



# KALEIDOSCOPE

Jewish Life in Upper Fairfield County

FALL / WINTER 2017



## ISRAELI MUSIC LEGEND **DAVID BROZA**

**BRINGS PASSION AND A MESSAGE OF PEACE**

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

The KALEIDOSCOPE Interview with Screenwriter Michael Koskoff  
Memories from the inaugural Southern CT Jewish Food Festival  
Meet our new Israeli Young Emissaries  
Upcoming community events and much more!

A publication of the Federation for Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield County



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## COMEDY SERIES

### OCTOBER

6 Steven Wright

13 Tracy Morgan

16 Tape Face



### NOVEMBER

3 Capitol Steps

10 Vic Dibitetto  
Special Guest  
Joseph Anthony



17 Jim Breuer  
STAND-UP  
COMEDY SHOW



### JANUARY

27 Bruce Vilanch  
and Judy Gold

### FEBRUARY

9 Rich Vos



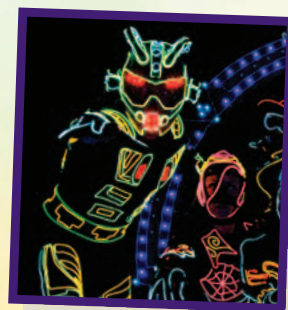
# Don't Miss These Sizzlin' Shows!

Ridgefield  
MAGAZINE

## BROADWAY & CABARET SERIES

### SEPTEMBER

17 iLuminate



### OCTOBER

22 American Dance  
Spectacular

### NOVEMBER

5 Tuesdays with Morrie –  
The Play



18 A Darlene Love Christmas:  
Love For The Holidays

### DECEMBER

2 Jane Lynch: A Swingin'  
Little Christmas



8 Linda Eder

### FEBRUARY

24/25 Joseph and the  
Amazing Technicolor  
Dreamcoat



### APRIL

14 Bebe Neuwirth



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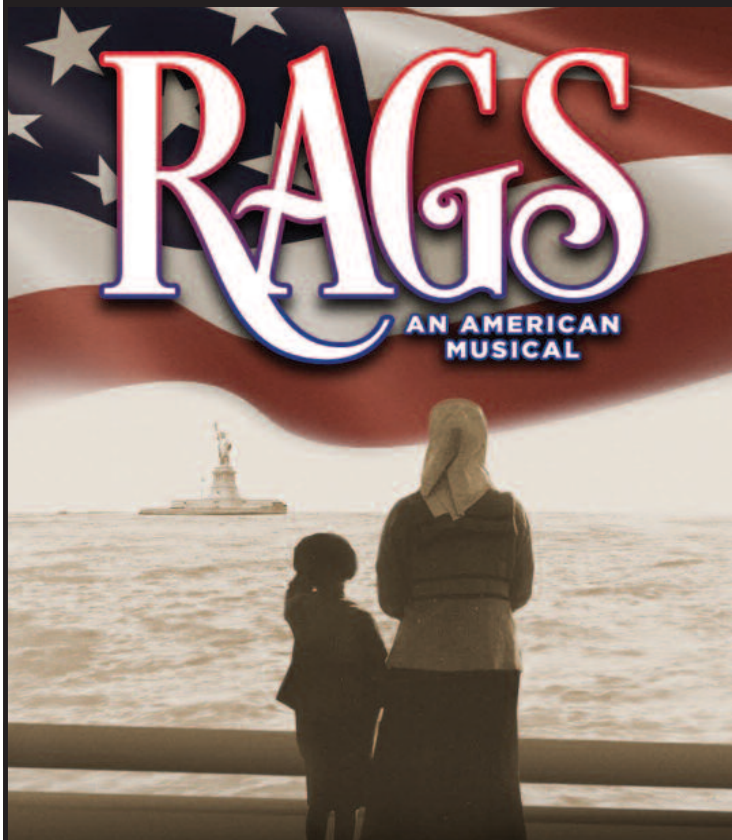
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# From the Lens of David Weisberg

I often describe myself as being on a serpentine Jewish journey.

While I was raised in what I would call a "conservadox" congregation in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, my own personal path has wandered in and out of various traditional practices. Over nearly five decades, I have at various times had a strictly kosher



home, played guitar at Shabbat services, and prayed at services with spiritual leadership ranging from an Ethiopian qes to the founder of the Jewish Renewal movement to a

rabbi using Hindu Kirtan chanting as a modality for Jewish prayer to kohanot, Hebrew priestesses.

The consistent theme for me has always been a search for meaning, an understanding of how my Jewish practices could reinforce my Jewish values, my identity, my culture, and my connection to the Jewish people, both past and present.

Having spent a year now in the Upper Fairfield County Jewish community, one of the things that I have found most welcoming is to be part of a community that truly encourages Jewish journeys.

In my 12 months here, I have seen powerful collaborations between Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, and Chabad congregations. I have personally chanted haftarah in a half-dozen different synagogues. I have attended events and programs where rabbis and cantors of varying

traditions, ages, and genders all shared the same stage, speaking or singing in full harmony. I have listened to a Reform rabbi deliver a powerful sermon, in part, on the importance of respecting and honoring Orthodox practice. I have been impressed by a community high school for Judaic studies with a faculty that represents the diversity of our community's spiritual leadership. And I have been moved by the presence of daily minyanim that not only exist to serve the entire community but thrive because of diverse community participation.

As my Jewish journey has taken me through many communities throughout the country, I can testify that the open doors for Jewish exploration and integration, the kaleidoscope of Jewish life, *per se*, that exists in our Upper Fairfield County Jewish community, are not something that should be taken for granted. They are, indeed, a blessing.

In this issue of *KALEIDOSCOPE*, you will find listings from Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, Chabad, and Humanistic congregations, and that is only possible because we live in an amazing place where opening doors to Jewish journeys and where standing together as a community are valued as greatly as celebrating and honoring our diversity.

Enjoy reading.



David I. Weisberg  
Executive Director

**KALEIDOSCOPE: Jewish Life in Upper Fairfield County** is published semi-annually by the Federation for Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield County (FJP), in collaboration with JHL Ledger, LLC.

**FJP Board Chair: Bonnie Slyn**  
**Executive Editor: David I. Weisberg**  
**Editor: Cynthia Mindell**

FJP encompasses the communities of Bridgeport, Easton, Fairfield, Georgetown, Monroe, Norwalk, Redding, Ridgefield, Rowayton, Southport, Stratford, Trumbull, Weston, Westport, and Wilton.

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's annual campaign supports our extended Jewish family here at home and around the world through partners including:

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To support the annual campaign, visit [shalomct.org](http://shalomct.org).

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Bridgeport, CT 06604  
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# David Broza brings passion and a message of peace to Fairfield County

*If there's a human race here in the future, it will be because we find ways to communicate, whether through music or sports or food, but we find some ways to have dialogue with people that normally we've not wanted to talk to.*

– Pete Seeger

For Israeli music legend and activist David Broza, envisioning music as a bridge to create a common language between Israelis and Palestinians was at the heart of his *East Jerusalem West Jerusalem* project.

