



Jewish Federation  
OF GREATER NEW HAVEN

JEWISH  
FOUNDATION



*of Greater New Haven*

jcc  
of greater  
new haven

# 2014-2015 ANNUAL REPORT

## MESSAGE FROM THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER NEW HAVEN

## PRESIDENT

What exciting times for New Haven and our Jewish Community. All our agencies are thriving and committed to a strong future. Solar panels have changed the landscape and the efficiency of the JCC. Tower One/ Tower East initiated a new outreach program for the elderly. Ezra Academy's student numbers continue to grow and their new initiatives are thriving while Camp Laurelwood boasts additional improvements to their great facility. Jewish Family Service has vastly expanded its food pantry and its services thanks to a \$100,000 matching grant from the Jewish Foundation and Federation. Southern Connecticut Hebrew Academy's High School for girls, Beit Chana, is growing and their nursery school is bursting at the seams.

For the first time in twenty years we have five exceptional young leaders in the prestigious Wexner Fellows program, which bodes well for our future. We are successfully transitioning to a more high-tech organization with the launch of a mobile donor platform, and videos of special events are uploaded on our website for the community to see. I have also started a photo blog on the Federation's Facebook page and website. A tremendously exciting retreat of our community synagogues was held, under the leadership of Eric Gallant and Deb Gaudette, to discuss synergies and future collaborations.

Women's Philanthropy, chaired by Elaine Braffman, hosted several enlightening talks while cultivating young people. JCRC, led by chair Allan Hillman and director Rabbi Joshua Ratner, continues to educate and advocate on issues of vital importance to us all. Quality programming peppered throughout all parts of Greater New Haven, from the East Shoreline to Cheshire to Milford, including Professor Daniel Goldhagen's talk on anti-Semitism, The Jerusalem Post's chief political analyst Herb Keinon discussing the recent elections in Israel, and Ken Marcus, head of the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law, presenting on the new anti-Semitism on college campuses, a stunning event chaired by Linda Cedarbaum. The Food4Kids program, led by Debra Epstein and her wonderful committee, provides food on weekends for students in



our local schools. We are proud of the 180 volunteers who work through the Jewish Coalition for Literacy (JCL) in seven public schools in New Haven, under coordinator Brenda Brenner and the committee headed by Donna Hersh. The Neighbor2Neighbor program, a collaboration of the Jewish Federation and United Way, initiated by our own Andy Eder and chaired this year by Mark Sklarz, provides food and support to those in need to organizations helping the most vulnerable in our community. We truly touch thousands of lives here at home, in the Ukraine and in Israel everyday through our campaign.

Thank you for all you do and I hope you will join me again to support these acts of loving kindness in the coming year.

Stephanie Wain  
President, Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven



## MESSAGE FROM THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER NEW HAVEN

## CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Friends:

It is with great pride that we present the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven's annual report to our community. Looking back over the past year, we have much to celebrate and much more to accomplish.

As you read this report, I hope you will understand and appreciate the incredible scope of our Federation and its tireless efforts to build a strong, vibrant Jewish community: the growth of the Jewish Foundation, under Dr. Jeffrey Hoos and executive director Lisa Stanger; the new programming at the JCC, led by director Shelley Gans and board chair Bob Felice; the service of the Russian acculturation events by Yelena Gerovich; the expanded offerings on the Shoreline, staffed by Jill W. Lesage; and the increased outreach of the Jewish Community Relations Council to the wider community, led by Rabbi Joshua Ratner and chair Allan Hillman. Thanks to chairperson Donna Hersh and coordinator Brenda Brenner, our volunteers in the Jewish Coalition for Literacy, 180 strong in seven New Haven public schools, and Food4Kids are making a difference in the lives of children in our area. And we are particularly proud that KESHER, our initiative with area synagogues, has had a very successful start in working together for our mutual benefit.

The aptly named "Community One" took place at the Shubert Theatre this fall with the production of A Jew Grows in Brooklyn. In one night, we raised more than \$500,000 ensuring our future with Perpetual Annual Campaign Endowment (PACE) gifts. In solidarity with French Jews, Caryl Kligfeld and I joined a JAFI mission to Paris to express our solidarity with French Jewry, and in March, we took a mission to Morocco and met with Jews there, explored a history of more than 2,000 years, and visited sites run by the "Joint" (JDC) for children and for health care.

It is abundantly clear that to live a Jewish life, Jews need each other. To support a Jewish community, Jews need each other. Our synagogues and schools educate and provide spiritual sustenance; our agencies carry out the very values Torah instills in us: caring for the elderly, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, welcoming the stranger, comforting the mourner. This is the sacred work the Federation does every day.

Last summer, you responded generously to Operation Protective Edge. This year, you again opened your hearts and your wallets and pocketbooks for relief for



Jews in the Ukraine and during the two earthquakes in Nepal, which not only killed almost 10,000 people, but also left thousands upon thousands homeless during the monsoon season.

It is in the context of community that we are guided by the principle that we are all responsible for one another – wherever they are in need. What is transcendent, meaningful, everlasting is when we join together in an enterprise that is greater than ourselves.

We are grateful to the officers and boards of the Federation, Foundation and JCC, who, in partnership with the outstanding staff, enable the Federation, its constituent agencies, synagogues, overseas partners, and organizations, to jointly fulfill our important mission. And we are ever grateful to you, the donors to our Annual Campaign, for building and sustaining our community for today, tomorrow and forever.

Together may we go from strength to strength,

Sydney A. Perry  
CEO Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven





## Robert Eisner Community Service Award

**Dr. Steven Fleischman** Throughout his life, Steve has always been actively committed to his community. Currently at the end of his second year as President of Congregation B'nai Jacob, he has been nominated to serve a second term. Additionally, he has been nominated to serve as the new vice chair of the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven. He is an elected member of the Woodbridge Board of Education, the local chapter of the Red Cross Board of Directors and has chaired many fundraising events for health-related causes. Steve, currently in practice with the Obstetrics, Gynecology and Menopause Physicians, PC, and his wife, Andrea, reside in Woodbridge with their four children, Samantha, Julie, Zoe, and Adam.



## Robert Eisner Community Service Award

**Evan Wyner** Evan Wyner is the outgoing President of the Board of Ezra Academy, where he has been a board member since 2012. Evan's volunteer work has included long service to the Board of Temple Beth Shalom that culminated in a two-year term as president. Evan is active in Scouting with stints as assistant scoutmaster and scoutmaster of Troop #41. Evan also serves on the Federation board and will be the Vice President of Education for 2015-16. Evan lives in Woodbridge with his wife, Stacey, and four children, Jacob, Alex, Ari, and Aviva. Professionally, Evan is the Senior Director of Commissioning & Energy Services at Colliers International.



## JCC President's Award

**Dr. Stanley F. and Marcia Reiter** Stanley and Marcia have been longtime committed members of the Greater New Haven Jewish community and the JCC. When the call went out to fund building a swimming pool at the new location of the JCC in Woodbridge, Stanley and Marcia stepped up to the challenge. Now, more than 20 years later, they answered the call again when it came time for a costly and much-needed swimming pool repair. In those two decades since the building of the Dr. Stanley F. and Marcia Reiter swimming pool, scores of swimmers have benefitted from the Reiters' generous contributions. Their recent donation to the Dr. Stanley F. and Marcia Reiter swimming pool will ensure that the swimming pool will be here for generations of swimmers to come.



