Buttermilk Dressing**

*Liz Rueven, KosherLikeMe.com*

**Salad ingredients**
- 1 c. quinoa
- 1½ c. water
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1 lb. asparagus, rinsed, patted dry with woody ends trimmed
- 6 radishes, washed, trimmed and sliced thinly
- 2 tbsp. toasted pine nuts
- 2 tsp. fresh tarragon, finely chopped
- 1 oz. crumbled feta or goat cheese

**Buttermilk Dressing ingredients**
- 2 tbsp. fresh lemon juice
- 1 small clove garlic, peeled and minced
- salt and pepper
- 1 tbsp. olive oil
- 6 tbsp. buttermilk

**Salad directions:** Rinse quinoa in a fine strainer and combine with water in pan on stovetop. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and cover. Simmer 15 minutes or until water is absorbed. Stir once, uncover, and set aside to cool. Steam asparagus until just barely tender, 2-3 minutes. Plunge into ice bath to stop them from cooking. Pat dry and cut on the diagonal, into ¼-in. pieces. In a large bowl, combine cooked quinoa and all other ingredients. Toss gently and set aside while you make the dressing.

**Dressing directions:** Place all ingredients in a mini processor, or whisk rapidly by hand. Dressing should be creamy. Taste and adjust salt and pepper. Dress salad when ready to serve. Drizzle with extra olive oil and a squeeze of lemon if you prefer it moister.

**Fruit Galette with Orange and Rosemary**

*Makes 6 servings*

*Ronnie Fein: ronniefein.com*

- 6 puff pastry squares (4-in.): frozen squares or regular sheets cut into squares
- 3 peaches or nectarines or 6 President or Empress (or about 8 Italian prune) plums, or about 8 fresh apricots, cut into wedges
- 3-4 tbsp. sugar
- 1 tsp. grated fresh orange peel
- 1 tsp. chopped fresh rosemary

Preheat oven to 425°F. Place the pastry squares on a parchment paper-lined baking sheet. Prick the dough in a few places. Arrange equal amounts of the fruit on top of each square, leaving a ½-in. border. Mix the sugar, orange peel, and rosemary. Sprinkle equal amounts of the sugar mixture on top of the fruit. Pinch the dough border to make it slightly higher and closer to the fruit. Refrigerate for about 20 minutes. Bake for about 20 minutes or until golden brown.

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Israel in Upper Fairfield County: FJP’s Israeli Young Emissary Program

The Israeli Young Emissaries continue to create a living bridge between Israel and the FJP community as they work in our synagogues, preschools and religious schools, and community agencies. These young “ambassadors” defer their IDF service for a year to share their love of Israel with our community. Interested in hosting an Emissary? Contact Stacy Kamisar: skamisar@jewishphilanthropyct.org. Follow them on Facebook and see all the fun things they do to connect us to Israel!

Rotem teaches Temple Israel K-3 students about the Dead Sea, experimenting with floating objects in very salty water, the same way that we float in the Dead Sea.

Noa helps a resident of Jewish Senior Services in Bridgeport make a collage inspired by Yitzhak Rabin’s beliefs, during an Emissary program commemorating the assassination of Rabin.

Meshy and Chabad of Fairfield students prepare for Shabbat Israeli-style by mixing up a batch of one of her favorite treats from home.

Meshy and Guy make passports with the Congregation Beth El Fairfield preschoolers as they begin their “journey” to Israel.

The Emissaries hang out with the Staples High School Israeli Culture Club at a Chanukah celebration.
The Elayne and James Schoke Jewish Family Service of Fairfield County brings services to Greater Bridgeport area

The Elayne and James Schoke Jewish Family Service (JFS) office on the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Campus on Park Avenue in Bridgeport is a comprehensive agency offering a range of innovative services and programs designed to address contemporary problems and issues. Our clients include individuals, couples, families, and groups, ranging from young children to the elderly. Programs encompass the following areas: Counseling, JFS Home Companion, Case Management, College Counseling, Family Life Education, and Information and Referral.

Schoke JFS has been assisting individuals and families in the Greater Westport and Bridgeport areas for over 20 years. An office at the same address as Federation of Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield County will help expand the JFS reach to those in need.

