



KALEIDOSCOPE

Jewish Life in Upper Fairfield County

SPRING/SUMMER 2018



YUM! AN ISRAELI-THEMED FOOD FESTIVAL

HIGHLIGHTS A SEASON FULL OF
ISRAEL'S 70TH BIRTHDAY EVENTS.

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



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From the Lens of David Weisberg

On December 3, 2017, I stood on the bimah in the beautiful sanctuary of Congregation Rodeph Sholom in front of an audience of 400-plus people from every corner of our Federation's very large catchment area.

Beside me was my wife for the day, the cantor of Congregation Shir Shalom in Ridgefield. We were joined by our three momentary daughters – the rabbi from Beth El-Norwalk, the cantor from Temple Shalom in Norwalk, and a Federation Israeli Emissary from Netanya – as well as their fictional future husbands, a rabbi from

Congregation B'nai Israel in Bridgeport, the cantor from Temple Israel in Westport, and a Jewish educator from Beth El Fairfield.

My imaginary wife's even-more-imaginary grandmother of blessed memory is a cantor from Congregation Rodeph Sholom in Bridgeport. Our pretend larger community included a butcher (the rabbi from Congregation B'nai Torah in Trumbull) and his late wife (the executive director of The Conservative Synagogue in Westport); a matchmaker (the director of Resident Life at Jewish Senior Services); an old rabbi (a young rabbi from Temple B'nai Chaim in Georgetown); an innkeeper (a rabbi from Beit Chaverim Synagogue in Westport); a bookseller (a member of the Congregation for Humanistic Judaism in Westport); and a beggar (the director of World Emunah) in Israel. Even the villain in our make-believe community is the CEO of Schoke Jewish Family Service, anything but a villainous organization. And our

momentary landscape was filled out with villagers and musicians from congregations and organizations from throughout this circle we've come to call Upper Fairfield County.

And yet, while we joined together on stage as the community of Anatevka for a special one-day performance of *Fiddler on the Roof*, the community that joined together that afternoon on the bimah, in the orchestra, and in the sanctuary was anything but fictional. To the contrary, it was the definition of community and a definitive example of the power of Federation – the possible that exists when we harness the potential harmony of collective voices from throughout our diverse home.

I am grateful that what was on display in our December re-creation of the stories of Sholom Aleichem (with a cast that, incidentally, included Sholom Aleichem's great-granddaughter), was a living example of the collective power our community harnesses on a daily basis.

Indeed, each day, through the work of our Federation, our community collectively supports social services to our extended Jewish family in Bridgeport, Norwalk, Israel, Eastern Europe, and Argentina; provides day-school and camp scholarships; distributes monthly food and medicine cards to struggling senior adults in the former Soviet Union; helps fight anti-Semitism; provides books to inner-city school-children; and so much more.

Just like that performance of *Fiddler on the Roof*, and just like the existence of this *KALEIDOSCOPE* magazine, there is a power that we can only harness, a harmony we can only express, when we all come together. Enjoy reading.



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of Upper Fairfield County
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shalomct.org



Federation for Jewish Philanthropy
OF UPPER FAIRFIELD COUNTY

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: James Sugarman
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 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 Keshet (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 • Keshet Project for Adults with Developmental Disabilities • LifeBridge Community Services • Positive Directions • Schoke Jewish Family Service

To support the annual campaign, visit shalomct.org.

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To advertise, call 860-231-2424 x3028

There's something for everyone on the Federation calendar!

GET INSPIRED THIS SPRING AND SUMMER

Tuesday, April 17 ~ 12 noon

**Book Talk: *Have I Got a Story for You*
with author Ezra Gliner**

Congregation Shir Shalom, 46 Peaceable
St., Ridgefield

Wednesday, April 18 ~ 6 p.m.

**Community-wide Yom HaAtzma'ut party
with Klezmerband from Afula**

The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg
Campus, 4200 Park Ave., Bridgeport

Sunday, April 22

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Federation's Super Super Sunday

Federation Offices at The Harry and
Jeanette Weinberg Campus, 4200 Park
Ave., Bridgeport

Thursday, May 3 ~ 7 p.m.

**Lag BaOmer concert with internationally
acclaimed Afula singing ensemble
Shir Ba'Emek**

The Conservative Synagogue, 30
Hillspoint Road, Westport

Wednesday, May 16 ~ 7:30 p.m.

**Book Talk: *Lioness: Golda Meir and the
Nation of Israel* with author Francine
Klagsbrun**

Beit Chaverim Synagogue,
85 Post Road West, Westport
In partnership with The Westport Library
and Jewish Book Council

Tuesday, May 22

**Harvey Milk Day Inclusivity Concert
with Y-Love**

Time & location TBA

Sunday, June 10 ~ 2 – 6 p.m.

**2nd Annual Southern Connecticut
Jewish Food Festival ~ A Taste of Israel**
Temple Israel, 14 Coleytown Road,
Westport

A treat from Israeli chef Nir Mesika

World-renowned Israeli chef

Nir Mesika will headline Federation's 2nd
Annual Southern Connecticut Jewish Food
Festival on Sunday, June 10. He is



executive chef at
Timna, a
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named Best New
Restaurant in the
U.S. by USA Today
in 2015. Tracing his
ancestry to Egypt
and Morocco,

Chef Mesika is known for modern Israeli
cooking rooted in the traditions of the
Mediterranean, Middle East and North
Africa.

HERE, HE SHARES HIS RECIPE FOR EGYPTIAN BASBOUSA CAKE WITH VANILLA ICE CREAM & SHREDDED HALVA.