## Robert M. Pite Youth Award

**Tova Benson-Tilsen** Tova Benson-Tilsen has been a member of Kadima and USY youth groups for seven years, and for the last three years she has served in leadership positions. Tova serves as religious education chair, an elected peer leader responsible for infusing religious content into USY events. She has also co-chaired an International USY program and has served as both local and regional religious education chair. She has also presented at Taste of Honey, sharing her opinions on the new controversial amendment to the USY constitution. She is a strong supporter of social justice projects. In March, Tova volunteered at a temporary shelter for homeless individuals at her synagogue where she served a warm meal and provided company for the individuals. Her involvement demonstrates her interest in Tikun Olam and the betterment of the community. Tova has shown her commitment as an active and enthusiastic member of the Jewish community.



## Federation President's Award

**David Beckerman** A native of New Haven, David Beckerman, who grew up at the JCC and has become a most successful businessman, has never forgotten his roots. His philanthropy has helped strengthen the Jewish Community Center, the University of New Haven, Hamden Hall Country Day School, and multiple other organizations. David has been a winning basketball coach at the JCC, at Hamden Hall and the Pine Crest School in Florida. He believes in the necessity of excellent teamwork and always planning your next move. He has been honored many times for his service in our community. He is now honored with the President's Award for his constant and dedicated leadership, coaching and coaxing for PACE (Perpetual Annual Campaign Endowment) to ensure the continued vitality of our community.



## Harry Lender Young Leadership Award

**Lauren Hass**  
**Dr. Sharon Hasbani**  
**Dr. Dena Schulman-Green**  
**Scott Hurwitz, Esq.**  
**Meir Holtzberg**

Our five Wexner Fellows are each accomplished in their own way both as professionals and community leaders. They are being honored as a group as they enter the second year of the Wexner Heritage Study Programs. This tight knit group is planning ways that they can make a positive contribution to the community as leaders.



## Kavod Key Award

**David Sirowich** David Sirowich has been an active JCC member and avid supporter since 2007. While sitting on the Bagel Run committee, David took on the fundraising efforts and grew sponsor dollars from \$5,000 in the race's inaugural year to more than \$23,000 last year. David joined the JCC Board of Directors in 2013 and spearheaded the corporate sponsorship and fundraising efforts of the entire organization. In working with JCC staff, David has developed a systematic and strategic plan to raise sponsorship revenue for the entire JCC operation. David is smart and committed and truly a wonderful example of the next generation of JCC leadership. David is also actively involved in Beth-Wood Baseball where he has coached for several years. When not volunteering, he is the Executive Vice President, PBIRx, Inc. He resides in Woodbridge with his wife, Colby (Lichtman), and their three children.



## Robert M. Pite Youth Award

**Noa Shapiro-Franklin** Noa Shapiro-Franklin has lived in Woodbridge for two years and immediately became an active member in the BEKI/BJ Kadima/USY chapter, taking on the position of membership and communication VP. Her first summer, Noa volunteered as a counselor at the JCC camp. Noa was elected regional president of USY. That entailed planning for weeklong programs for hundreds of high school students, organizing two regional weekend conferences, attending international leadership events, speaking and recruiting new members, and making policy decisions. Last summer, she traveled to Israel with USY. She has also participated as a speaker at Taste of Honey, discussing the new USY inter-dating policy. Noa has shown she possesses the personality, enthusiasm, passion, and ability to turn these traits into action. For her example of service, leadership and involvement in the Jewish community, Noa has been awarded the Robert M. Pite Award.

# Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven

## The Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven

helps more Jews than any organization in our community. We help educate children so they build Jewish identities. We act when Jewish families are in danger. We help care for the elderly. We connect newcomers to our community. We empower leaders so they make a bigger impact. How do we do all this for all these people? We work as a system with local and overseas partners. Instead of focusing on one need or cause, we look at the community as a whole. This way, one donation supports the issues you are aware of as well as those that are less obvious but no less important. Being aware of the growing changes and needs in our community and creating solutions to meet them is something in which we take great pride. Whether it's helping a senior stay in their house longer, sending a Jewish child to camp, feeding a family in Russia, or educating an at-risk youth in Israel, we're there to help. Our work varies widely but each program we support is vitally important to the people who need it. This is all possible because of generous people in our community who make annual contributions to the Federation.



Jewish Federation  
OF GREATER NEW HAVEN

## Campaign

### Major Gifts Event

■ We kicked off our Community Campaign honoring Dr. Milton Wallack for his lifetime service to our community. Dr. Stephen M. Berk spoke on anti-Semitism, Israel, Gaza, and the search for peace. The event was very well attended by more than 250 people in the JCC's Vine Auditorium.

### Super Sunday

■ On Sunday, Dec. 14, we held our Annual Super Sunday Tailgate Party at the JCC. The event was a success as more than 60 volunteers showed solidarity to our fundraising campaign. More than 350 donors helped us reach our goal of \$250,000. Annual Campaign totals (as of publication) continued to trend slightly higher than last year.

Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven

**2014-2015 Use of Annual Campaign \$2,607,773\***

\*Includes \$88,000 for Planning & Allocations from Jewish Foundation



### Women's Philanthropy

■ **Summer Reads Cool Reads for Hot Days:** In its fourth year it continues to be a major program highlight and is set to take place at a home on the Milford shoreline with Roxanne J. Coady, owner, R.J. Julia bookstore.

■ **Talking with Our Children and Grandchildren About Anti-Semitism:** Considering the world situation and growth of anti-Semitism, Women's Philanthropy presented a meaningful, important and timely educational program with panel participants Marji Lipshez-Shapiro, Dr. Hadar Lubin and Robyn Teplitzky, moderator.

■ **Food4Kids New Haven:** Celebrated its one year anniversary and is growing. Led by chair Debra Epstein, the community service project is making a strong impact. Thanks to the collaborated efforts of the Jewish Family

Service, Women's Philanthropy of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven and the generous support from the community, we have been able to expand and now serve students at the Clinton Avenue School in addition to East Rock Community Magnet School in New Haven. We are currently providing food bags to more than 100 students from low-income households, including their siblings, who do not have enough food on the weekend. Students who have participated in this program have demonstrated improvement in school attendance, test scores and health. We thank our community donors, synagogues, religious school students, and volunteers who have played an integral role in the Food4Kids New Haven project.

■ **Women's Philanthropy Campaign:** Women's Philanthropy Lions of Judah and Pomegranates came together and were recognized at the program "Why Jewish Women's History Matters" featuring Judith Rosenbaum, executive director for the Jewish Women's Archive, who spoke about women's empowerment and explained and elevated the concept of Jewish women's history to our major donors. She educated us on the importance of women's history and social history. Young women students from Ezra Academy were invited.