Schoke JFS has assisted people like Sharon, a 50-year-old woman who showed up for the Schoke JFS Life Transitions support group, a recently-unemployed IT professional. The Schoke JFS counseling staff worked with Sharon to raise her confidence and assist her to find employment. Laura, a single 55-year-old woman, was suffering from a debilitating chronic illness that prevented her from working full time. The Schoke JFS case-management staff provided guidance and support through Laura’s local Social Services department and the State Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services, as well as financial assistance and food supplements from the JFS Kosher Food Pantry. When Gloria came to the Schoke JFS counseling department, she was feeling hopeless about her marriage and lack of job. Though reluctant, she had begun to consider separation, but was concerned about the effect on the couple’s three young children. Within a month, Gloria had found a job in her field as a paralegal.

The Elayne and James Schoke Jewish Family Service of Fairfield County is all about families and community. Our mission is to sustain families and individuals through all of life’s challenges and build strong, healthy communities. An ever-changing, ever-evolving social-service agency, Schoke JFS is a presence in the community that continuously responds to challenges with the highest degree of professionalism, so that those who need us the most can benefit from our services. We are constantly adding new programs and services to meet the increasing demands of today’s world. Our seasoned, caring, and compassionate staff provides creative, individualized attention to all our clients. Learn more about what Schoke JFS has to offer: ctjfs.org / (203) 659-3601.

All names are fictional to preserve confidentiality.

Fairfield University
The Carl and Dorothy Bennett Center for Judaic Studies

LECTURES AND PROGRAMS: SPRING 2017

“Annual Holocaust Remembrance Service”
Featured speaker: Hungarian Holocaust survivor, Betty Deutsch
Monday, April 24 at 4:30 p.m.
Egan Chapel
Complimentary admission. Reservations requested.
Contact the Bennett Center at bennettcenter@fairfield.edu or call (203) 254-4000 ext. 2066.
For more information: fairfield.edu/bennettevents

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The tradition that there are many ways to be Jewish.

The tradition of good food, good music, and good friends.

Come find out why we love exploring Judaism together!

LOOKING (AND THINKING) AHEAD AT BETH EL FAIRFIELD

By Gary Krebs

gmkwritingandediting.com

Judaism is known for rich traditions that commemorate, honor, and study the past through holidays, rituals, and education. But local Conservative synagogue Congregation Beth El in Fairfield knows it’s equally as important to celebrate the future as it is to remember the past. It’s this faith in its future, according to congregants, that has led the shul to bestow the name atid — Hebrew for “future” — upon its flagship project for 2017: The Atid Campaign.

The synagogue first ushered in its future in August 2012, when beloved Rabbi Marcelo Kormis assumed the role of spiritual leader. His arrival inspired a renewed spirit and enthusiasm for all of the shul’s already successful initiatives, including its thought-provoking educational and social programs, exceptional K-8 religious school, flourishing K’tanim preschool, and thriving daily minyan. And in Summer 2016, Hazan Brian Shamash joined Beth El, bringing organization, depth, and vibrancy to the role of cantor.

Now, with the dynamic Kormis-Shamash duo firmly established, the congregation has rolled out the Atid Campaign to significantly add to its endowment funds and to spread word of its outstanding programs and initiatives through a massive branding strategy.

With the participation of numerous congregants, the campaign features innovative communication, outreach, and fundraising methods that will spotlight the shul’s welcoming and forward-thinking culture. Already, the Atid committee has outlined specific strategies for achieving aggressive fundraising goals, recognizing donor contributions, and keeping the entire congregation involved throughout the campaign.

Midway into brainstorming sessions, the committee identified this renewed emphasis on the future as the perfect opportunity to modernize and re-launch Beth El’s website with entirely new branding and an accompanying logo. The synagogue will become known as “Beth El Fairfield” or “BEF,” rather than the former “Congregation Beth El” or “CBE.” And while the new and old monikers will likely remain interchangeable verbally, Kormis acknowledges, the shift means a URL change to BethElFairfield.org for greater discoverability.

The goals of the branded website are not only to attract and increase membership, but also to encourage engagement by featuring real-time news and current events, as well as improved navigational tools.

Albert Einstein famously said, “I never think of the future — it comes soon enough.” The Atid Campaign proves that Beth El Fairfield’s bright future has been shining on the congregation all along.
Beth Israel is a vibrant spiritual home and a center of social interaction for young families and adults. We are well known for educational excellence in bar- and bat-mitzvah and Hebrew-school programs, as well as for community outreach. Central to our mission is sharing our passion for the people and land of Israel.