Ingredients

2 c. semolina flour
1 c. shaved roasted coconut
1 stick (1/2 c.) unsweetened butter, melted
1/3 c. sugar
1 tsp. baking soda
1 c. plain Greek yogurt
1/3 c. raw almonds
1 tsp. orange blossom extract

For the Syrup

2 c. sugar
1½ c. water
1 Tbsp. rosewater
1 tsp. lemon juice

Instructions

Pre-heat oven to 400° F. Grease a 9" x 9"
or 8" x 8" square baking dish or a 9"
round pie pan with butter or olive oil and
set aside.

Mix the semolina, coconut, sugar, baking
soda, and the butter in a large bowl. Use
your hands to mix the butter with the
other ingredients until mixed well. Add
the yogurt and continue mixing with your
hands until fully combined.

The mixture should be fairly thick and easy
to press with hands (not thin like cake or
brownie batter).

Press the mixture down into the baking
dish or pie pan. The cake mix should be
about 1 inch thick.

Cut a diamond or square design in the
cake with a butter knife.

Place an almond or any other type of nut
you have on hand onto each pre-cut
square.

Bake at 400° F for 30-40 minutes until the
cake is a bronze-brown color.

While the cake is baking, mix all the
ingredients for the syrup and place in
saucepan on high heat until it boils. Boil
for 10 minutes or until the syrup coats the
back of a spoon.

Once the cake is ready and fully baked,
pour the syrup on top and let sit for 10
minutes.

To serve:

Slice a piece of the cake and place onto a
serving plate or platter, add a scoop of
vanilla ice cream and sprinkle some
shredded halva over everything.



HAPPY 70th BIRTHDAY, ISRAEL!

Federation throws a community party that lasts all Spring

The number 70 holds a significant place in traditional Jewish texts, and is no less meaningful for the modern State of Israel, which marks its special birthday in April. To join in the festivities, Federation will bring a season of celebration to Upper Fairfield County, culminating in the Israel-themed 2nd Annual Southern Connecticut Jewish Food Festival on Sunday, June 10.

On **Wednesday, April 18**, the community is invited to a Yom HaAtzma'ut party at The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Campus, 4200 Park Ave. in Bridgeport. Gather for a brief service observing Yom HaZikaron (Israel's Memorial Day), led by the Federation Israeli Emissaries, then stay for a special live performance of Israeli music synced to Israeli film clips, presented by **Klezmerband, teen musicians from Beit HaMusika in Afula**. The family-friendly evening wraps up with authentic Israeli food and children's activities – all free of charge.



The Israeli musical celebration continues at The Conservative Synagogue in Westport on **Thursday, May 3**, when the Federation presents the acclaimed Afula singing



ensemble **Shir Ba'Emek** (Song in the Valley), returning to Upper Fairfield County by popular demand.

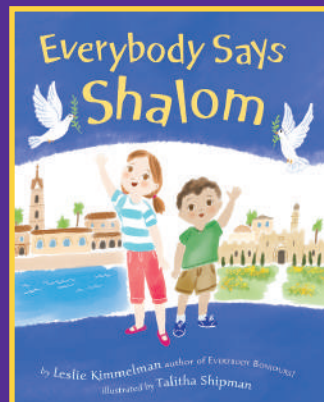
Book-lovers will enjoy a conversation with author **Francine Klagsbrun** about her new biography, **Lioness: Golda Meir and the Nation of Israel**, hailed in a starred Kirkus



Review as "a terrific chronicle of a unique world leader." Federation partners with The Westport Library and the Jewish Book Council to bring this program to Beit Chaverim Synagogue in Westport on **Wednesday, May 16**.

Then, come hungry to Temple Israel in Westport on **Sunday, June 10** for **Federation's 2nd Annual Southern Connecticut Jewish Food Festival! Celebrating A Taste of Israel**, the event

features chef demos, food and wine tastings, an exhibition hall, and workshops on Israeli innovations like water technology, food justice, and agriculture. At the center is renowned **Israeli chef Nir Mesika** of the award-winning Timna restaurant in Manhattan, who will explore the multicultural dimensions of Israeli cuisine in a keynote address and a cooking demo. An Israeli menu available for purchase will showcase specialties such as shawarma, falafel, and salads.



The day will also include a Hebrew Book Fest sponsored by Israelis in CT, a kids' cooking demo, and a PJ Library storytime with author **Leslie Kimmelman, Everybody Says Shalom**.

The food festival is the brainchild of Federation CEO

David Weisberg, who launched the event last June as a way to bring the community together around a shared interest in food and Jewish values. The idea struck a chord, and hundreds of attendees of all ages convened to enjoy the inaugural event. This year's festival promises to be even more engaging.

"For many in our Jewish family, there are few greater passions than Israel and food," says Weisberg. "The opportunity to turn our second annual Food Festival into a celebration of Israeli cuisine and agriculture was too good an opportunity to pass up. I'm hoping that folks from throughout the community and beyond join us for this very special 70th birthday party."

Inaugural Food Festival chair Elise Meyer is at the helm again this year, infusing the event with her passion and expertise as an organic gardener and blogger at MuchAdoAboutStuffing.com. "We are excited to build upon the success of last year's festival," she said. "Having a top New York City Israeli chef as our keynote guest will add so much to our already full program of breakouts and food demos. This will be a great day to celebrate Israel!"

Preregister for the Food Festival at shalomct.org/foodfestival.

WHERE FEDERATION WORKS

Building the real Anatevka

At the end of the musical, *Fiddler on the Roof*, based on the stories of Sholem Aleichem, Jews are being exiled from the fictional Ukrainian village of Anatevka.

Today, through the vision and dedication of the Chief Rabbi of Ukraine, and through the support of the global Jewish community, including Federations like ours who contribute to the Jewish Agency for Israel, a new village called Anatevka is being built as a home for Jewish refugees from war-torn eastern Ukraine.