■ **Young Women's Philanthropy Circle:** Young Women's Philanthropy affinity group has grown and continues to connect young Jewish women to Federation and the community. **An Evening with a Twist** took place at a private home. Lana Gad, early childhood director at Congregation B'nai Jacob, demonstrated the art of baking the Jewish nation's signature bread. Participants met, mingled, braided, and learned everything they *kneaded* to know about challah baking. The program was a sell out.

■ **Women's Network:** Presented **Keeping Relationships Healthy, Sexy and Fun.** It was an evening addressing how to save the sizzle with nationally recognized relationship expert Rachel A. Sussman, LCSW, who dished out advice and answered questions about relationships. Sussman addressed the issues, needs and desires of women throughout the lifespan while providing useful tools to enhance relationships.

■ **Federation Jewish Realtors Affinity Group:** Jews on the Move brought together area Jewish realtors at a lunch session with executive director Sydney Perry discussing the Pew report and the impact of Jewish demographics in our community. Together with Federation, the Federation's Jewish Realtor group will help newcomers to transition and connect with our Jewish community.

## Leadership

### Wexner Fellows

Our five Wexner Fellows Dr. Sharon Hasbani, Dr. Dena Schulman-Green, Lauren Hass, Scott Hurwitz, and Meir Holtzberg are being honored at our Annual Meeting with the Harry Lender Young Leadership Award. They are just finishing the first of two years in the Wexner Heritage Study Program and are planning ways to apply what they are learning to our community.

## Israel and Overseas

## Ukraine

Ukraine has been wracked by conflict for months. The resulting economic and political instability has profoundly affected the country's more than 350,000 Jews. The national Federation System has allocated almost \$5 million to meet the immediate needs of Ukrainian Jews and facilitate aliya for those 6,000 Jews who had chosen to relocate to Israel. Our partner on the ground, The Joint (JDC), helps more than 70,000 impoverished Jewish elderly and children meet basic needs. But those needs have multiplied in cities that have become combat areas. Jews in Donetsk and Lugansk and surrounding areas have fled the region or are trapped in dangerous zones. They are dependent on us for fuel, food and medical care as well as for the increased security needed for synagogues, schools and Jewish agencies. We do not turn away when Jews are in need. With your help, we make a difference.

## Nepal

In the wake of a 7.8-magnitude earthquake in mountainous Nepal, Israel immediately sent the largest contingent of any nation to the devastated country. More than 250 doctors, search and rescue teams, and engineers were part of the aid convoy, which also consisted of 95 tons of humanitarian supplies. The field hospital was the largest in Katmandu and served more than 1,600 critically injured Nepalese and delivered eight babies in their maternity ward. At the time of the earthquake, there were 2,000 Israelis in the country, and all but one, who was killed in a remote area, were evacuated. But the crisis isn't over – and neither is Israel's work there in light of a second earthquake that struck. As the situation shifts from medical crisis to one involving long-term housing needs, Israel is maintain its presence. We can be very proud of the way Israel responds wherever natural disaster strikes.

## Morocco

Lisa Stanger and Sydney Perry led a 10-day mission to Morocco in March. The group visited Casablanca, Marrakesh, Berber villages in the Atlas Mountains, Fez, Meknes, and Rabat and learned about the history of the Jews in the Magreb, toured the mellahs and medinas where Jewish life once flourished. At present, the entire Jewish population has dwindled to only a few thousand at best whereas they were once the most populous in any Muslim country. It was a fascinating exploration, replete with a dizzying array of color and spices, picturesque markets and new culinary delights. Morocco prides itself on being a most tolerant nation and, indeed, it was hospitable and charming. But Jewish life is retreating into the history books and museums.

## Paris

In the aftermath of the massacre of twelve people at the Paris office of the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo and the Islamist terrorist attack at a kosher supermarket in the elegant suburb of Saint-Mande, hard against Paris's eastern fringe, where four Jews were murdered and sixteen hostages were held prisoner, more than 4 million people were galvanized to take to the streets in a day of solidarity. "Nous sommes Charlie." "Nous sommes Juives." In the same spirit of camaraderie with the people of France and with the 550,000 French Jews, Caryl Kligfeld and Sydney Perry joined a small fact-finding mission from the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI). In a whirlwind three days in the City of Light, they met with the religious, secular and philanthropic leaders of the Jewish community as well as senior officials of the French government and the Israeli ambassador to France. The anxiety caused by the significant rise in anti-Semitism in France has resulted in the largest aliya from a Western country.

## Cardozo and Maimonides Affinity Groups

The Federation sponsored several lectures this year that focused on the rise of anti-Semitism, Israel and Judaism. Dr. Stephen Berk of Union College and Prof. Daniel Goldhagen spoke about the new anti-Semitism; Gil Hoffman, chief political correspondent of *The Jerusalem Post*, addressed the future of Israel at three locations the JCC, Temple Beth Sholom in Hamden, and on the shoreline; the Cardozo Society, our affinity group for lawyers, hosted Gil Hoffman and Kenneth Marcus, president and general counsel of the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law; Israeli foreign correspondent Mark Lavie shared reflections on the failure of the Arab Spring; chief political analyst of *The Jerusalem Post* Herb Keiron shared reflections on the Israeli election; Yale Professor Timothy D. Snyder gave a preview of his forthcoming book *Black Earth: Holocaust and Warning*; Dr. Avivah Zornberg spent a Shabbat in New Haven, talking at three synagogues about her latest book *Bewilderments*; and Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks joined Yale President Peter Salovey for a fascinating conversation about contemporary Judaism.

## Jewish Community Relations Council

The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), led by director Rabbi Joshua Ratner and chairman Allan Hillman has had an active year.

- Created a legislative breakfast on March 20. We were thrilled to welcome our largest attendance in years, including numerous rabbis and leaders from the Towers, ADL and Jewish Family Service in conversation with House Minority Leader Themis Klarides and Senators Gayle Slossberg, Joe Crisco and Gary Winfield.

- Joined CONECT (Congregations Organized for a New Connecticut) to amplify our ability to achieve results on social justice issues of concern to the Jewish community (such as education, immigration, health care access, and gun violence) and enhance our interfaith opportunities.

- Represented the New Haven Jewish community at the Annual Hunger Seder at the Capitol in Hartford.

- Represented the Jewish community in New Haven Mayor Toni Harp's Clergy Advisory Committee.

- Worked with statewide interfaith environmental leaders to develop legislative goals for the upcoming General Assembly.

- Worked with statewide interfaith environmental leaders to develop a strategy for capping the fixed rates state utilities can charge consumers, including writing an op-ed in *The New Haven Register*.

- Worked with local environmental leaders to help reactivate New Haven's Environmental Advisory Council.

- Attended non-profit advocacy day at the Capitol with Bob Fishman, president of JFACT.

- Met with Mayor Harp and other clergy to support CONECT's gun safety Do Not Stand Idly By campaign.

- Met with Presbyterian clergy to debrief their General Assembly vote about BDS (boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel) and to discuss future actions together.

- Created a vigil and later a memorial at the JCC for three Israeli teenagers killed by terrorists in the summer of 2015.

- Participated in numerous conference calls with national Jewish leaders and Israeli officials to update the Jewish community during the Israeli-Gaza conflict.