As an Orthodox shul, our services are solidly rooted in our sacred traditions and at the same time, are user-friendly and engaging. Our esteemed spiritual leader, Rabbi Yehoshua S. Hecht, is personable and is a brilliant educator and speaker. At Beth Israel, one experiences a genuine sense of connection to the Torah and to a vibrant and nurturing Jewish community.

For many, Beth Israel is known simply as the shul, a house of Torah and good deeds. Our beautiful, ultra-modern building, designed by noted architect Percival Goodman, is centrally located in a tree-lined residential neighborhood on the Norwalk-Westport town line.
The Six Day War permanently changed the landscape of Israel and world Jewry — its identity, its political discourse, and its view of its position in the family of nations.

To mark the war’s 50th anniversary, the Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) has produced a comprehensive six-week course, Survival of a Nation, which will be offered locally at Chabad of Fairfield’s new Berkowitz Chabad House over six Thursdays starting May 11.

This course investigates the momentous—indeed historic—implications of the events that led up to the war, the war itself, and its aftermath. The goal of this in-depth evaluation is to determine the ways in which the lessons gleaned from the Six Day War continue to be relevant, and how the pertinent dilemmas it generated might be effectively tackled.

Survival of a Nation addresses the social, political, and religious issues with which modern Israel grapples, and attempts to provide both clarity and an array of viewpoints. It discovers that many of the major dilemmas that faced Israel 50 years ago have not disappeared, though some have morphed into new forms. Survival of a Nation provides an opportunity for contextualization and clarification of modern Israel and its challenges.

Course details and registration are available online at chabadff.com or by calling the Chabad office at (203) 373-7551.

Construction on the new Chabad Jewish Center is in full swing, to be completed in 2017. Co-directed by Rabbi Yehuda and Dina Kantor, Chabad Lubavitch of WWWN enters its third decade of service to the community. Working alongside sister branch, Chabad of Fairfield - co-directed by Rabbi Shlame and Miriam Landa - Chabad’s array of programs and services are designed to make Judaism accessible and experiential to ensure a vibrant Jewish tomorrow and make the world a better place!
At the turn of the 20th century, a small group of Jews settled in the West End neighborhood of Bridgeport, walking several miles to the east side of Bridgeport for religious services. In October 1905, Congregation Ahavath Achim was founded to serve the growing Jewish population. After many years of struggle in different Bridgeport locations, the members developed a Talmud Torah and Jewish educational programming for teens and adults. With a growing membership, the congregation found it necessary to move in 1964 to its current location.

Social and religious programming and activities filled the building and a new Annex was built to house the community Jewish day school. In 1980, its 75th-anniversary year, Ahavath Achim received the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America's National Heritage Award. In 1998, the Gina Gelb Tehillim Prayer Group was founded, a monthly open-to-the-community Rosh Chodesh women's gathering where participants read Tehillim in English and Hebrew. In 2004, in anticipation of its 100th Anniversary Gala, Ahavath Achim renovated its sanctuary with a new bimah and mechitza.

Services are held daily and on every Shabbat and Yom Tov. The synagogue website features the weekly newsletter (mailed to non-computer users) as well as the weekly calendar, synagogue activities, local news, Torah Messages, Golden Book news, davening times and locations, and links to Jewish organizations.

Demographic changes over the last 10 years have caused Ahavath Achim to undertake a re-structuring and downsizing in order to remain a vibrant center for Modern Orthodoxy in the Fairfield-Bridgeport community. Under the dynamic leadership of President Barbara K. Tuckel, PhD and Rabbi Yirmiyah Moldovan, the congregation looks forward to continuing as an integral member of the local Jewish community.

Rabbi Ita Paskind and the 7th-grade Musaf Club meet weekly to help prepare our pre-b’nei mitzvah students for their lives as Jewish adults. Rabbi Paskind has been with us for the past two years and one of her areas of focus is our teen population. She works closely with all of our students – from the Baby & Me sing-along classes she leads with our Nursery School director, Morah Amy, to the 2-, 3-, and 4-year-old Nitzan Nursery School children, our K’tanim Sunday pre-kindergarten classes, straight through to our post-b’nei mitzvah teens who regularly come back to lead Shacharit or Musaf services and to read Torah.

In this way, Rabbi Paskind builds strong relationships with our children, which continue past bar- or bat-mitzvah and motivate the teenagers to continue to take leadership roles in the synagogue throughout their high-school years.