In 2015, recognizing that the conflict in Ukraine's east had made life untenable for members of the Jewish community, Rabbi Moshe Azman had a vision, to purchase a large plot of land outside of Kiev and build an entire new Jewish community as a safe new home for Ukrainian Jewish refugees.

Acquiring a plot of land just 20 miles east of Kiev, in a town called Hnativka, Rabbi Azman determined to call this

new village Anatevka, bringing the shtetl of Sholem Aleichem's dreams to life.

While Rabbi Azman has a vision of a village that will eventually house 500, today the burgeoning Jewish community already has close to 200 residents, a school, and a beautiful synagogue. The school, named the Mitzvah 613 School, is so highly regarded that Jewish families from Kiev send their children to attend.

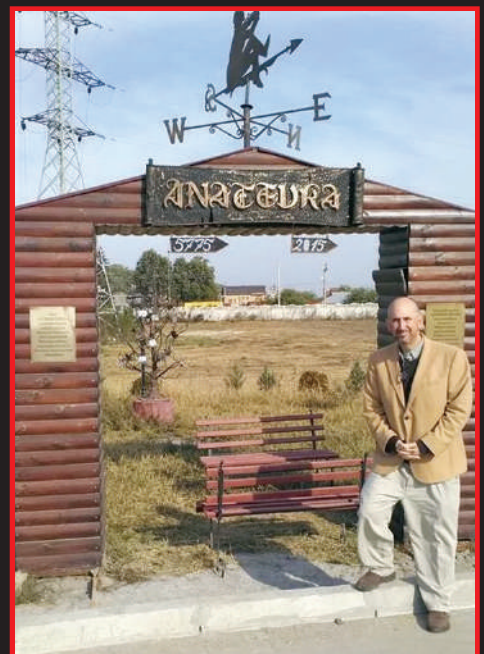
Many of those who now call Anatevka their home are finding ways to contribute by utilizing the skills of their various trades. For example, the school is filled with beautiful woodwork and wooden toys, all honed by a resident craftsman for whom an expert work studio has been created.

And the Anatevka theme is always at the forefront, with the center of the village featuring an Anatevka sign underneath a custom-made weathervane topped by a fiddler on a roof.

Federation CEO David Weisberg, who visited Anatevka during his journey to Ukraine in October 2017, says he felt particularly gratified to understand that, through overseas funding allocated by our community, we have contributed to creating this new home for Jewish refugees. "That is the amazing thing about the global Federation system," said Weisberg. "I can learn about an incredible project and, instead of saying, 'we should start funding that,' I can instead say, 'doesn't it feel wonderful to know that we've been supporting that all along.'"

The Anatevka Project is supported in part by the Jewish Agency for Israel, one of several key overseas beneficiary partners that receive allocations from the Federation for Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield County annual campaign.

[Learn more at anatevkajrc.org.](http://anatevkajrc.org)



PARTY WITH A PURPOSE

Federation Gala 2018



Guests from throughout Upper Fairfield County and beyond filled the Quick Center in Fairfield to honor Shelly & Michael Kassen of Westport and Sharon & Brian Miles of Fairfield. Chaired by Liz & Michael Foster and Nancy & David Cohen, the event featured a star-studded musical performance headlined by pop/rock pioneer Richard Barone, Broadway leading man Jeff McCarthy, and Jewish music innovator Basya Schechter. The celebration raised funds for the Federation Israeli Emissary program, a unique "living bridge" between Upper Fairfield County and Israel engaging thousands of local community-members. Enjoy more photos and video at shalomct.org.





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Upper Fairfield County comes together!

Federation celebrated the local Jewish community at two sold-out events that drew attendees from throughout our 15-municipality region.


In December, a staged reading of *Fiddler on the Roof* featured a cast and musical ensemble from many of our congregations and Jewish organizations.

In January, our first annual Mitzvah Hero Awards honored 14 men and women nominated by Jewish congregations who live the Jewish value of *tikkun olam*.



Fiddler photos courtesy of Regina Madwed, Capitol Photo Interactive

Visit our photo galleries at shalomct.org.

A silhouette of a person jumping joyfully against a vibrant sunset sky with shades of blue, purple, and orange. The person's arms are raised and legs are bent in mid-air.

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WHAT FEDERATION DOES

The Israeli Emissary Program

When it comes to connecting our community with Israel, there is nothing more powerful than the living bridge created by our Israeli Emissary Program. Twenty years ago, our Federation agreed to pilot this program. Thanks to our success, next year, close to 170 young Israelis will arrive in 40 communities throughout the world, building person-to-person connections with our Jewish homeland.

Each year, our Federation brings four recent high-school graduates from Israel, who postpone their IDF military service to spend a year in our community. These young “ambassadors” volunteer in our synagogues, religious schools, public schools and community agencies, designing innovative activities to share their love of Israel.

Throughout the year, our Israeli Emissaries – in Hebrew, *shinshinim* – meet with more than 1,000 community-members monthly, in programs that touch all ages from preschool children to senior citizens. Their worksites include religious schools; preschools; Circle of Friends; Jewish Senior Services; youth groups such as USY, TISY, BBYO, and BIFTY; Staples High School Israel Culture Club; Weston High School Israel Culture Club; Israelis-in-CT Hebrew Conversation Group at The Westport Library; and daylong programs in public high schools.

Their reach is broad and deep, as these young *shinshinim* build meaningful relationships with the people they meet. In addition, each one lives in three host homes during the year, which creates life-long bonds for most families. It’s a multi-layered program, with each year building upon the success of the previous one, and today, our community benefits from a rich, 20-year history of relationships.