Often referred to as the “Bruce Springsteen of Israel,” David Broza has had a long and storied career. From his whirlwind finger-picking to Flamenco percussion and rhythms, to a signature rock-and-roll sound, Broza’s charismatic and energetic performances have delighted audiences throughout the world. His music reflects a fusion of the three countries where he grew up: Israel, Spain, and England.

More than singer-song-writer, Broza is also known for his dedication to several humanitarian projects – predominantly, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Since 1977, with the debut of his hit song, “Yihye Tov,” Broza has worked to promote a message of peace. The song’s title, roughly translated as “It Will Be Better,” struck at the heart of the issue – that people all over the world want peace. Now with a string of multi-platinum albums behind him, Broza still strives to hone this message.

In 2013, he began work on an unprecedented project –

bringing together Israeli and Palestinian musicians for eight days and nights to work side-by-side in the East Jerusalem recording studio of the legendary Palestinian band, Sabreen. The thrilling result is the new documentary film and companion album,

County has a rare opportunity to meet and hear from the man himself. On Sunday afternoon, Oct. 1, David Broza comes to the Quick Center at Fairfield University for what promises to be an enlightening, provocative, and entertaining film-screening,

the event is part of the Bennett Center’s Daniel Pearl World Music Days series.

David Weisberg, the Federation’s executive director and a personal friend of David Broza, will moderate the program’s talkback session. “I am excited that Federation is presenting this program to the community,” Weisberg says. “Not only is David an incredibly dynamic performer, but he also has a powerful and deeply committed voice when it comes to building bridges within and beyond Israel. It promises to be a tremendously interesting afternoon.”

During the recording sessions, the musicians also enjoy communal dinners, where they share their life stories and learn surprising truths about one another. While the harmony in the studio is reflected in the recordings of cover songs and original material, the situation in East Jerusalem is far from peaceful. The commitment of Broza and his fellow musicians to establish dialogue, however, is never doubted. The experience they share together offers an alternative story, one that seeks bridge-building and discovers common ground.



*East Jerusalem West Jerusalem*, a 13-song collection that blends cultures, languages, and styles into a powerful statement about collaboration and coexistence. Produced by Steve Earle, the album features a stirring duet with Wyclef Jean.

Now Upper Fairfield

talkback, and performance. Presented by the Federation for Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield County in partnership with the Carl and Dorothy Bennett Center for Judaic Studies at Fairfield University and in cooperation with the Jewish Arts & Film Festival of Fairfield County,

**David Broza’s *East Jerusalem West Jerusalem***

**film-screening, talkback, and performance:**

**Sunday, Oct. 1, 4 PM,  
Fairfield University Quick Center for the Arts,  
1073 North Benson Road,  
Fairfield | Tickets: \$10/person**

**| Info & tickets:  
[shalomct.org/david-broza/](http://shalomct.org/david-broza/)  
(203) 226-8197**

# Don't miss our exciting Fall event line-up!

## East Jerusalem West Jerusalem

Sunday, Oct. 1, 4 PM | Fairfield University, Quick Center for the Arts, 1073 North Benson Road, Fairfield  
Israeli musical superstar David Broza presents a special screening of his documentary film, including a talkback and live musical performance.

**Info/tickets:** [shalomct.org/david-broza](http://shalomct.org/david-broza)

In partnership with the Bennett Center for Judaic Studies, Fairfield University; and the Jewish Arts & Film Festival of Fairfield County

## PJ Library Sukkot Storytime & Craft in the Sukkah!

Monday, Oct. 9, 10:30 AM | 4200 Park Ave., Bridgeport  
Info: [skamisar@jewishphilanthropyct.org](mailto:skamisar@jewishphilanthropyct.org) / (203) 659-3602

## Community Sukkot Gathering & Israeli Young Emissary Welcome

Tuesday, Oct. 10, 6:30 PM | 4200 Park Ave., Bridgeport

Join us for a dessert reception in the community sukkah as we welcome our new Israeli Young Emissaries, Itamar, Bar, Ofek, and Yuval.



**Israeli Young Emissaries:**  
Yuval Hazan, Itamar Erez,  
Bar Degani, and  
Ofek Moscovich

## Major Donor Brunch

Sunday, Nov. 5, 11 AM | Private home  
Featuring Barbara Ribakove Gordon, Director, North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry

## Something Beautiful Happened

Monday, Nov. 6, 7:30 PM | Congregation Beth El-Norwalk, 109 East Ave., Norwalk  
Seventy years after her grandmother helped hide a Jewish family on a Greek island during World War II, author Yvette

Manassis Corporon sets out to find their descendants – and discovers a new way to understand tragedy, forgiveness, and the power of kindness.

*This event will feature a display of personal histories of our community's Holocaust survivors, created in commemoration of Kristallnacht by students of Merkaz Community High School for Judaic Studies.*

## ALL-STAR COMMUNITY STAGED READING OF Fiddler on the Roof

Sunday, Dec. 3, 4 PM |

Congregation Rodeph Sholom, 2385 Park Ave., Bridgeport

**Tickets:** [shalomct.org](http://shalomct.org)

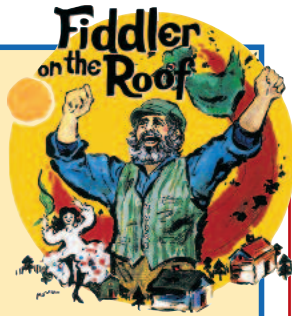
Rabbis, cantors, agency leaders, and other community all-stars present a staged reading (and singing!) of the classic musical, with all proceeds benefiting the Federation's work in the former Soviet Union.

*Cast (subject to change) includes: David Weisberg (FJP) as Tevye, Cantor Debbie Katchko-Gray (Congregation Shir Shalom) as Golde, Rabbi Ita Paskind (Congregation Beth El-Norwalk) as Tzeitel, Cantor Shirah Sklar (Temple Shalom) as Hodel, Rabbi Colin Brodie (Congregation B'nai Torah) as Lazar Wolf, Rabbi Evan Schultz (Congregation B'nai Israel) as Motel, Cantor Dan Sklar (Temple Israel) as Perchik, Justin Beck (Congregation Beth El Fairfield) as Fyedka, Andrew Banoff (Jewish Senior Services) as the Constable, Rabbi Rachel Bearman (Temple B'nai Chaim) as the Rabbi, Niema Hirsch (Congregation Rodeph Sholom) as Grandma Tzeitel, Julia Brennan (The Conservative Synagogue) as Fruma-Sarah, and Rabbi Greg Wall (Beit Chaverim Synagogue) as Mordcha. Community-members are invited to participate in the ensemble.*

**For details:**

**(203) 226-8197**

[jwainright@jewishphilanthropyct.org](mailto:jwainright@jewishphilanthropyct.org) /



## Jewish Justices of the Supreme Court

Tuesday, Dec. 5, 7:30 PM Temple Israel, 14 Coleytown Road, Westport

Author David Dalin delves into the history of the eight Jewish Supreme Court Justices – their lives, their legacies, and the role their Judaism played in their tenure.