We were pleased to welcome leaders of three local Jewish day schools, as well as our own Nitzan and Navasky school directors, to join us for an Education Shabbat in late January. But the stars of the weekend were our 20-plus student service-leaders, Torah leaders, gabbayim, and “Ein Kelo-heinu Choir” from all of the invited schools.

Our rabbi and professional educational directors have also created an experiential education program for our 8th-grade students, which will expand to our 9th-graders next school year. Beth El kids who grow up in our Navasky Religious School or in any of the local Jewish day schools have many great ways to continue to learn and hang out with their friends.
EVERYONE IS WELCOME

You feel welcome as soon as you walk through Congregation B’nai Israel’s doors on a Friday night.

Congregants offer a warm “Shabbat Shalom.” A video monitor highlights upcoming activities. Congregants of all ages kibbitz and nosh at an informal Oneg Shabbat, pausing when Cantor Sheri Blum starts to sing and the candles are lit.

Shabbat encapsulates B’nai Israel – a welcoming community that lets you express your Judaism in the way you are most comfortable.

“The feeling we try to create each Friday evening is one that weaves together an intergenerational community,” Rabbi James Prosnit says.

Nor is it contained to Friday nights. Saturday mornings feature a vibrant early-morning service, Torah study, a Havurah gathering for younger families, and, of course, b’nai-mitzvah celebrations.

“It’s the full range of life events,” Rabbi Prosnit says.

That carries over to weekdays. Bonim preschool students laugh and shout. K-8 students study and sing on Sundays, Monday nights, and Tuesdays and Thursdays (depending on the grade). High-schoolers meet for Merkaz on Tuesday nights. Adults, too, regularly claim the library for meaningful study.

“We try to make Judaism possible in any way for families and our congregation,” Associate Rabbi Evan Schultz says.

B’nai Israel primarily draws congregants from Fairfield, Easton, and Trumbull, but also towns like Weston, Milford, Stratford, and Monroe, as well as the City of Bridgeport.

“We’re mindful of the community in which we live,” Rabbi Schultz says, noting monthly Mitzvah Mornings, such as “working in Bridgeport community gardens, serving brunch at a veterans’ residence, and donating Thanksgiving food packages to a local community center.”

Community is the crux of B’nai Israel’s identity. There’s even an annual One Temple/One Book initiative (this year’s focuses on the 50th anniversary of the Six-Day War).


Or maybe it just comes down to one word: Welcome.

Tichon students engage in a variety of activities:
- the opportunity to work as teachers’ assistants
- a class with Rabbi Colin
- “The World’s Faiths” seminar
- the opportunity to fulfill the community-service hours required for high-school graduation

Students work as tutors, assistant teachers, and/or office assistants. Assignments are based upon students’ requests and skills, and the needs of our Talmud Torah.

In the comfort of the rabbi’s office, students participate in significant discussions and discover what Judaism contributes to the issues facing all of us.

Through site visits and guest speakers, students engage with other faiths and their leaders, and learn about religious practices throughout the world.

Giving back is a major theme of our Talmud Torah, and we will be participating in the synagogue campaign, “BT Cares,” as we interact with our local community and promote Israeli tzedakah projects. We will show how we can make a difference.

Tichon also includes field trips, guest speakers, and exciting annual trips to major East Coast cities, exploring Jewish resources and providing quality time with good friends.
The Congregation for Humanistic Judaism (CHJ) is a cooperative of individuals who embrace a human-centered philosophy that combines rational thinking with a celebration of Jewish culture and identity.

We value our Jewish identity and the aspects of Jewish culture that offer a genuine expression of our contemporary way of life. Our congregation membership reflects a wide diversity of backgrounds and thoughts brought together by the common bond of Jewish identity.

We are affiliated with the Society for Humanistic Judaism, the central body for the Humanistic Jewish Movement in North America. In 2017 we are proudly celebrating our 50th anniversary and are equally proud of our vibrant and extensive array of programs including High Holiday services, a Sunday School program, Passover and Tu B’Shvat seders, meaningful lifecycle events including baby-namings and bar- and bat-mitzvahs, teen events, social-action programs, adult education, an annual retreat, a men’s rap group, a women’s book group, and much more.

CHJ does not own buildings or maintain a salaried rabbi or cantor, relying instead on volunteerism, which offers an enhanced sense of ownership and community among members of the congregation. CHJ’s structure makes it a very affordable means to belong to an organized Jewish community. We welcome any person who declares himself or herself to be a Jew and who identifies with the history, ethical values, culture, civilization, community, and experiences of the Jewish people.