“These young ‘ambassadors’ bring a face to Israel,” said David Weisberg, Federation CEO. “Their ability to connect personally with people in the community is one of the most valuable programs we support to build a lasting connection with the country.”

This opportunity to build bridges is made possible through our Federation’s relationship with the Jewish Agency for Israel and the Southern New England Consortium (SNEC), a group of 12 Jewish Federations in Connecticut and Massachusetts. The Jewish Agency has paired the SNEC area with the Afula-Gilboa region in northern Israel, creating a bridge between the two areas, and next year, eight of the 12 emissaries serving in the SNEC communities will hail from Afula-Gilboa.



See the new video about our
Emissary Program at
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WHAT FEDERATION DOES

Reaching children through reading New Book Buddies program takes off

While there are plenty of things that may come to mind when one thinks of Federation, it's unlikely that the first – or even the last – is the opportunity to become a change agent in the life of a local child. But that opportunity is creating transformative experiences for Federation volunteers and young students alike through the Federation's new Book Buddies program.

Launched at the start of the school year under the leadership of our amazing co-chairs, Lauren Zirn and Anita Chargar, Book Buddies pairs volunteer readers with students at the Blackham Elementary School in Bridgeport. Blackham professionals have selected 12 children in each grade who are on the cusp of reading proficiency, and Book Buddies are trained to strengthen the reading skills and self-confidence of these students. Each week, with the guidance of school staff, Book Buddies meet one-on-one with the same

children to share their love of reading and engage the young readers in meaningful conversations about books, developing a relationship that promotes good reading skills.

Through the Federation's Books2Connect program, which collects and donates gently-used books to young readers, Federation provided a book for each 2nd- and 3rd-grader at Blackham School as a gift to start their own home libraries. Since kicking off the Books2Connect program in 2010, Federation has donated more than 8,000 books to organizations throughout Connecticut, including city schools, after-school programs, community health centers, food pantries, and shelters.

Book Buddies sessions are already filled with lots of hugs and smiles, and the volunteers have had a chance to see the potential impact of this pilot program. Our hope is to expand to more grades and

children as we continue to develop the initiative.

If you are passionate about making a life-changing impact for a young child, Book Buddies might be the volunteer opportunity you have been looking for. Learn more at shalomct.org/become-a-bookbuddy or (203) 659-3602.



PJ Library: Engaging Jewish children and their families through books and music

PJ Library sends free, age-appropriate Jewish books and music monthly to Jewish families in our area as a gift from our Federation and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. We also bring the Jewish holidays alive for children and their parents with special programs featuring storytelling, music, and crafts. To sign up a child you love, between ages 6 months and 8 years old, go to pjlibrary.org or contact skamisar@jewishphilanthropyct.org for more info.



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Reform

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chabadff.com

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Orthodox

Congregation Beth El Fairfield
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Conservative

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Reform

Norwalk

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Westport

Beit Chaverim Synagogue
of Westport/Norwalk
85 Post Road West
(203) 227-3333
office@beitchaverim.com
beitchaverim.com
Modern Orthodox/Traditional

Chabad of WWWN
79 Newtown Turnpike
(203) 226-8584
office@chabadofwestport.com
chabadofwestport.com

Congregation for
Humanistic Judaism of Fairfield County
P.O. Box 82 | Westport, CT 06881
(203) 293-8867
info@humanisticjews.org
humanisticjews.org

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

The Conservative Synagogue
30 Hillspoint Road
(203) 454-4673
execdir@tcs-westport.org
tcs-westport.org
Conservative

COMMUNITY AGENCIES & ORGANIZATIONS

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

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

Israelis-in-CT
israelisinct@hotmail.com

Jewish Family Service
of Connecticut, Fairfield
jfsc.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

Rabbi Yitzchok Adler
(860) 798-9555

Mikvah

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

End of Life

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

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

Loyalty Cemetery Association, Fairfield
(203) 452-1221

Martin H. Green Memorials & Lettering
(203) 452-1221

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
skamisar@jewishphilanthropyct.org
shalomct.org
(203) 659-3602

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

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

K'tanim Preschool
Congregation 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 & Ulpan Habait
An Israeli program for learning Hebrew
israelisinct@hotmail.com
(203) 434-7705

Youth Activities

BBYO Connecticut Valley Region
Fairfield, Ridgefield, Westport 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
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
Contact Federation for Jewish
Philanthropy to learn about subsidized
bus transportation from Upper
Fairfield County: (203) 226-8197

Mishkan Israel Day Camp
mishkanisrael.com
(203) 268-0740

LIFELONG LEARNING

Bridgeport Community Kollel
bridgeportkollel.com

Fairfield University
Carl & Dorothy Bennett Center
for Judaic Studies
fairfield.edu/judaic
(203) 254-4000, ext. 2065

Israelis-in-CT
Hebrew Conversation Group
Meets every other Monday
at The Westport Library
israelisinct@hotmail.com

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

Jewish Historical Society
of Fairfield County
jhsfc-ct.org
(203) 321-1373, ext. 150

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

Greater Bridgeport Jews (20s & 30s)
eschultz@cbibpt.org
(203) 336-1858

Jewish Twenties & Thirties
ctjfs.org
(203) 921-4161

Young Jewish Professionals, CT
yjpc.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
jseniors.org
(203) 365-6400

Seymour I. Hollander Apartments
Greater Bridgeport
Jewish Housing Corp.
hollanderhouse.org
(203) 374-7868



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The KALEIDOSCOPE Profile

Never Forget, Never Again: Agnes Vertes

By Vivien Orbach-Smith

The family photos adorning Agnes Vertes's Weston home depict more than 50 years of a robust Jewish life in America – from a striking black-and-white wedding portrait of Agnes and her late husband, Michael (who passed away in 2005), to colorful shots of their grandchildren's bar- and bat-mitzvahs.