- Worked with synagogue leaders and area rabbis to generate support for the new Keshet Synagogue-Federation Collaboration committee and its April 26 workshop on membership engagement.

- Created a memorial service at the JCC in response to the Charlie Hebdo and Kosher Market murders in France.

- Co-created an interfaith conference in New Haven on food, faith and morality entitled "Just and Holy Food." Also wrote an op-ed about food justice in *The New Haven Register*.

- Organized an Iftar dinner with the Turkish Cultural Center for members of the Jewish community.

- In coordination with Rabbi Herb Brockman, Rabbi Ratner helped organize and spoke at a Prayer for Peace breakfast/Iftar event at the mosque in Berlin, Conn.

## Jewish Coalition For Literacy

- 180 volunteers serving 370 children in seven New Haven public schools.

- JCL held their Annual Information and Orientation Session for established and interested volunteers with Faye E. Brown, assoc. research scientist at Yale Child Study Center, and Cheryl Derwin, professor of psychology, assoc. chairperson, Psychology Dept., SCSU, as guest speakers. Volunteer Appreciation Reception was held in May with keynote speaker Linda Friedlaender, senior curator of education at Yale Center for British Art.

- Chair Donna Hersh, vice chair Beth Kaufman, coordinator Brenda Brenner.

## Community Outreach

### Synagogue Initiative

This year the Federation supported the programming of Congregation Beth El Keser Israel, Orchard Street Shul, Beth Israel Synagogue, Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek, Bikur Cholim Sheveth Achim, Westville Synagogue, Congregation B'nai Jacob, and Congregation Mishkan Israel.

### The Cemetery Association

This year the Association agreed to take over its tenth and eleventh cemeteries – Ahavos Shalom and Warshaver Relief Society, both located on Jewell Street in New Haven. We have continued to provide a free searchable database of the locations of more than 25,000 Jewish graves in New Haven and parts of Middlesex counties. The Association has nearly completed the installation of safety rails at the Jewell Street Cemeteries.

### New American Acculturation

Education, cultural and Judaic programs included one supported by a Women of Vision grant that brought together intergenerational groups of Jews from the former Soviet Union. Staffed by Yelena Gerovich.

### Jewish Scholarship Initiative

More than \$100,000 in financial assistance was given to children to attend Jewish preschool, day school, synagogue religious school, or local camp. Many would not be able to further their Jewish experiences without this help.

### HEPRP

Holocaust Education/Prejudice Reduction Program sponsored lecture by author Prof. Daniel Goldhagen. Special seminar for pedagogues in public, private and parochial schools by Yale Professor Timothy D. Snyder, author of *Bloodlands* and soon-to-be-published book *Black Earth: Holocaust as History and Warning*. Co-sponsored session with ADL for New Haven Public School educators who teach *Hana's Suitcase* and coordinated survivors to speak in public schools as part of classes on the Holocaust.

### Eder Leadership Initiative

Eder Leadership Institute (ELI) endeavors to engage

members of the Greater New Haven Jewish community through leadership skills development, learning and values-based decision making. Individuals are nominated by either their synagogue or through their participation with other Jewish agencies. This year's cohort consisted of eleven members from across the community, some already in leadership positions and others just beginning their involvement. Members of this year's cohort learned about the strengths and challenges of our community. They visited many of the constituent agencies to learn the needs of this community. The group covered issues including exploration of their Jewish values, community priority setting, skill building, and Jewish communal values and ethics. In addition, they developed a deeper understanding of the importance of leadership in our community and improved their own leadership skills. Staffed by Emily Sandberg.

### Community Civic Involvement

Partnered with the United Way, Neighbor2Neighbor raised more than \$300,000 for food pantries and soup kitchens as well as housing. Honored by New Reach for our assistance to the most vulnerable. Supported Long Wharf, New Haven Symphony, and Arts and Ideas through co-sponsored programming.

### Community Scholar-in-Residence

The weekend of May 15-17, the Jewish Federation partnered with Congregation B'nai Jacob, Beth El Keser Israel and the Westville Synagogue to bring Dr. Avivah Zornberg, Israeli biblical scholar, to our community. Author of four books, including the newly published *Bewilderments*, about the fourth book of the Torah, the Book of Numbers, Dr. Zornberg spoke at each of the three synagogues, attracting large crowds. With her trademark literary, scholarly, philosophical, and psychological analysis, Dr. Zornberg educated the attendees and served as a catalyst to community building. It was a Shabbat that will long be treasured.

### Synagogue and Federation Collaborative: Keshet

Past Federation president Don Hendel spearhead a Synagogue/Federation initiative with the objective of creating a more cohesive community. Deb Gaudette, past president of Temple Beth David in Cheshire, and Eric Gallant, Federation board member and Or Shalom board member, co-chaired the collaboration. Much thought and time was put into reaching out to all synagogue boards to bring them together over the year, and in February of 2015, Stacey Battat was hired as the staff person for KESHER. Stacey, together with Sydney Perry and Rabbi Josh Ratner, the co-chairs and committee members launched a workshop this spring, attended by almost every synagogue in the community.

*The mission of KESHER - The Synagogue and Federation Collaborative - is to create a permanent platform to create enhanced communications, relationships, and synergies between the synagogues and Federation and to build a stronger and vibrant Greater New Haven Jewish Community.*



# Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven Shoreline Office

Last summer through this July has been a banner year for the Shoreline. The Federation's Shoreline Office began distributing an e-newsletter that shares everything Jewish going on throughout the Shoreline and Lower CT River Valley. The Shoreline Office also continued expanding its presence in the community through sponsoring and co-sponsoring a series of programs and events, including:

- A conversation with internationally bestselling author of *The Devil That Never Dies*, Daniel Goldhagen, at the Guilford Free Library.
- Political discussions like "What the Future Holds: An Insider's Look at Israel" with *The Jerusalem Post* chief political correspondent and analyst Gil Hoffman at the Guilford Yacht Club.
- Social gatherings focused on Jewish entertainment at our 2014 summer Klezmer concert at The Kate in Old Saybrook.
- In partnership with Shoreline Hadassah, A *Downton Abbey* Chai Tea that featured Victorian costumed Prof. Mary Poovey speaking about Jewish Women in 19th Century Culture.
- A book signing at R.J. Julia Booksellers with social trailblazer Gail Sheehy, author of *Daring: My Passages – A Memoir*.
- Jewish Film screenings of *Hava Nagila* and *Body and Soul* at Evergreen Woods with CEO and historian Sydney Perry leading talkback discussions.
- In partnership with Women's Philanthropy, we featured topical speakers such as Roxanne Coady discussing popular summer literature.
- In the aftermath of Charlie Hebdo and Hyper Casher, we hosted two "Nous Sommes Juives" sessions with Caryl Kligfeld and Sydney Perry, who shared thoughts on their fact finding mission to Paris with the Jewish Agency for Israel.
- In-house workshops such as "What Every Parent Needs to Know About Special Education" facilitated by local professionals.
- A monthly Jewish Heritage program that featured Sydney Perry speaking on current events and other historic Jewish topics at Evergreen Woods Vibrant Living Center.
- A perspective conversation with foreign correspondent Mark Lavie about Tension and "Turmoil in the Middle East: Why the Media Gets Israel, Palestinians, ISIS, and the Arab Spring All Wrong."