Congregation Rodeph Sholom is a community of diverse Jews who adhere to the principles of the Conservative Movement while seeking ways to make Judaism more relevant in our everyday lives. Our community draws members from many towns throughout upper Fairfield County. We have an energetic membership; an engaging Hazzan, Niema Hirsch; and are completing our search for a rabbi who will help bring a new dynamic to a historic synagogue. Our clergy, staff, and volunteers create a warm atmosphere for spiritual nurturing and connection.

At Congregation Rodeph Sholom, we work hard to balance tradition and practice in the context of our modern world. Our members are at the core of our synagogue. Some have had an affiliation for several generations. Others are first-generation congregants. Rodeph Sholom is a community of people with the desire to enhance Jewish knowledge, spirit, and culture for ourselves and for the generations to come.

We invite you to get to know us better, and look forward to welcoming you to our community. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our executive director, Mark Block: mblock@rodephsholom.com.
TEMPLE SHALOM
259 Richards Ave., Norwalk
templeshalomweb.org
(203) 866-0148

Temple Shalom is a warm and welcoming Reform congregation serving 10 communities across southern Fairfield County, dedicated to embracing Jewish life through celebration, music, learning, and community outreach. We are an open and interfaith family-friendly congregation.

Providing Jewish educational and cultural opportunities from pre-school through adulthood, meaningful community-building and social-action programs, beautiful music, and spiritually uplifting services, we offer a unique synagogue experience!

We invite you to join us, enrich your Jewish life and strengthen our community. Make Temple Shalom your Jewish home!

THE CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE
30 Hillspoint Road, Westport
tcs-westport.org
(203) 454-4673

A dynamic Jewish community whose members’ lives reflect a sense of belonging and commitment to one another, our local communities, and the larger Jewish world. Join us for inspiring services:

- Friday nights at 6:15
- Saturday mornings at 9:30
- Sunday-morning minyan at 8:45

Our Adult Education programming offers a wide variety of opportunities including Scholars in Residence, mini-courses, and ongoing classes.

Visit our NAEYC-accredited Preschool!
To learn more about our state-of-the-art curriculum and meet our talented staff, please contact Jamie Klein-Zoref: jamiek@tcs-westport.org.

In Kehillah (Religious School), our youth and teens connect to Jewish history and culture, Israel, holidays, and prayer through rich experiential learning including small, leveled Hebrew groups. Please contact Danny Kochavi: dkochavi@tcs-westport.org.

Rabbi Jeremy Wiederhorn and Cantor Luis Cattan
UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Monday, April 24, 7 PM
Sacred Heart University Commons
5151 Park Ave., Fairfield
“Shoah through Muslim Eyes” lecture in commemoration of
Yom HaShoah Holocaust Remembrance Day
featuring Dr. Mehnaz Afridi, Director of the Holocaust,
Genocide & Interfaith Education Center at Manhattan College

Sunday, April 30
Sports Center of Connecticut
784 River Road, Shelton
FJP Yom HaAtzma’ut Community-Wide Religious School Celebration

Thursday, May 18, 7 PM
Location TBA
Cocktails for a Cause
featuring Jane Weitzman

Sunday, June 11, 11 AM – 4 PM
Temple Israel, 14 Coleytown Road, Westport
Southern Connecticut Jewish Food Festival

Sunday, October 1, 4 PM
East Jerusalem/West Jerusalem
Film screening, talkback, and performance
with iconic Israeli musician and activist David Broza

Thursday, November 2, 7 PM
Lion of Judah-Pomegranate Women’s Event
featuring Barbara Ribakove Gordon, Founder
North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry

There’s so much more on the FJP Community Calendar! jewishphilanthropyct.org/calendar

SAVE THE DATE!

MERKAZ HONORS ONE OF ITS OWN

JONATHAN GREENBLATT
CEO and National Director, ADL
Merkaz, 1988

Monday, May 22, 2017
7:30 P.M.

Jewish Senior Services
4200 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT

For Additional Information Contact Merkaz (203) 450-5303

PRESENT

“Shoah through Muslim Eyes”
A lecture in commemoration of
Yom HaShoah Holocaust Remembrance Day
Featuring
Dr. Mehnaz Afridi, Director
Holocaust, Genocide & Interfaith Education Center
Manhattan College

MONDAY, APRIL 24, 7 PM
Sacred Heart University Commons
5151 Park Avenue, Fairfield
Free and open to the community