But one image of a distant time and place – the couple's native Hungary – tells a starkly different story. It is the story that has dictated Agnes's life mission, as one of the



Agnes Vertes

youngest survivors of the Holocaust, and a documentary filmmaker, educator, advocate, and activist: the rallying cry of "never forget, never again."

"This was taken at my uncle's wedding in a small village outside Budapest in 1931, almost a decade before I was born," she says, displaying a grainy, poster-sized blowup of a gathering of smiling adults and children. "Of the 27 people in the picture, only three survived – my mother and two of her three brothers." Most died in ghettos or in concentration camps. Her two grandmothers were doused with gasoline and torched when the Nazis

discovered their safe-house. One aunt and a cousin, unable to overcome their trauma, committed suicide years after the war.

Agnes (née Katz) was only 4 when the Germans invaded Budapest with ferocious speed, turning her privileged childhood into a desperate race for survival. Its twists and turns encompassed false Christian identities for her and her 2-year-old sister; stints in a foster home and then in an orphanage that was destroyed by the Germans, leaving the two little girls homeless and starving in the freezing streets of the city. Subsequently, they were crowded into a squalid, disease-ridden Catholic children's home until the war's end, when they were finally reunited with their parents.

It would be 10 more years before the family would know true freedom, fleeing Communist rule and ultimately emigrating to New York.

There, as a student at Hunter College, Agnes met Michael Vertes, who survived thanks to a fake passport and *schutzpass* (letter of protection) issued in Budapest by Swiss diplomat Carl Lutz.

Michael's history was, in part, the inspiration for his wife's 2003 documentary, *Passport to Life*, which took her back to Budapest, and to Rome, Stockholm and Bern, to interview diplomats and clerics who had risked their lives to save Jews.

Agnes's career as a documentarian grew out of oral-history/videography training from Steven Spielberg's Shoah Foundation, which she decided to

undertake after she and Michael were interviewed. This led, in 1998, to her first independent film, *One Out of Ten*, which features the firsthand accounts of eight survivors with vastly different backgrounds, all of them members of the Holocaust Child Survivors of Connecticut organization (HCSC). Both documentaries were recipients of international independent film awards.

Agnes has served as president of HCSC for the last 15 years, coordinating programs and a speakers' bureau, which – though its numbers have sharply dwindled – addresses area middle- and high-schools, civic organizations and community-wide gatherings. She finds it especially gratifying to speak at schools in underserved neighborhoods, to minority students who may themselves be immigrants. "They're respectful and quiet and you can hear a pin drop," she says, with a smile. "Some of them cry, they call me a hero – they ask to hug me and take 'selfies' with me."

She also dedicates many hours to sorting out the escalating needs of HCSC members who have reached advanced old age, advocating for them with the Claims Conference and other agencies, including Federation for Jewish Philanthropy.

In a world where Holocaust survivors are dying out and antisemitism is again on the upswing, Agnes's mission is more important to her than ever. "I don't think antisemitism was ever extinguished; it was just put

to sleep for a while," she declares. "Right now, a lot of it takes the form of being anti-Israel. I find it very upsetting when Jewish people aren't fully cognizant of this."

Her third documentary, which is nearing completion, is titled, *Judy, You Will Live*. It features her close friend, Stamford resident Judith Altmann, a 93-year-old survivor of Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen, whose harrowing story and powerful delivery make her, says Agnes, "the HCSC's biggest money-maker." While the speakers never charge for their appearances, schools and other groups often make voluntary donations that go directly into the organization's coffers. Last year alone, Judith addressed 7,500 students at 51 schools.

The two women sometimes make joint appearances in classrooms, to illustrate the breadth of the Holocaust experience and to give voice to the 1.5 million children among the six million Jews murdered.

Their message is strong and unequivocal.

"Don't be a follower, be suspicious of demagogues, always listen to your conscience," says Agnes emphatically. "Don't be a bystander; if you see someone being abused, stand up for them!"

"We always tell the young people: you are very lucky, because you are probably the last generation who will have firsthand access to a survivor of the Holocaust. We are counting on you to tell your children and grandchildren...

you are the future, and we are entrusting you to make this a better world."

Read a longer version of this article at shalomct.org/agnesvertes.

Vivien Orbach-Smith of Wilton was a longtime board-member of UJA/Federation Westport Weston Wilton Norwalk. She teaches journalism at NYU, works as a college-essay coach, and is the co-author of her late father's memoir, Young Lothar: An Underground Fugitive in Nazi Berlin (I.B. Tauris, 2017). Learn more about the book and a Berlin walking tour based on it at younglothar.com.

2018 COMMUNITY YOM HASHOAH PROGRAMS

Yom HaShoah

Commemoration sponsored by Federation and Upper Fairfield County Jewish Congregations

Wednesday, Apr. 11 at 7 p.m.
Location TBA: shalomct.org

Fairfield University Annual Holocaust Remembrance Service

Thursday, Apr. 12, 4:30 p.m.
Fairfield University,
Egan Chapel of
St. Ignatius Loyola
Co-sponsored by Bennett
Center for Judaic Studies
and Campus Ministry
fairfield.edu | (203) 254-4000,
ext. 2065

40th Annual State of Connecticut Holocaust Commemoration

Friday, Apr. 20, 11:30 a.m.
State Capitol Senate
Chambers
jfact.org | (860) 727-5771

35th Annual Town of Fairfield Holocaust Commemoration

Wednesday, Apr. 25, 7:30 p.m.
First Church Congregational,
148 Beach Road, Fairfield
fairfieldholocaustcommemoration.org



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WHERE FEDERATION WORKS

Merkaz Community High School for Judaic Studies

It's 6:45 on a Tuesday evening and the halls at Merkaz are quiet. Within the next five minutes, the silence changes to a robust and friendly buzz, as over 100 Jewish teens start arriving for classes at the 38-year-old community high school for Jewish studies. Some students are still in their sports gear or cheerleading uniforms, while others are still munching on the last of their dinners. They are happy to see each other, to be together, and to create a community for each other.