## We built partnerships with the other Jewish organizations:

- With the Jewish Wellness and Healing Center of Jewish Family Service of Greater New Haven, we provide a popular monthly Adult Education series about *The Healing Power of Psalms and Pirke Avot: Reflections on How We Live Our Lives*.
- With Shoreline Hadassah, we held a Jewish book lecture series on the Shoreline with noted authors and hosted talk back speakers at the Madison Art Cinemas for feature films including *IDA* and *Woman in Gold*.
- In partnership with the Jewish Federation, we presented reflections of lectures and films at Evergreen Woods with featured speaker Sydney Perry.
- With PJ Library, we presented our annual Shoreline Hanukkah Festival of Lights at Camp Laurelwood, a family fun Purim event, a Tu B'Shevat Family program, and a Sukkot workshop called All Shook Up-A Lulav & Etrog Workshop.
- With Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek, we helped sponsor their dynamic Music and More series that opened with a tribute to Martin Luther King by Sweet Honey on the Rock.

## The office has become a popular meeting space for:

- Temple Beth Tikvah's monthly Women's Book Club.
- Jewish Family Service of Greater New Haven's state mandated Parent Education Program every month.
- A monthly Shoreline Chabad Women's Adult Education brunch called Lattes & Learning.
- Private sessions with a JFS affiliate social worker.
- Weekly Shoreline Chabad adult education classes like the Transformative Prayer & Meaningful Meditations series.
- Shoreline Hadassah meetings.



Ofir and Raz, teen emissaries who spent a successful year in New Haven, embrace coordinator Amalya Brownstein.

Michael Price presents to Milton Wallack an award at the Campaign Kick Off.

L to R: Rick & Jodi Pollack, Performer Jake Ehrenreich, Steve & Andrea Fleischman, Sydney Perry, Judy and Mark Sklarz attend Community One.



A group from Greater New Haven, led by Lisa Stanger and Sydney Perry, visits Morocco for Purim.



Sydney Perry & Lola show their spirit during a successful Super Sunday Campaign.



L to R: David Franklin, Sydney Perry, and A.O. Scott enjoy this year's Taste of Honey.



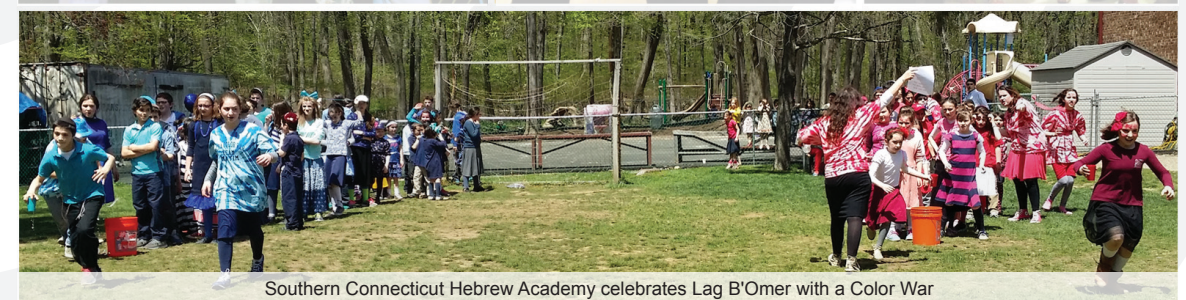
Mandy Tannenbaum, Rachel Sussman and Robyn Macy attend a Women's Philanthropy event.



Ezra Academy's 8th graders in Israel.



L to R: Jerry & Marlene Scharr, Gloria & Ed Sack, Sydney Perry, Sid & Ina Berson attend an event at The Kate in June.



Southern Connecticut Hebrew Academy celebrates Lag B'Omer with a Color War

# Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven

**THE BIG FIVE OH!**  
The Jewish Foundation endowments now exceed **\$50 million!**

**The Foundation**, founded in 1993 initially as a department of the Jewish Federation, was created by community leaders and visionaries Arthur Eder, Sam Glazer and Pat Goodwin, who realized early on that a community endowment was vital to sustain future generations in Jewish New Haven. Together they spent countless hours meeting with community members to encourage current and planned giving for our agencies and synagogues. Those gifts are still giving today through annual distributions in the community. The endowment, which now totals more than \$52 million includes more than 600 individual endowments and charitable trusts, more than 90% of which are designated or restricted mostly for local Jewish organizations. In the 2014 calendar year, the Jewish Foundation distributed over \$3.1 million (\$2.59 million to local synagogues and Jewish organizations).



## SOME ENDOWMENT SUCCESS STORIES

■ **Jewish Family Service.** In 2008, JFS had eight endowment funds at the Jewish Foundation totaling \$558,000. Today they have 11 endowments totaling \$2.2 million. Their 2015 distribution from these funds will be \$75,000 and, two retired JFS social workers have established charitable gift annuities for the benefit of JFS.

■ **Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel (BEKI).** In 2006, BEKI had 18 endowment funds at the Jewish Foundation totaling \$300,000. Now BEKI has 26 endowments totaling \$3.4 million. Their 2015 distribution from these funds will be \$134,000 (in addition, there is another \$1 million in commitments to BEKI endowments).

■ **ADL-Connecticut.** In 2007, ADL had no endowments at the Jewish Foundation. Now their endowments at the Jewish Foundation total \$800,000.

■ **Through the Create a Jewish Legacy Initiative,** Temple Beth David, Temple Emanuel and Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek together have secured \$2.7 million in commitments to their own synagogue endowments. A total of 22 percent of Temple Emanuel households have made a legacy commitment to their synagogue.

### Community Grants Initiative

Last year, the Jewish Foundation, with the collaboration of the Jewish Federation, offered this extraordinary program that awarded \$1 million to existing local Jewish organizations to provide funds to enable them to restructure and adapt or to address their most urgent needs. During the current year, more than \$600,000 in grants was paid, including the following: Congregation BEKI for new windows; Temple Beth Shalom for a partial roof replacement; Congregation Mishkan Israel for their parking lot; Ezra Academy and Congregation B'nai Jacob for a new roof; Jewish Family Service for an expansion of their food pantry including social services for participants; Temple Emanuel to create a new synagogue campus; Westville Synagogue for replacement of their air conditioning system; Southern CT Hebrew Academy for a new parking lot; Beth Israel, Wallingford, for a new garden and restoration of their entry window; Camp Laurelwood for winterization of their recreation hall; Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek for a community care coordinator; Congregation Or Shalom for capital improvements. In addition, grant awards included the Towers Foundation for their Fall Prevention Program; Orchard Street Shul for an elevator; Temple Beth David for restoration of their sanctuary; Jewish Historical Society for a program called "Museum in the Streets; Congregation Mishkan Israel for their parking lot; Hebrew Congregation of Woodmont to expand their kosher kitchen; and Temple Beth Tikvah for their driveway and parking lot.