## Jewish Arts & Film Festival of Fairfield County

Saturday, Oct. 28 – Sunday, Nov. 5  
**FULL SCHEDULE & TICKETS**

[jewishartsandfilm.org](http://jewishartsandfilm.org)

## SPECIAL UPPER FAIRFIELD COUNTY SCREENINGS: On the Map

Tuesday, Oct. 31, 7 PM | 4200 Park Ave., Bridgeport

The against-all-odds story of Maccabi Tel Aviv's 1977 European Basketball Championship win came at a time when Israel was still reeling from the 1973 Yom Kippur War and the massacre at the 1972 Munich Olympics.

*Made possible by a donation in memory of Dr. Abraham Berman from Dr. Lew Berman & Dr. Nancy Rennert and Family*

**Merkez Community High School for Judaic Studies invites all teens to attend free of charge.**

## Fanny's Journey

Sunday, Nov. 5, 7 PM | Garden Cinema, 26 Isaacs St., Norwalk

An incredible tale of bravery, strength, and survival, based on the true story of a daring young girl who leads a band of orphans through Nazi-occupied France.

For more information on these and many other events, visit [shalomct.org/calendar](http://shalomct.org/calendar) or call (203) 226-8197.

# What a nourishing day!

Modern values met traditional flavors in June, when more than 500 community-members gathered at Federation's inaugural **Southern Connecticut Jewish Food Festival**, focusing on the intersection of sustainability and Jewish cuisine. The day-long event attracted all ages, and featured a keynote address by renowned Gefilteria co-founder Jeffrey Yoskowitz, chef

demos and breakout sessions, environmental activities, a vendor hall and, of course, a range of Jewish delicacies. In keeping with Jewish values, Federation committed to creating a zero-waste event by setting up composting and recycling stations, resulting in just a half-bag of garbage from the entire day! **Special thanks** to event chair Elise Meyer, and

committee-members Liz Rueven, Carol Boas, Lisa Friedland, Linda Russ, Naomi Berman, Bryan Bierman, Ronnie Fein, Chef Leticia Moreinos Schwartz, Chef Tami Weiser, Michelle Fanwick, Joan Kalmans, Amy Moorin, Penney Parkes, and Orna Stern. A shout-out to our zero-waste mentors, Tami Robinson, Ron Schulhof, and Michelle Sterling.





## 2017-18 SEASON

### A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE  
DIRECTED BY DARKO TRESNJAK

**SEPTEMBER 7 - OCTOBER 8, 2017**

### SEDER

*WORLD PREMIERE*

BY SARAH GANCHER  
DIRECTED BY  
ELIZABETH WILLIAMSON

**OCTOBER 19 - NOVEMBER 12, 2017**

### FEEDING THE DRAGON

WRITTEN AND PERFORMED  
BY SHARON WASHINGTON  
DIRECTED BY MARIA MILEAF

**JANUARY 11 - FEBRUARY 4, 2018**

### THE McCARTER THEATRE PRODUCTION OF AGATHA CHRISTIE'S MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS

ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE  
BY KEN LUDWIG  
DIRECTED BY EMILY MANN

**FEBRUARY 15 - MARCH 18, 2018**

### THE AGE OF INNOCENCE

*WORLD PREMIERE*

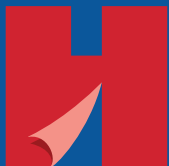
BY EDITH WHARTON  
ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE  
BY DOUGLAS McGRATH  
DIRECTED BY DOUG HUGHES

**APRIL 5 - MAY 6, 2018**

### STATEMENTS AFTER AN ARREST UNDER THE IMMORALITY ACT

BY ATHOL FUGARD  
DIRECTED BY DARKO TRESNJAK

**MAY 17 - JUNE 10, 2018**

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**HARTFORDSTAGE.ORG**

# THE SHEER DETERMINATION OF RACHAMIM: THE ETHIOPIAN NATIONAL PROJECT'S "SPACE" PROGRAM IN AFULA

Rachamim Melaku, Ethiopian National Project's Regional Supervisor responsible for six northern cities, considers the 191 children from Afula in the ENP SPACE

Rachamim explains the need: "Many of these children's parents came from Ethiopia, where they were farmers and shepherds, and it is hard to translate those

ENP SPACE is funded by Jewish Federations, including this year a grant from the Federation for Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield County. ENP SPACE provides holistic after-school scholastic, social, emotional, and nutritional support to 7<sup>th</sup>- through 12<sup>th</sup>-graders in small groups of no more than nine children. Certified teachers provide instruction in math, English, Hebrew, and other subjects as needed by the high-schoolers. The program helps the participants pass their *Bagrut* – the Israeli high-school completion exams – so that they can reach elite university programs. ENP SPACE also provides exceptional staff who serve as mentors to the children and encourage them to develop high aspirations, along with field trips and inspirational activities.

Many of ENP's staff are Ethiopian-Israelis who have committed their professional careers to support children of the community. Like Rachamim, most of them came to Israel during Operation Moses, a secret operation in which some 12,000 Ethiopian Jews left their villages under the cover of darkness, risking their lives to reach Jerusalem via Sudan.

Rachamim's older brothers and sisters had already set off on the journey before him. "I was nine years old, and worked up my courage to tell my mother that it was my turn" he recalls. "She looked at me with pride, and responded matter-of-factly, 'Of course you must go!'" Rachamim's parents remained behind to care for his great-grandmother, but joined Rachamim and his other siblings in Israel nine years later. Today, he lives in the northern city of Haifa with his six children.

Rachamim knows ENP SPACE participants can succeed if determined. "And ENP SPACE gives them that extra push."



Federation Executive Director David Weisberg meets staff of the ENP SPACE Program in Afula.

(School Performance and Community Empowerment Program) like his own family. "I feel responsible for them, I want the best for them, and I know if they work hard, with SPACE, they will succeed," he says. "They know it, too."

skills to this fast-paced modern society," he says. "The burden on the parents affects the children, they fall behind, and it's difficult to eliminate those gaps. That's where SPACE comes in."

Elayne and James Schoke Jewish Family Service invites you to attend the 6th Annual Saul Cohen—Schoke JFS Lecture

## The Family Today: Secrets to Stronger Relationships and Greater Happiness at Any Age

Featuring Bruce Feiler, author of six consecutive New York Times bestsellers, including *The Secrets of Happy Families* and his newest book, *The First Love Story: Adam, Eve and Us*.

Thursday, November 9th, 2017 at 7:30 PM  
Ferguson Library, Stamford



This lecture is free and open to the public.  
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Visit [www.ctjfs.org](http://www.ctjfs.org) for details.

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The ENP SPACE Program is a Federation for Jewish Philanthropy beneficiary organization.

# Change a life: read with a child

There's a new opportunity to become a change agent in a child's life, with the launch of Book Buddies, a program that pairs volunteer readers with students at Blackham Elementary School in Bridgeport.