The 7-p.m. bell rings and they are off to their first-period classes.

Announcements are read by each teacher as school begins: opportunities for community service, teen youth-group events, special programs with the Federation Israeli Emissaries, and other teen community news. Then classes begin. The faculty come from across the community and the ideological spectrum and expose the students to the best that our community has to offer – from Holocaust studies, contemporary Hebrew through Israeli pop music, and medical ethics, to yoga and Jewish meditation and Jewish cooking.

Classes are not passive listening experiences but active discussions. Students are encouraged to ask questions, challenge, and share thoughts and



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www.ctjfs.org

perspectives. Fifty minutes fly by and the bell rings, signaling the end of first period. Off they all go to the social hall for a snack and 15 minutes of social time. Some students participate in mitzvah projects like packing Purim gift bags for Jewish Senior Services residents, or packing Passover food bags for Schoke Jewish Family Service.

After the break, the students and faculty are off to their second-period class. For this hour, juniors might be in a College Bound class and seniors might be in a Senior Seminar discussing how to respond to anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism on college campuses. Younger students attend Morality for Muggles (Jewish values in the Harry Potter series), Superheroes and Jewish Values, Name That Tune, Start-up Nation, Jewish Genealogy through Technology, and other courses that pique our students' varied interests and expose them to a variety of Jewish texts, topics and issues.

Jewish education is so much more than bar- or bat-mitzvah training. As our teens



mature, so does their ability to study and grapple with more serious Jewish topics. As they leave Merkaz on Tuesday night, a number of them say, "Thank you and see you next week!"

Spring semester is underway and it's not too late to register! For more information, visit merkazct.org or call (203) 450-5303.

Merkaz receives an annual allocation from Federation for Jewish Philanthropy.



Georgann Hoffman
Agent

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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
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The tradition of lifelong learning.

The tradition of sharing life's greatest
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The tradition that a good question
beats a good answer.

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to be Jewish.

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holidayhilldaycamp.com

BETH EL FAIRFIELD

1200 Fairfield Woods Road, Fairfield
(203) 374-5544 / congbethel.net

Pesach: Time of Our Freedom

By Rabbi Marcelo Kormis

Pesach is about the relevance of freedom in our lives – not only physical freedom but also inner and spiritual freedom as well. Only a person who is free from physical and spiritual slavery can appreciate the real worth of time. That is why Passover is called in our liturgy **Zman Heruteinu** (the time of our freedom) and not **Hag Heruteinu** (the holiday of our freedom). In the Jewish calendar, the holidays occur on one specific day, while times are unlimited and are not linked to any specific date. Every year, the celebration of Passover invites us to value the various times and cycles of our lives, and to understand that only a person who is genuinely free

from slavery can enjoy the spiritual dimension of time.

I recently received a very inspiring email. "If you want to know the value of one year, just ask a student who failed a course. If you want to know the value of one month, ask a mother who gave birth to a premature baby. If you want to know the value of one hour, ask the lovers waiting to meet. If you want to know the value of one minute, ask the person who just missed the bus. If you want to know the value of one second, ask the person who just escaped death in a car accident. And if you want to know the value of one-hundredth of a second, ask the athlete who won a silver medal in the

Olympics." This quote, attributed to Marc Levy, brings a deeper perspective about the relevance of time in our lives. So I have just one line to add: If you want to know the value of life, ask yourself, "How am I spending my time?" As we get ready to celebrate Pesach with family and friends, let's reflect on the meaning of this *Zman Heruteinu*, this time of our freedom, and let's renew our commitment to the gift.



BETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE CHABAD OF WESTPORT/ NORWALK

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

The SHUL, incorporated in 1899 as The Hebrew Bet Israel Society, Inc., is today known as Beth Israel Synagogue Chabad of Westport/Norwalk. Of the most outstanding services provided by the SHUL to our community is the availability for all to have their son or daughter prepare for their Bar/Bat-Mitzvah at Beth Israel Chabad without the requirement of membership.

This approach has worked well as the SHUL's mission statement is to be open to all who seek an authentic Jewish experience. Every effort is extended to make lifecycle events both personally uplifting as well as a sharing experience with the larger Jewish community. The SHUL's approach is firmly rooted in our peoplehood, love of Israel and fidelity to

the traditions of Torah.

Our dynamic Rabbi Yehoshua S. Hecht personally directs the study of each Bar/Bat-Mitzvah and the results are inspirational. The Synagogue's warm sanctuary setting and its beautiful edifice create the ambiance of being in a welcoming spiritual home.

Young people and adults attending services, programs and classes gain a strong sense of Jewish identity and pride

in Judaism. The SHUL also sponsors the well-regarded after-school Weston/Westport Hebrew School that meets at the Grange in Weston under the leadership of master Jewish-studies educator, Freida Hecht. For more info, visit westonhebrewschool.org.

Our SHUL extends best wishes to all for a sweet, happy and kosher Passover!



Mendel Stone enjoys *shmurah matzah*, the food of freedom!

CHABAD OF FAIRFIELD

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

WHAT IS? Rethinking Everything We Know about Our Universe

Chabad of Fairfield invites the community to a new six-session course designed for participants seeking a deeper understanding of their world. The course aims to provide people the tools to experience a richer, deeper, and more meaningful life.