*"The Community Grant Program was a tremendous incentive for our congregation. The price to repair our failing roof was significantly more than we could have afforded on our own but the combination of money raised from our congregants and the matching funds awarded by the grant committee enabled us to improve our synagogue, allowing it to remain the central fixture in*

*our community. Our congregation's support was significant and the fundraising guidelines required for the award of the grant was a large part of the incentive for our members," Brian Lakin, Temple Beth Shalom.*

*"The Community Grant has enabled JFS to undertake and establish a vast expansion and transformation of our long-time Emergency Food Assistance Program (i.e., the "JFS Food Pantry") into a comprehensive, multi-functional "Food Pantry and Nutritional Health Center." The project has increased our capacity and effectiveness to provide meaningful social services that address vital unmet needs to the community's most disadvantaged, disenfranchised, vulnerable, and at-risk families and children. We were able to increase the facility's hours of operation and staffing, incorporate the provision of much needed social services at the pantry/center, and offer a wide range of educational opportunities in the areas of nutrition, cooking, health, disease management, financial counseling, budgeting, employment, improving family dynamics, and stress management, to name a few. The ultimate achievement will be measured in the long-range success of the project's overarching goal to achieve for our clients long-term stability and sustainability well into the future by fostering the economic, emotional, spiritual, and physical well-being of all those we serve," Jonathan Garfinkle, JFS Executive Director.*

## FEDERATION PACE FUND & COMMUNITY ONE

### Perpetual Annual Campaign Endowment

**PACE The Future** Hundreds attended the Community One performance of *A Jew Grows in Brooklyn* at the Shubert Theatre on Oct. 25. It was a spectacular event and the performance was terrific. The event raised \$554,000, including 24 new endowments for Perpetual Annual Campaign Endowment (PACE) (with a total of 31 new PACE funds this year). David Beckerman's generous matching challenge on the night of the event was successfully met and exceeded our goal. A banner honoring all of those in the community who have established PACE funds is hanging in the auditorium tonight and permanently on the JCC front stairs.

PACE is a permanent fund established in your name. This restricted fund, created to endow your gift to the Jewish Federation Annual Campaign, allows your lifelong investment in your community to continue, providing help when and where it is needed, indefinitely. Your PACE fund can secure the future of our Jewish community.

**In 2008, there was \$1.2 million in PACE funds. Today there is \$11 million (in addition, there is another \$2 million in commitments to PACE)! This coming year, distributions from PACE will fund about 17 percent of campaign!**

## Create a Jewish Legacy New Haven



Create a Jewish Legacy represents a shared commitment by area synagogues and Jewish organizations to work together to secure a more vibrant Jewish future. Create a Jewish Legacy is sponsored and presented by the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation of Western Massachusetts.

Through this initiative, the Jewish Foundation will pay out more than \$200,000 in incentive grants and, most importantly, assist local agencies and synagogues in creating successful and lasting endowment campaigns. To date, this initiative has secured more than \$4.6 million in commitments from 225 individuals and families. For more information, visit [www.jewishlegacynewhaven.org](http://www.jewishlegacynewhaven.org)

*"I think Create a Jewish Legacy New Haven has enabled Temple Emanuel families to have a conversation that they didn't really see themselves having before. As a 'young' community, they were used to having to pull together to make it work, to keep the doors open, to raise the funds needed to build the sanctuary, but they did not see themselves as an 'institution' that needed (let alone could have) an endowment of some sorts. What the legacy drive did was enable so many of our life-long members to look at the community they built over the last 50 years, and to begin to see how they want to acknowledge the role it played (and continues to play) in their lives. In addition, having never done this kind of work within the community, they expected very little if any interest - and they were blown away by people's willingness to support the temple in such a way. It enabled the conversations not just about what the synagogue and the community means to our members, but how much they want it to be there for the future generations - a major shift in communal thinking," Rabbi Michael Farbman, of Temple Emanuel.*

*"The Create a Jewish Legacy program as we are able to utilize it has been a great aide for ongoing fundraising. Members are able to make a commitment going forward and in many cases, not have it affect their standard of living. It also positions our synagogue to be able to afford planning forward into the future. Currently, over 10% of our community has pledged, but a significant number are preparing their pledges as we go forward. A terrific program for the benefit of our community and for all communities that participate," Kevin Fox, Treasurer, Cong. Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek.*

*"Temple Beth David now has a developing program for both their Endowment Program and their Legacy Program. We have a more knowledgeable and committed donor base for future stability and we and our committee have enjoyed the*

*success we have achieved in asking our community to join us in committing to Temple Beth David's present and future," Fern and Barry Feldman, Chairs of the Life and Legacy Program for Temple Beth David.*

*The participating organizations are Congregation Beth El-Keser Israel (BEKI), Congregation Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek, Jewish Cemetery Association of Greater New Haven, Jewish Family Service of New Haven, Jewish Historical Society, Orchard Street Shul, Temple Beth David, Temple Beth Shalom, Temple Beth Tikvah, Temple Emanuel and the Towers Foundation.*

### Women of Vision Society

The Women of Vision Society awarded local grants totaling \$10,000. Women of Vision provides women in our community with an easy and accessible way to become lifelong philanthropists through this permanent, restricted endowment fund. The endowment was originally created in 1996 with its founding 100 members and has doubled in its membership and giving since then. Since 1998, more than \$140,000 has been distributed in grants to a wide variety of agencies and causes ranging from employment and literacy to acculturation and health issues.

**"As I look at it now, I don't know what the community would be like without the Foundation. The agencies, the synagogues, count on the income they receive from Foundation endowments. The endowments have helped and will continue to help us feed those in need, provide Jewish camping and education, as well as programs for the frail and elderly," stated Pat Goodwin, z"l.**



## New Funds established at the Jewish Foundation (08.01.14 - 04.30.15):

### New PACE Funds for the benefit of the Jewish Federation

Josef and Cecle Adler Family PACE Fund

Judy and Stephen August PACE Fund

Sara and Hillel Auerbach PACE Fund

Cedarbaum Family PACE Fund

Chaffkin Family PACE Fund

Linda and Kenneth Cohen PACE Fund

Joanna and Scott Cooper Family PACE Fund

Diamond Family PACE Fund

Irving Eckhardt Memorial PACE Fund

Fleischman Family PACE Fund

Dr. Allan and Claire Frankel PACE Fund

David P. Gershoni PACE Fund

Lindy Lee Gold PACE Fund

Velma and Stuart Grodd PACE Fund

Allan Hillman PACE Fund

Heidi and Norman Hurwitz Family PACE Fund

Jocelyn and Scott Hurwitz Family PACE Fund

Kagan Family PACE Fund

Katzman Family PACE Fund

Edward Konowitz Charitable Gift Annuity for the benefit of the Jewish Federation of GNH