Book Buddies recruits and trains volunteers to strengthen the reading skills and self-confidence of elementary-school students. Under the guidance of the school staff, volunteers provide individual attention to students, share their love of reading, and engage children in meaningful conversations about books.

"Our goal is to encourage young children to value reading and become confident and competent readers," says Book Buddies Co-Chair Anita Chargar, who recently retired as a Literary Instructional Leader in the New Canaan Public Schools. "Learning to read is the foundation for all learning and for future academic success. Developing solid literacy skills at an early age gives children access to opportunities and choices and enables them to become active members of their learning community. We hope this program will encourage these young students to become life-long readers and thinkers."

Volunteers commit to read once a week at Blackham Elementary School with two 2nd-grade students, for a half-hour with each student, creating a positive and enjoyable experience around books.

Blackham teachers select students who are "on the cusp" in their grade-level reading ability and who would benefit from individual reading attention, exposure to good books, and great role models who will help them develop the motivation to learn to read. Training and support are provided before and throughout the school year, under the auspices of

the Federation for Jewish Philanthropy, which oversees the program. Volunteers receive a written handbook outlining volunteer responsibilities, safety policies, and useful ideas for making the most of each reading session. Reading volunteers work in a common space and are supported by a coordinator who provides oversight and assistance.

"Book Buddies combines my twin

**"Learning to read is the foundation for all learning and for future academic success."**

passions of reading and working with children," says Book Buddies Co-Chair Lauren Zirn. "I enjoyed the pleasure of reading with my children when they were young – from picture books to the classics – and I saw the impact that literature has had on their development and subsequent successes. Many of Bridgeport's children come from challenging backgrounds and

haven't had the benefit of early exposure to books. Our hope is that, through Book Buddies, we can form a group of motivated volunteers who will help children develop a love of reading, improved literacy, and enhanced self-confidence. We hope many people will join us and help a child; the rewards will go both ways."

Book Buddies is part of the Federation's Books2Connect program, which collects and donates gently-used and new books to beneficiary organizations in Connecticut that serve children in need. Books2Connect works to encourage children to build their own home libraries, which will not only improve their literacy skills, but also open up windows to new worlds. Since its inception in 2010, Books2Connect has donated more than 8,000 books to organizations including city schools, after-school programs, community health centers, food pantries, and shelters.

To volunteer to be a Book Buddy, contact Anita or Lauren at [bookbuddies@jewishphilanthropyct.org](mailto:bookbuddies@jewishphilanthropyct.org), call the Federation office at (203) 226-8197, or go to [books2connect.com](http://books2connect.com) and click on the Book Buddies link.





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# What a difference a year makes!

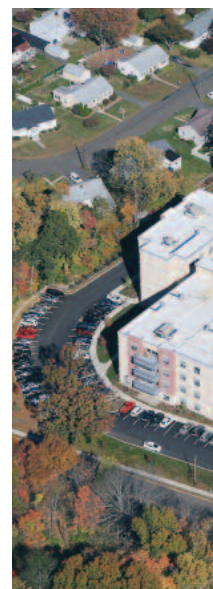
**J**ewish Senior Services (JSS) recently celebrated its first anniversary in the Jerusalem stone-clad Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Campus at 4200 Park Ave. in Bridgeport.

After building the first-ever household-model nursing home and assisted-living community in Connecticut, JSS has spent the last year bringing this community to life – on- and off-campus. Over 330 seniors now live at the Park Avenue location, and thousands of others visit, volunteer and receive services from the wide array of JSS community programs.

The transition to the household model – which incorporates private bedroom-bathroom suites with a shared kitchen, dining room, living room, den, and balcony – has transformed forever the way we view nursing homes.

The quality-of-life and quality-of-care measures have all increased, and the feedback from family-members and visitors to the 377,000-square-foot campus is almost all positive. Many residents liken the building to a five-star hotel and have come to expect even better service from the organization that has served Fairfield County for 44 years.

JSS serves seniors outside the Weinberg campus as well. Friedman Home Care makes it possible to receive quality care without leaving home. Every day,



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**JULY 1, 2017**



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*The firm offers mediation services and engages in litigation in all courts throughout Connecticut.*

**55 Greens Farms Road, Westport, CT 06880 | 115 East Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830  
(203) 222-4949 | [www.broderorland.com](http://www.broderorland.com)**

more than 200 seniors are visited by JSS staff, who provide a range of services from Certified Home Care, Hospice, non-medical live-in care, or part-time support care.

A leader in the senior-living industry, JSS established the now-10-year-old Center for Elder Abuse Prevention, the nation's second-ever shelter for victims of elder abuse. JSS also offers an array of geriatric services through its Institute on Aging, including geriatric assessment services. Through its new, on-site Child Development Program, JSS offers children through pre-school age enriching programming in an intergenerational environment.

Finally, the new J Fitness Center offers members the opportunity to work out in a beautiful space with 60-plus weekly classes, a 25-yard pool, personal training, massage therapy, and so much more.

All of this is made possible by the over 900 dedicated individuals who are employed by Jewish Senior Services. Visitors are welcome! To learn more about JSS's many programs and services, visit [jse-niors.org](http://jse-niors.org) and [thejfitness.com](http://thejfitness.com).



**Georgann Hoffman**  
Agent

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# Shalom to our new 2017-18 Israeli Young Emissaries!

Welcome to Yuval Hazan, Bar Degani, Itamar Erez, and Ofek Moscovich, who have joined our community as part of the Israeli Young Emissary Program, sponsored by the Federation for Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield County. Now in its 19th year, the program's goal is to build a living bridge between Israel and our community. Ofek, Yuval, Bar, and Itamar are recent high-school graduates who have chosen to postpone their military service to spend a gap year in Upper Fairfield County, sharing their love of Israel with our preschools and religious schools, adult-education programs, local high schools and day schools, and Jewish Senior Services. While all four will work together on community events, each will have primary responsibilities at individual area synagogues.

This is a wonderful opportunity to add some cross-cultural enrichment to your family life. Please reach out to these special young "ambassadors." Invite them to your home for a Shabbat dinner or to go apple-picking or to the Big Apple with your family. Show them a bit about life in the U.S. and listen as they share their thoughts on life in Israel. The emissaries are not only here for the young people in our community! Invite them to your adult dinner party and let them share their observations about politics, culture, and societal issues in Israel. This wonderful opportunity to build bridges is made possible through our Federation's relationship with the Jewish Agency For Israel.

If you would like to invite any or all of the Young Emissaries to a meal with your family or if you would like to explore the possibility of becoming a host family for three months, please contact Stacy Kamisar at [skamisar@jewishphilanthropy.org](mailto:skamisar@jewishphilanthropy.org)

thropyct.org or Judy Blumenthal at [ctblumers@optonline.net](mailto:ctblumers@optonline.net).

## OFEK MOSCOVICH



I'm 18 and I live in Modi'in, a city between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

I chose to do the Israeli Young Emissary program because I think it's very important to connect the Jews

around the world. I want to bring my point of view about Israel and share it with the community in Connecticut. I want to learn about your community, the U.S., and each one of you.