What Is? Is the world real? What is time? Where does our sense of self come from? Why does evil exist? If G-d already knows what we will do tomorrow, is our "freedom of choice" nothing more than an illusion? Does the word "G-d" actually mean something, or is it just a way of referring to whatever it is that we cannot explain?

Imagine that we were able to rethink everything we know about the universe, the laws of nature, our own consciousness—even the very idea of existence and reality. Imagine the new insights we would gain, and the fresh perspective with which we would embark on the journey of life each morning. *What Is?* does exactly that. Drawing on the wisdom of Chasidic teaching, the most basic building blocks of existence are reexamined from the bottom up, revolutionizing our understanding of life, reality, and our place in the world.

Like all Chabad programs, this

course is designed to appeal to people at all levels of knowledge, including those without any prior experience or background in Jewish learning. All Chabad programs are open to the public, and attendees need not be affiliated with a particular synagogue, temple, or other house of worship.

Choose from Thursday evenings starting May 10 or Sunday mornings starting June 3. Registration is required: ChabadFF.com / (203) 373-7551 | This course will also be offered at Chabad of WWWN in Westport.



CHABAD OF WWWN

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

The New Chabad Jewish Center is set to open in Spring 2018!! Once a concept, now a reality!! Co-directed by Rabbi Yehuda and Dina Kantor, Chabad of WWWN is in 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 is designed to make Judaism accessible and experiential to ensure a vibrant Jewish tomorrow and make the world a better place! The programs offered at Chabad of WWWN include Camp Gan Israel, Cteen, Hebrew School, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Adult Classes, Holiday Celebrations and more!



CONGREGATION AHAVATH ACHIM

92 Montauk St., Fairfield
AhavathAchim.org / (203) 372-6529

A Synagogue without Walls

August 2017 opened a new chapter for our congregation: We completed the sale of our beloved building on Stratfield Road in Fairfield with great sadness but also with great anticipation for the future, and created a "synagogue without walls" in the greater Bridgeport and Fairfield communities.

We have taken our regular services and holiday celebrations on the road. We joined the weekly community minyan for the morning and afternoon/evening services in Bridgeport, and met for Friday and Saturday Shabbat services at the American Legion Hall at Owen Fish Park in Fairfield. The severe winter weather forced us to abandon that building while a new heating system is being installed and we are so grateful to

the Risch family, devoted congregants, for sharing their home with us for Shabbat services.

We celebrated Purim with services, Megillah reading and a Masquerade Dinner at Congregation Agudas Achim in Bridgeport and are looking forward to returning to the American Legion Hall to celebrate Passover.

Ahavath Achim's legacy lives on in the form of donations to the Jewish community and beyond. We are very proud that we have shared many of the religious books and Jewish texts from our library, as well as some of our Torah scrolls, with Hebrew schools, synagogues, and local "chaverim" groups. We donated our large collection of Yiddish-language books to the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, Mass. We are also proud to have donated all

our kitchen equipment and supplies to various local organizations like churches and other non-profit groups that serve the community by preparing and serving meals to those in need.

So that's the Tale of the Wandering Synagogue. Stay tuned – future details will be shared as we find a new permanent location and invite everyone to join with us in celebration. Times and locations for all prayer services and events are listed on our website.

Ahavath Achim members transformed Congregation Agudas Achim in Bridgeport for a Purim celebration.



CONGREGATION BETH EL-NORWALK

109 East Ave., Norwalk
congbethel.org / (203) 838-2710

Congregation Beth El Norwalk's 2018 Gala Honorees

You could say that Josh Lander and Sharon Oberst DeFala grew up at Congregation Beth El. It started with Josh's bris at the temple! Both attended religious school from kindergarten through 10th-grade confirmation. Sharon went on to work in the religious school and as a USY/Kadima advisor. She then joined the Board and chaired many events, eventually joining the Executive Committee, holding VP positions in Fund Raising, Membership, and Education before finally becoming President; she is currently in the last year of a three-year term. Josh has been an Executive Board Member, holding VP positions of House and Fund Raising. He runs our annual Gala auction as well as our Purim

Carnival with his wife Jill. Adding to Josh's many hats, he has co-run our very successful food and gift-card program.

Now their children are following in their footsteps, all of them having attended Beth El's Navasky Religious School. Josh's two sons, Ari and Evan, and Sharon's son, Donny, became b'nei-mitzvah on the same bima as their parents, and volunteered as madrichim in the Religious School. Sharon's daughter, Belle, will become

a bat-mitzvah this May.

In addition to all the work they do for our congregation and the volunteer work they do in their home community of Norwalk, Josh runs his own contracting business, Lander Group, LLC, and Sharon practices law with her family at Oberst Law.

Beth El honored Josh and Sharon for all they do at the synagogue's Annual Gala in March.



Sharon DeFala and Josh Lander with Sen. Richard Blumenthal at Beth El's 2018 Gala.

CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

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

A Spirited Commitment to *Tikkun Olam*

B'nai Israel seeks to embody the call for *Tikkun Olam* – repairing the world. The congregation strives to make a big impact on the Greater Bridgeport community, the nation, Israel and the world at large.

"Social action and social justice are core to who we are at B'nai Israel," Congregation President Michael Blumenthal says.

The congregation's efforts touch a wide range of issues and causes. Our BIFTY teens help lead the annual Yom Kippur food drive that last fall collected more than two tons of food for Operation Hope in Fairfield and the Connecticut Food Bank.

The monthly Mitzvah Mornings help

build a better Bridgeport, as volunteer efforts include planting a community garden, rebuilding a school playground and assisting military veterans.

"I am very proud that B'nai Israel congregants step up in so many ways when there is a need in the community," Rabbi Jim Prosnit says.