George and Susan Krall Family PACE Fund

Donna and Sidney Levine PACE Fund

Barbara and Jeff Orell PACE Fund

Sydney A. Perry PACE Fund

Alan and Francine S. Ponchick PACE Fund

In Memory of Marvin ("Murphy") and Norma Abeshouse Schaefer

Alan & Elizabeth Kaye Reznik Family PACE Fund

Stuart and Susan Rosenholtz PACE Fund

James Sachs PACE Fund

David and Stacey Trachten Family PACE Fund

Barry and Hyla Vine Annual Campaign Endowment Fund

Waynik Larrison Family PACE Fund

### Fund for Temple Emanuel

Temple Emanuel Endowment

### Funds for March of the Living and Holocaust Education

Muriel R. Kaltman Jarmak Holocaust Education Fund

Congregation Kol Ami March of the Living Fund

### Fund for the JCC

JCC Board Endowment for the Benefit of the JCC

### Fund for the Towers

Cedarbaum Family Fund for Transportation for Tower's Residents

### Fund for Hebrew Free Burial and Loan Association

Hebrew Burial & Free Loan Association of GNH

### Unrestricted Fund

Daniel and Rose Smolen Unrestricted Fund

### Philanthropic/Donor Advised Funds

Alayne and Martin S. Burger Philanthropic Fund

Feldman Family Philanthropic Fund

Gershoni Family Foundation

Joan and Alan Kliger Family Philanthropic Fund

Kenneth Rosenthal and Catherine Forman Philanthropic Fund

### Fund for the benefit of Congregation Bnai Jacob

Astrove Family Endowment Fund in memory of Sherwin B. Nuland

### Fund for those in Need

Dodie Crane Memorial Fund to Help Children in Need

### Build a Tzedakah Funds

Andrew Felton Charitable Tzedakah Fund

Elijah Labowe-Stoll Tzedakah Fund

Matthew Grant Olins Tzedakah Fund

## Endowment Snapshot

(as of April 30, 2015)

**Total Assets :** \$52 million+

**Total Funds:** More than 600 individual funds and charitable trusts

■ **Endowment Rates of Return** (annualized for periods of one year and more, as of April 30, 2015)

3 month:	3.1
One year:	4.1
Three year:	8.4
Five year:	7.8
Ten year:	6.2

■ **Development and grants snapshot**

**Fiscal year to date** (8/1/14 to 4/30/15):

**New Funds:** 48 new funds established

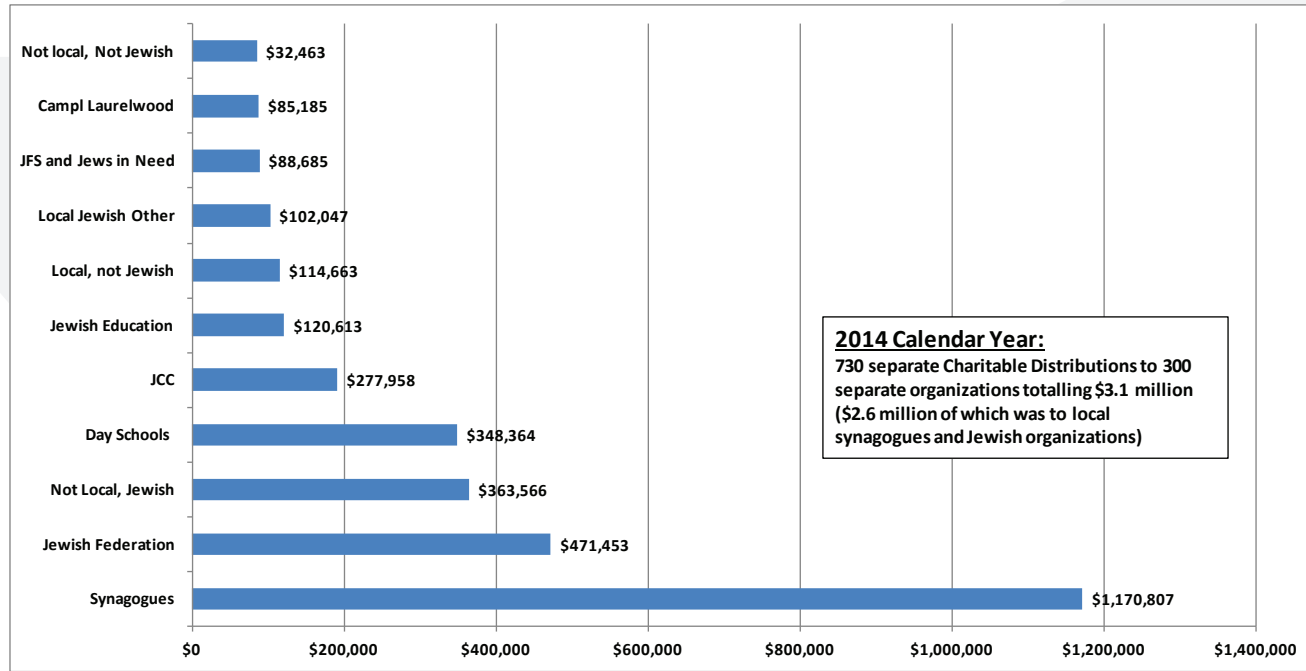
**Total Donations Received:** \$ 6.47 million+

**Total Charitable Distributions:** \$2.3 million+ (to 184 different charitable organizations) (\$1.6 million of which was to local Jewish organizations and synagogues)

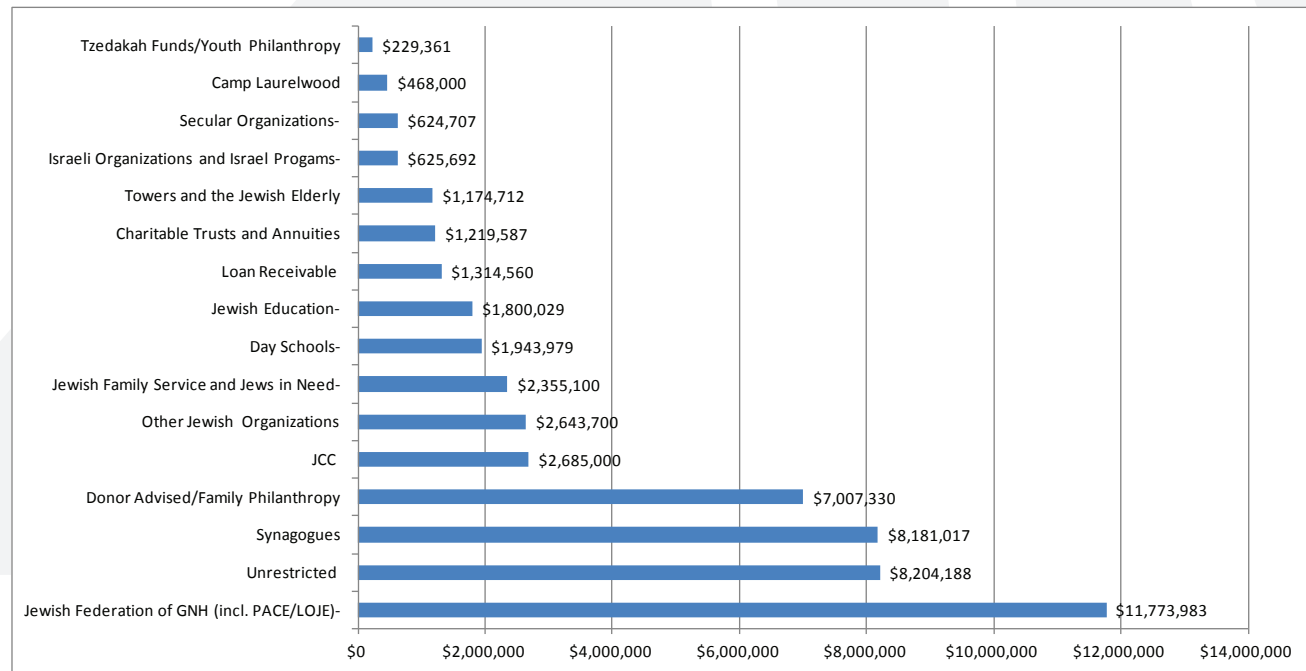
**Create a Jewish Legacy:** \$4.6 million in commitments