## BAR DEGANI

I live in Netanya, a beautiful city with stunning beaches.

I chose to do a year of service as an emissary because I believe in the connection between the Jewish communities in the world and Israel. My goal is to build bridges between your community and Israel by strong personal connections and to leave my mark by creating traditions and bringing new spirit.



## ITAMAR EREZ

I'm from Caesarea, a small and quiet beach town between Haifa and Tel Aviv.

I chose to do a year of service because I believe that every person should give as much as they can to the world and to society in general. I wanted to become an

emissary in particular because I recognize how important Israel's connection is to Jewish communities abroad, how meaningful it is for all Jews of the world to be connected through traditions and values of Judaism, and how imperative it is to maintain and strengthen these unique relationships. My brother, grandfather, great-grandfather, and two cousins were also emissaries for the Jewish Agency For Israel, so you could say it runs in the family!



## YUVAL HAZAN

I live in Migdal Ha'emek, a small town in the north of Israel next to Afula. I graduated from an ORT Rogozin high school in my town. My majors were biology and psychology.

I chose to do a year of service because I believe in these connections and I think they are so important for Jewish life everywhere. I wanted to be an emissary ever since I was 12 and heard of the program for the first time after going to a Jewish summer camp in Michigan.



Learn a lot more about our 2017-18 Israeli Young Emissaries at [shalomct.org/young-emissaries](http://shalomct.org/young-emissaries).

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Congregation B'nai Israel  
2710 Park Ave.  
cbibpt.org  
(203) 336-1858  
Reform

Congregation Rodeph Shalom  
2385 Park Ave.  
rodephshalom.com  
(203) 334-0159  
Conservative

Jewish Senior Services  
Pastoral Services  
4200 Park Ave.  
jseniors.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.  
templeshalomweb.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  
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ourshirshalom.org  
(203) 438-6589  
Reform

### Trumbull

Chabad Lubavitch Foundation  
of Southern Connecticut  
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(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  
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tiwestport.org  
(203) 227-1293  
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## COMMUNITY AGENCIES & ORGANIZATIONS

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

Federation for Jewish Philanthropy  
of Upper Fairfield County  
jewishphilanthropyct.org  
(203) 226-8197

Jewish Family Service of  
Connecticut, Fairfield  
jfsct.org | (203) 366-5438

Jewish Federation Association  
of Connecticut (JFACT)  
jfact.org | (860) 727-5701

Holocaust Child Survivors of  
Connecticut, Inc.  
hcs-ct.org | (203) 226-3092

LifeBridge Community Services,  
Bridgeport  
lifebridgect.org | (203) 368-4291

Schoke Jewish Family Service,  
Bridgeport Office  
ctjfs.org | (203) 454-4992

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

## LIFECYCLE

### Mohel

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### Mikvah

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## End of Life

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Jewish Cemetery Association  
of Fairfield County | (203) 452-1221

Loyalty Cemetery Association,  
Fairfield | (203) 452-1221

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Aleph Bet Early Childhood and  
Daycare 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  
cbibpt.org | (203) 335-5058

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

Gal Yeladim Preschool  
Temple Shalom, Norwalk  
templeshalomweb.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

Bi-Cultural Day School  
2186 High Ridge Road, Stamford  
bcds.org | (203) 329-2186

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

Ezra Academy  
75 Rimmon Road, Woodbridge  
ezraacademyct.org | (203) 389-5500

Jewish High School of Connecticut  
1937 West Main St., Stamford  
jhsct.org | (203) 357-0850

Southern Connecticut Hebrew  
Academy  
261 Derby Ave., Orange  
schacademy.org | (203) 795-5261

## Hebrew

Alef-Tav Hebrew for Children  
and Ulpan HaBait  
An Israeli program for learning Hebrew  
israelisinct@hotmail.com  
(203) 434-7705 / (203) 391-4411

## 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  
cbibpt.org/keshet.html#keshet  
(203) 336-1858

Merkaz Community High School  
for Judaic Studies  
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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. 2066

Keshet Project for Developmentally  
Challenged Adults  
Congregation B'nai Israel, Bridgeport  
cbibpt.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  
ctjfs.org | (203) 921-4161

Young Jewish Professionals, CT  
yjpc.org | (203) 354-3090

## WOMEN

Hadassah, The Women's Zionist  
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Connecticut Region  
hadassah.org/regions/connecticut  
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## SENIORS

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# The KALEIDOSCOPE Interview: Hollywood Screenwriter Michael Koskoff, Esq.

Long before he sat on the U.S. Supreme Court, Thurgood Marshall was a young rabble-rousing attorney for the NAACP. The new feature film, *Marshall*, is the true story of his greatest challenge in those early days – a fight he waged alongside Sam Friedman, a young Jewish lawyer from Bridgeport with no experience in criminal law: the case of black chauffeur, Joseph Spell, accused of sexual assault and attempted murder by his white employer, Greenwich socialite Eleanor Strubing.



Father-son team  
Michael & Jacob Koskoff

Set largely in Bridgeport (and filmed in Buffalo), the film stars Chadwick Boseman and Kate Hudson and will open nationally on Oct. 13. The screenplay was co-written by Bridgeport native Michael Koskoff and his son, Westport native and Hollywood screenwriter Jacob Koskoff.

Michael is a partner in Koskoff, Koskoff & Bieder, PC. A renowned litigator, he earned a reputation early in his career as a civil-rights advocate and has received several awards for his work. The newly-minted Hollywood screenwriter gives KALEIDOSCOPE the story behind the story.

## How did you learn about the Joseph Spell trial?

The story came from a friend of mine, Jack Zeldes, an outstanding lawyer and something of a legal historian, who founded the law firm of Zeldes, Needle & Cooper in Bridgeport and who passed away in 2015. I brought the story to my daughter, Sarah, and my son, Jacob – both screenwriters – and they each had other projects and didn't feel that they had the background for it. So I said, "I'll try it myself."

## What attracted you to the story?

My own experience: the first 10 or 15 years of my practice, I concentrated a lot on criminal defense. I was involved in civil-rights litigation and in a number of very significant, high-profile political trials involving race. So I had a sense of the dynamics that take place in a political trial.

This is what hooked me on the story: A Greenwich woman was found wandering near a reservoir late at night and told a lurid story about having been raped by her chauffeur. The newspapers went wild with it; one called it "the sex trial of the century." This media frenzy caused African-American workers – particularly, domestic workers – to be fired all over the country, and the NAACP decided they needed someone to defend Joseph Spell. They went to Bridgeport, to the prominent criminal-defense attorneys of the day, and no one would go near it. They got to Sam Friedman because the head of the NAACP had gone

to high school with him, and essentially begged Sam to take the case.

The larger focus of the movie is on Thurgood Marshall, and the story of his friendship with Sam is illustrative both of the kind of person Marshall was and the kind of heroism that Jewish people have, over the years, experienced and demonstrated in helping the cause of racial equality.