B'nai Israel assists with a mentoring program at Housatonic Community College in Bridgeport. Clergy and congregants seek ecumenical solutions for community and racial issues as a part of CONECT – Congregations Organized for a New Connecticut.

Religious School students take on anti-Semitism and bullying in conjunction with the Anti-Defamation League. Our Confirmation students lobby Connecticut's congressional delegation during an annual trip to Washington, D.C.

Over the past year, the congregation stepped up to assist victims of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria, including raising more than \$14,000 to help Puerto Rico on behalf of the Bridgeport Puerto Rican community.

B'nai Israel wants to make a difference wherever, whenever and for whomever it can.



CONGREGATION B'NAI TORAH

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

Celebrating Hanukkah at B'nai Torah

By Linda Shames, President

Our Hanukkah celebrations at B'nai Torah have a rich history. The 8-foot-tall menorah shown here was built by B'nai Torah congregant Manny Lobel some 40 years ago. The initial lighting took place in December 1978, in front of Trumbull Town Hall. The menorah was constructed using PVC pipe for longevity and minimal maintenance; it has definitely stood the test of time. The annual tradition continued at Town Hall for 15 years. Since then, the menorah has been prominently displayed outside Congregation B'nai Torah each year during the Hanukkah season.

This year, standing out among the stars, our Talmud Torah students kindled

the first night's candle with Trumbull's First Selectman Vicki Tesoro. Our students studied the history of Hanukkah and how its lessons can be applied in the world today. In addition to the outdoor menorah-lighting, our students attended a holiday party filled with dreidels,

latkes, sufganiyot, and chocolate gelt.

Thanks again to Manny Lobel for helping to keep the tradition vibrant and meaningful over the course of decades!

Rabbi Colin Brodie leads a blessing as
Manny Lobel "lights" the Congregation
B'nai Torah menorah.



CONGREGATION FOR HUMANISTIC JUDAISM OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY

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

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. We offer a 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-naming 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.

Additional information on the Congregation for Humanistic Judaism of Fairfield County can be found on our website at humanisticjews.org.



CONGREGATION RODEPH SHOLOM

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

Historic synagogue, modern congregation

Congregation Rodeph Sholom is a community of diverse Jews who adhere to the principles of the Conservative Movement while being relevant to our contemporary way of life and making Judaism more relevant for us. Our community draws members from many communities throughout upper Fairfield County. We have an energetic membership and engaging clergy in Rabbi David S. Barnett and Hazzan Niema Hirsch, both of whom bring a dynamic approach to Judaism to a historic synagogue. Our staff and volunteers create a warm atmosphere for spiritual nurturing and connection.

At Rodeph Sholom, we work hard to balance tradition and practice in the

context of our world. Our members are the core of our synagogue. Some families have had an affiliation for several generations; others are first-generation congregants. Our synagogue is a community of people with the desire to engage in Jewish knowledge, spirit, culture, and community.

We invite you to get to know us better, and look forward to welcoming you to our community. If you have any questions or would like a building tour, please contact our executive director, Mark Block, at mblock@rodephsholom.com.



TEMPLE SHALOM

259 Richards Ave., Norwalk
TempleShalomWeb.org
(203) 866-0148

At Temple Shalom, we draw membership from 10 different communities throughout Fairfield County. As a warm, inclusive and Interfaith family-friendly Reform congregation, we welcome congregants from different backgrounds who choose Temple Shalom for a unique synagogue experience. Our clergy and staff go above and beyond to ensure all of our congregants are treated as valued members of our community. With joyful services and cultural events, music is a cornerstone of our celebration of Jewish life. Our Jewish experience is enriched with beautiful music and inspiring leadership of our clergy. We offer many opportunities to engage individuals and families of all ages – from infant to pre-school full daycare in our renowned Gan

Yeladim preschool to Hebrew school, teen programs, adult education, social-action opportunities and more.

We serve our members and the community with excellence and integrity as a:

- Beit T'filah – A house of prayer built on a rich and beautiful musical tradition and practice, creating an oasis of shalom in our otherwise hectic lives
- Beit Midrash – A house of study from childhood into adulthood and maturity, developing an understanding of our faith, traditions and heritage and instilling them in our children

• Beit Kneset – A house of community, fostering interconnectedness among our members, with the community at large and with the Children of Israel, committed to the practice of “tikun olam” - healing the world.

We welcome you to call, email or schedule a visit with Rabbi Lipson, Cantor Sklar or our Executive Director, Stacey Cohen, to learn more about Temple Shalom.



THE CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE

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

On March 18, 2018, TCS celebrated 30-plus years of our congregation's history. Formed in 1987 inside an office building above Baskin Robbins in downtown Westport, our synagogue family has grown to over 430 families in our permanent home on Hillspoint Road in Westport.

We honored three couples at this year's Gala, each representing a different decade in our synagogue history: **Eric and Lois Baron** (our first decade), **Robert and Julie Haroun** (our second decade), and **Ben and Ivy Gosseen** (our third decade). The evening was a celebration of our past, present, and future, as we are truly “Thriving at Thirty.”

TCS is proud of our commitment to the larger Jewish community. Our members are leaders in Federation, AIPAC, ADL, FIDF, Schoke Jewish Family Service, the local Jewish day schools, and more. With a state-of-the-art preschool, energetic religious school (Kehillah), vibrant adult-education program, engaged social-action program, and a group of families ready to support one another in good times

and bad, we believe TCS is a pretty special place to be.

If you'd like to learn more about the TCS community, please give us a call or just stop by and say hello!



Connecticut's Premier JeWish Overnight Camp!



Come meet our
friendly staff
and see our renovated
campus at your convenience.
Just contact
evelyn@camplaurelwood.org.



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