## How did the screenplay go from concept to production?

So much serendipity occurred in order to make this screenplay come to life. Alan Neigher – a friend of mine and an entertainment lawyer in Bridgeport – read the screenplay and loved it, and he knows the Friedman family. He asked if he could show it to Lauren Friedman, Sam's daughter. Lauren loved it; she has a background in theater and asked if she could show it to Paul Wagner, a friend and producer in Hollywood. Paul said to me, "I love this story and I think you've done an incredible job with the courtroom scenes, but in order to make a movie, the characters have to be fuller and there has to be more backstory." That was beyond my capabilities. My son, Jacob, expanded the story, developed the characters further, and developed more plot-lines to give the screenplay more impact. In the end, it was great because I had the opportunity to work with my son in a 50-50 collaboration. We had the very good fortune to meet Thurgood Marshall's son, John Marshall,

who also provided helpful information and also liked and approved the screenplay.

## You and Jacob started this project well before the 2016 presidential election. How do you see the film now, in the context of our new administration?

I think it's perhaps more important than ever because it appeals to people's higher values, morals, and motives, and it recognizes the importance of having the law and the jury there to protect people. It recognizes that governments don't always act in a just manner, but within our system, we have the safeguards that can make government work.

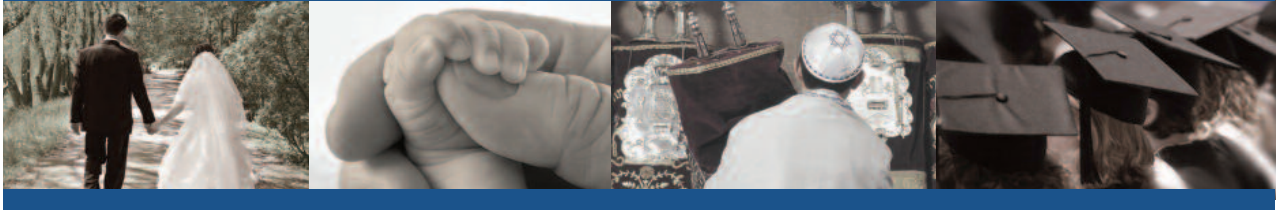
There's one line in the movie by Thurgood Marshall, which sums it up: "The Constitution wasn't written for us; we know that. But from now on, we're going to claim it as our own, we're going to make it work." That was sort of the story of his career and it's a story that I think will resonate. There are also a couple of really nice scenes that show the conflict that a Jewish person would have and did have in those days, and the courage required to stand up for someone facing discrimination.

It took us eight years to get this thing made. There's a quote from Ecclesiastes that I love: "The race doesn't go to the swift, nor riches to the wise, nor the battle to the strong. But time and chance overtake all." My feeling is that we never needed this movie like we need it now.

Read our full interview with Michael Koskoff at [shalomct.org/koskoff](http://shalomct.org/koskoff)

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Training Conference, Summer 2017 |  
bbyo.org/region/cvr / (203) 389-2127**



**Circle of Friends' "Crumb Together"  
Bakery Project | circleoffriendsct.org /  
(203) 293-8837**



**Friendship Circle of Fairfield County,  
bowling league members | friend-  
shipct.com / (203) 329-0015, ext. 131**



**Merkaz Community High School for  
Judaic Studies' Teen-Senior Prom at  
Jewish Senior Services | merkazct.org /  
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The Westport Inn invites you to host your Bar or Bat Mitzvah in our Westport Ballroom or Comedy Club! Event amenities include a dancefloor, cubbies, couches and an available on-site service location. After your event, relax in one of our 117-rooms and suites. We welcome you with a blend of sophistication, modern convenience, comfort, and authentic charm.

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1595 POST ROAD EAST, WESTPORT, CT 06880 | WWW.WESTPORTINN.COM

## Crisp Autumn Salad Loaded with Rosh HaShanah Symbolism

Liz Rueven - [kosherlikeme.com](http://kosherlikeme.com)

This pareve raw salad is loaded with color and positive omens, and is a cinch to throw together. Substitute agave for honey if you have vegans around the table. Serves 10-12

### INGREDIENTS

#### Salad:

- 1 medium kohlrabi
- 7 medium carrots
- 2 medium beets
- 3 tart apples (green preferred, tart is important)
- 10 dried dates
- 4 Tb. pomegranate arils
- 2 Tb. sesame seeds
- ¼ c. fresh mint, chopped

#### Dressing:

- ¼ c. extra virgin olive oil
- 1 tsp. toasted sesame oil
- 4-5 tsp. apple cider vinegar (or more to taste)
- 2 tsp. local honey
- ½ tsp. salt and a few cracks of pepper (to taste)

#### Make the salad:

Peel all vegetables and apples. Using a food processor with grating disc, grate kohlrabi, carrots, apples, and beets. Place in a large mixing bowl. Slice dates lengthwise into 4 slivers. Whisk all ingredients for dressing. Toss veggies, apples, and dates with dressing. Top salad with pomegranate arils, sesame seeds, and chopped mint.

#### Notes:

- This salad may be made one day in advance. If doing so, layer grated apples underneath carrots and kohlrabi to keep the apples from turning brown. Place grated beets in a separate bowl to keep other veggies from turning fuchsia. Keep dates, pomegranate arils, sesame seeds, and herbs in separate containers and toss with salad ingredients and dressing at last minute.
- Dressing may be made in advance and stored in a jar in the refrigerator.
- Once salad is assembled, it may be served for 2-3 days. It will be equally delicious but less crisp.



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## BEIT CHAVERIM SYNAGOGUE OF WESTPORT/NORWALK

85 Post Road West, Westport  
(203) 227-3333 / BeitChaverim.com

### At Beit Chaverim Synagogue in Westport, we take tradition seriously.

The tradition of creating a vibrant  
community dedicated to spiritual growth.

The tradition of lifelong learning.

The tradition of sharing life's greatest  
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The tradition that a good question  
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to be Jewish.

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

Come find out why we love exploring  
Judaism together!

We offer Westport's only daily  
minyan Monday – Friday at 6:20 AM.  
All are welcome.



Special storytellers, Federation Executive Director David Weisberg  
and Rabbi Evan Schultz of Congregation B'nai Israel (with guitar),  
at PJ Library's Popsicles in the Park event in July



### PJ LIBRARY: MAGIC IN YOUR MAILBOX!

Every month, PJ Library  
sends a Jewish-themed  
book or CD to your child  
(aged 6 months to 8), a  
free gift from the Harold  
Grinspoon Foundation in  
partnership with the  
Federation for Jewish  
Philanthropy. What's  
more, PJ Library families  
gather for special  
story-music-craft  
programs to celebrate  
Jewish holidays or just  
for fun! We would love to  
have you join the PJ  
Family in Upper Fairfield  
County. Learn more at  
[shalomct.org/pj-library](http://shalomct.org/pj-library) or  
contact Stacy Kamisar:  
[skamisar@jewishphilanthropyct.org](mailto:skamisar@jewishphilanthropyct.org) /  
(203) 659-3602

## BETH EL FAIRFIELD

1200 Fairfield Woods Road, Fairfield  
(203) 374-5544 / [BethElFairfield.org](http://BethElFairfield.org)

### Illuminating a Bright Future at Beth El Fairfield

By Gary Krebs

[gmkwritingandediting.com](http://gmkwritingandediting.com)

Hazzan Brian Shamash, who joined Beth El as fulltime cantor in summer 2016, has been named as the new Religious School Education Director.

Hazzan Shamash brings depth and vibrancy to his role as cantor, and has already made his mark enhancing synagogue rituals and enriching the lives of his students. In his brief tenure, he has expanded the bar/bat-mitzvah learning program, created the new bar/bat-mitzvah guide for families, and co-led the recent Kallah Retreat for Religious School families at the Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center in Falls Village, Conn. Both the Hazzan and his wife, Emily — a lecturer at Teachers College, Columbia

University — have served as Beth El Religious School teachers. They have three beautiful children: Ella, Maya, and Ethan.

Beth El Fairfield continues to expand its momentum since Rabbi Marcelo Kormis became spiritual leader in August 2012. The dynamic-duo teaming of Rabbi Kormis and Hazzan Shamash has so reinvigorated the congregation that it has rolled out the Atid (Hebrew for “future”) Campaign to significantly grow its endowment funds. Engaging many congregants, Atid features innovative communication, outreach, and fundraising methods that shine a light on Beth El’s vibrant programs and culture. A massive, highly-anticipated refresh of the synagogue’s branding will also launch soon.

The *shamash* is the first candle kindled on the Hanukah menorah — and the one used to light the other candles. Hazzan Brian Shamash, continuing to live up to his apt surname, is ideally suited as the educational and musical light to help guide Beth El’s bright future.

Hazzan Brian Shamash



## CONGREGATION BETH EL-NORWALK

109 East Ave., Norwalk  
[congbethel.org](http://congbethel.org) / (203) 838-2710

Under the leadership of Rabbi Ita Paskind, Congregation Beth El-Norwalk has a deep commitment to connecting its members and welcoming new friends through active religious and social programming. This includes regular Shabbat and holiday services as well as a variety of fun and dynamic events for Jewish adults, families, and youth.

During the High Holidays each year, Beth El is pleased to open its doors to the community for services on the second day of Rosh Hashanah, free of charge (this year on Friday, September 22nd). RSVP is required by contacting our office.

Also in September, Beth El will kick off its USY & Kadima Youth Group, and we are proud to host the 1st Annual Sukkah Shuk — co-sponsored with other

area synagogues and the Federation for Jewish Philanthropy — on Sunday, September 24th from 12 noon to 2:30 pm.

Beth El will hold an interfaith Sukkah dinner for all ages on Sunday, October 8th at 5:30 pm, when we welcome our Muslim and Christian friends into our sukkah.

In the winter, please join us for a night of laughs at our Fifth Annual Comedy Night on Saturday, December 9th and in January, we have our Annual Artist-in-Residence Shabbaton and Saturday-night concert featuring Yale's Jewish a capella group, Magevet.

For more information on these and many more events taking place this Fall and Winter at Beth El-Norwalk, visit [congbethel.org](http://congbethel.org) or call (203) 838-2710.



Beth El-Norwalk congregants after building the synagogue's sukkah in 2016

## BETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE OF WESTPORT/NORWALK CHABAD

40 King St., Norwalk  
bethisraelct.org / (203) 866-0534

### A Warm and Welcoming SHUL

As we celebrate the Jewish New Year 5778, the SHUL incorporated in 1899 as The Hebrew Bet Israel Society, Inc. extends best wishes to everyone for a good and sweet year.

One of the most outstanding community services provided by Beth Israel to our Federation for Jewish Philanthropy community is the availability for all to have their son or daughter prepare for their Bar- or Bat-Mitzvah at Beth Israel Synagogue. Membership at the SHUL is not required.

The approach of Beth Israel is simple. We make every effort to best assure that this important lifecycle event is experienced by each child with confi-

dence and an awareness of genuine accomplishment, knowing that they are firmly rooted in our Peoplehood and connected to the sacred traditions of the Torah.

Our rabbi, Yehoshua S. Hecht, personally directs the study of each Bar- and Bat-Mitzvah and the results are inspiring. The Synagogue's warm Sanctuary setting and its beautiful edifice creates the ambiance for a memorable event.

Young people trained at Beth Israel Synagogue - CHABAD gain a strong sense of Jewish identity and pride in Judaism. The training itself is personalized for each student in a manner that uplifts and empowers a young person's Jewish identity and sense of belonging. The Synagogue also hosts the well-regarded Weston/Westport Hebrew After-School Program that meets at the Norfield Grange in Weston, under the leadership of Freida Hecht.

For more information about our educational programs: (203) 866-0534 / bethisraelct@gmail.com. Learn about the Weston/Westport Hebrew School at westonhebrewschool.org.



## CHABAD OF FAIRFIELD

452 Brookside Drive, Fairfield  
chabadff.com / (203) 373-7551

In March 2018, Chabad of Fairfield will join communities around the globe for a fun-filled trip infused with genuine Chabad warmth and spirit. Whether you have been to Israel before or are visiting for the first time, our itinerary is uniquely designed to provide you with an experience you'll remember for many years to come.

■ **Journey of Learning:** Explore Israel's soul. The Jewish Learning Institute will bring our rich history to life as we discover the origins of our nation and the spiritual secrets of the land's holy sites.

■ **Israel Today:** Hear from Chief Rabbis, military brass and political leaders. Our group will be addressed by Israel's leaders and gain an insider's view of modern-day Israel's challenges and triumphs.

■ **Mission of Solidarity:** Head to the front lines of Israel's fight for survival. The trip is highlighted by a visit to the beleaguered community of Hebron and an intimate barbecue with Israel Defense Force soldiers and officers, where we will be able to express our support to our brothers and sisters.

■ **Five Star Amenities:** Concierge service from the moment you arrive,

first-class accommodations at luxurious hotels, five-star gourmet meals, and the very best Israel has to offer in education and entertainment.

This trip is open to all and we extend an invitation to join us on this trip of a lifetime. Please call (203) 373-7551 or email office@chabadff.com for more information. Registration is open at ChabadFF.com/israeltrip.



## CHABAD LUBAVITCH OF WESTPORT, WESTON, WILTON & NORWALK

79 Newtown Turnpike, Westport  
chabadofwestport.com / (203) 226-8584

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!



## CONGREGATION B'NAI TORAH

5700 Main St., Trumbull  
bnaitorahct.org / (203) 268-6940

### B'nai Torah: Embracing All Jews by Rabbi Colin Brodie

The principle of *B'Tzelem Elohim* – that every human being is created in the image of G-d – is one that I have always lived by. A poster prominently displayed around B'nai Torah states: "This is a simple and profound idea that should guide our interactions with all people. If we see each person as created in the image of G-d, we can see humanity and dignity in all people." This poster is published by Keshet, the Jewish organization working for the full equality and inclusion of the LGBTQ+\* community in Jewish life. (\*Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and others)

I recently attended a community-wide Keshet conference at the Federation for Jewish Philanthropy. We began

by reflecting on and acknowledging our own cultural biases. We discussed terminology, some well known to us, some entirely new. Then we focused on what we can do at B'nai Torah to ensure that our community understands and not only accepts – but also embraces – those who are LGBTQ+.

Our team is motivated by the seven Jewish values at the heart of Judaism:

1. *Kavod* (Respect): The regard for the rights, feelings, wishes and abilities of others.
2. *Shalom Bayit* (Peace in the home): All those who enter our doors should feel comfortable, safe, welcome and respected in their second home, B'nai Torah.
3. *Kol Yisrael Arevim Zeh Bazeh* (Communal responsibility): We are all responsible for one another.
4. *Shmirat Halashon* (Guarding our use of language): Words can hurt or heal, depending on how we use them.
5. *V'ahavta L'Re'eicha Kamocha* (Love your neighbor as yourself):

We must love and accept our whole selves, and in doing so, create the capacity for extending that love and acceptance to others.

6. *Al Tifrosh Min Hatsibur* (Solidarity): Do not separate yourself or allow others to be separated from the community.

7. *B'Tzelem Elohim* (We are all created in the Image of G-d): True inclusion is built on this foundation.

We recognize that for some, the acceptance, embrace and inclusion of the LGBTQ+ community is new, and perhaps difficult. However, I hope you can appreciate the fact that in order to be authentic Jews, we must, on the basis of the seven values, work to be fully embracing of all human beings. Working with a mentor from Keshet, our team is diligently exploring how we can show our acceptance and embrace of a diverse population. Please assure any family or friends in the LGBTQ+ community that they are welcome within the B'nai Torah community.

## CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

2710 Park Ave., Bridgeport  
cbibpt.org / (203) 336-1858

### B'nai Israel Thinks Outside the Walls

How does a 160-year-old congregation stay young?

"One answer is by not just staying inside," says Rabbi Jim Prosnit. "While we are proud of our newly renovated space, we know that our synagogue – the oldest in Fairfield County – is more than a building."

At Congregation B'nai Israel, we define ourselves as a place where Jews (and non-Jewish partners) can find fulfilling paths to sacred living and meaning.

To achieve this, we sometimes reach beyond the temple's four walls to pray (a Rosh Hashanah service at Fairfield's Jennings Beach – this year, September 20 at 6 pm, when all are welcome), to learn (a

class on Jewish texts at Whole Foods Market), and to serve (a commitment to social justice and mitzvah projects, such as helping plant a community garden or serving at a veterans' home or soup kitchen in Bridgeport).

The B'nai Israel journey even reaches internationally, with trips to Eastern Europe, Spain, Morocco, and, of course, Israel.

Yet, even as the congregation's reach widens, the mission remains intimate – giving people of all ages a place to find

spiritual, personal and communal connections.

"We are a welcoming, all-inclusive, inter-generational congregation," Rabbi Evan Schultz says, adding that the temple draws congregants from the suburban communities of Fairfield, Easton, Southport, Trumbull, and Monroe, as well as the City of Bridgeport.

Join us for the upcoming High Holy Days – and beyond – and feel the legacy of the past, the vibrancy of the present, and the commitment to the future.

Rabbi Evan Schultz, right, of Congregation B'nai Israel leads a Rosh Hashanah service at Jennings Beach in Fairfield.



## CONGREGATION FOR HUMANISTIC JUDAISM OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY

P.O. Box 82, Westport, CT 06881  
humanisticjews.org / (203) 293-8867

The Congregation for Humanistic Judaism of Fairfield County (CHJ) welcomes you to attend our High Holiday services and programs, which are free and open to the public. We have several special programs planned, beginning with a keynote by Paul Golin, new executive director of the Society for Humanistic Judaism, at a Rosh Hashanah evening service at the Unitarian Church in Westport on September 20. In his speech, "Celebrating Jewish Diversity," Golin will explore how intermarriage strengthens Judaism and provides a conduit for meaning and growth within Jewish traditions. Golin will return on September 21 to lead a Rosh Hashanah workshop on "The Future of Liberal Judaism." How can

Jewish congregations become relevant for unaffiliated Jews? What benefits of belonging might people find within Humanistic Judaism or other congregations? Join CHJ for a lively discussion about engagement and participation in Jewish life today. In addition, CHJ will hold a family service at noon on Rosh Hashanah day, followed by a luncheon for members and non-members prior to Golin's workshop. We close the day with a short *Tashlich* service by the river. Yom Kippur

observances include Kol Nidre, a family service, and afternoon programs. A full calendar of High Holiday events can be found at [humanisticjews.org](http://humanisticjews.org).

CHJ members 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 philosophies, brought together by the common bond of Jewish identity.



## CONGREGATION RODEPH SHOLOM

2385 Park Ave., Bridgeport  
rodephsholom.com / (203) 334-0159

### Historic synagogue, modern congregation

Congregation Rodeph Sholom is a diverse community adhering to the principles of the Conservative Movement while seeking ways to make Judaism more relevant and contemporary in our everyday lives. Drawing from northern Fairfield County, our community has an energetic membership and an engaging clergy team in Rabbi David Barnett and Hazzan Niema Hirsch. They bring a new and contemporary dynamic to our 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. 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, at [mblock@rodephsholom.com](mailto:mblock@rodephsholom.com) or (203) 334-0159.



## THE CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE

30 Hillspoint Road, Westport  
[tcs-westport.org](http://tcs-westport.org) / (203) 454-4673



During the High Holiday season, we stress the need for our voices to be heard. We don't say "hear our prayers." Instead, we ask for our voices to be heard (*Sh'ma Koleinu*). A particular prayer might be the same for all of us, but our own voice is distinctive. Our voices are like our individual fingerprints, each with our own unique relationship with God. The written text becomes personal and alive when we utter and chant the words before us. We might feel despair, hope, joy, or any other emotion or mixed emotions when we

pray, but it is our own *kol* (voice), that reaches out to God with *kavanah* (intent). That is what gives our words true meaning. In a time when texts and e-mails are replacing face to face conversations, we come to realize that there are times when a voice is better than a text. There is no intent or intonation in our texts. How many unnecessary misunderstandings could have been avoided had we only spoken with one another?

If every voice counts for God, every voice should certainly count for us. Using the divine attributes as a model for which to strive can only help us achieve higher spiritual levels.

At TCS, we want to hear your voice. Call us or stop by to learn how you can become a part of the TCS family. Our services on the 2nd Day of Rosh Hashanah are free and open to the community. Reservations are required.



Rabbi Jeremy Weiderhorn  
and Cantor Luis Cattán



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The Cascade, a new state-of-the-art, full-service banquet facility, is now available to host your magical affair.

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