## 2014 CALENDAR YEAR \$3.1 MILLION IN CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS



## \$52 MILLION IN ENDOWMENT BY FUND DESIGNATION AND AREA OF SUPPORT



L to R: Foundation chair Dr. Jeffrey Hoos, past Foundation chair/LOJE chair Betsy Hoos, Foundation trustee Ed Konowitz attend Create A Jewish Legacy celebration.



Members of TBD attend Create A Jewish Legacy celebration.



Iris Freeman, community caring coordinator at Cong. Beth Shalom Rodfe Zedek, funded by Jewish Federation/Foundation Community Grants Initiative.



JFS Food Pantry funded by Jewish Federation/Foundation Community Grants Initiative.



Temple Emanuel One Campus broke ground on a project funded in part by the Jewish Federation/Foundation Community Grants Initiative.



Tower One/Tower East hosts a Fall Prevention Program funded in part by the Jewish Federation/Foundation Community Grants Initiative.



The Jewish Foundation and Community Foundation for Greater New Haven sponsors a Professional Advisors Happy Hour at Mory's.



Congregation Beth Israel, Wallingford, undergoes two significant capital improvement projects funded by the Jewish Federation/Foundation Community Grants Initiative.

# Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven

## The Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven (JCC) provides a

friendly, and inviting place for all members of the community to come together to strengthen their bodies, minds and spirits and to engage in Jewish thought, learning and values. Consistently counting almost 5,500 individuals as paying members of the JCC, each week we touch the lives of thousands of people, young and old, families and individuals, Jews and non-Jews who look to us to get healthy, stay fit and live well.



## Health and Wellness

- We had our largest ever 18+ Adult Basketball League – 16 teams.
- First Teen Dodge Ball League with six teams, including kids new to our programs.
- 12-team High School Basketball League – it keeps growing.
- The community came together and raised almost \$160,000 to replace the Pool Pak.
- 11th season of Largest Loser with 51 participants!
- In it's fourth year, the Murray Lender 5K Bagel Run – our Annual road race, this coming September, has seen consistent growth and sponsorship support that allows for new fitness equipment purchases every year.
- Free wifi is now available in the Fitness Center.
- Private Personal Training and Group Personal Training continues to remain strong. TRX Suspension Training has doubled in size (both participation and revenue numbers) since our investment in more straps on the frame.
- Two new programs are launching this summer: Knock-Out Boxing and Run Club.
- Our JCC Fitness staff came in first place in the 2015 New Haven Advocate Reader's Poll for Personal Training and for Zumba!
- Corrective Exercise is projected to become a mainstream program in the fitness industry as baby boomers become the strongest consumer – JCC trainers and instructors are pursuing continuing education and are better trained in this area of living pain free.
- The Skinny on Weight Loss program has been perfected and implemented as not only the premier fat loss program of Largest Loser but to other members as a healthy and sensible approach to losing weight under the direction of Pam Hutchinson, MS, health coach. We are currently looking into offsite opportunities to offer our JCC branded program.
- Goals for the upcoming year include positioning some of our fitness programs as part of Health and Wellness programming by networking with spa services, corrective exercise and pain management strategists, and holistic professionals.
- JCC Fitness Facebook page likes have grown significantly with regular viewing of our weight loss blogs.

## Center for Jewish Life and Learning

### Israeli Young Emissaries

Our emissaries Ofir Ron & Raz Firstenburg have been busy year meeting and educating so many people at our agencies throughout the area. They have been regular contributors at area religious schools both in the classroom and on retreats. In addition, they have become part of the fabric of our day schools; Ezra Academy and Southern Connecticut Hebrew Academy. They have been involved in projects at the JCC and its preschool as well as senior residence facilities.

### Meyuchad Special Needs Program

In an effort to increase inclusivity in our community and provide a joyous Jewish experience to all our children, we provide assistance to synagogues and day schools for children who are learning different. Several of our synagogue schools and both Ezra and SCHA have received services and grants.

### Bagels and Books

Bagels and Books is a monthly program that provides a free bagel brunch, sing alongs, story time, and craft. This group has grown in size and receives an average of about 20 families per event.

### Hands on Hanukkah

Hands on Hanukkah is a national, interactive program that reaches out to people where they shop in the weeks before Hanukkah. We partnered with the Westfield Connecticut Post Mall in Milford and brought staff from every department to engage with patrons on the busiest shopping day of the calendar year.

### PJ Library

PJ Library has acted as an essential tool to start the conversation with unaffiliated families, allowing us to cultivate relationships with all members of the community. The program currently has 1,534 participants, 418 brought in since June 2013.

- Enrollments last year: 360
- Enrollments this year: 591
- Averaging 20 enrollments per month

## Arts and Culture

### Arts and Culture Month

This year for Arts & Culture Month, we hosted a series of guests whose books represent a wide range of topics in discussion in the Jewish world. Gail Sheehy kicked off the week to speak about her autobiographical bestselling book *Passages*. Next came the very charismatic Laura Silver, the world's leading expert on the knish. Laura shared the story of her book on knishes and how the knish intertwines with her own family history. Another highlight was a visit from Tova Mirvis, author of the bestseller *The Ladies Auxiliary* and the

recent novel *Visible City*. She led a small but very engaged group discussion about her writing process and the life experience of growing up Orthodox. Finally, an additional high point was a talk by Judith Frank, whose novel *All I Love and Know* explores the Arab-Israeli conflict from a distinctly American and queer perspective.

#### Living Room

One important goal of JCC Arts & Culture programming has been to enliven the JCC's Living Room and to increase its offerings in terms of events and other cultural activities. To this end, we have started a variety of programs in the Living Room that span a wide range of members' (and prospective members') interests. We ran a mah-jongg instruction class with member Linda Korsko teaching members how to play then supervising their beginner games. Another two-class mah-jongg series with Linda is scheduled for June. Additionally, we have hosted three Brush & Bordeaux painting classes with talented local artist and instructor Betsy DeMarco. Brush & Bordeaux features step-by-step painting instruction with wine and hors d'oeuvres, and the classes have consistently been well attended. Aside from these activities, the Living Room has been the site for two successful kids movie series for the winter and the spring and a series of regular live jazz concerts arranged by online radio station Blue State Radio. When these organized events are not taking place, board games and bridge sets are available for open play among members.

#### A Taste of Honey

For the 19th year, the community gathered at the JCC for an evening of inspired learning and teaching. After a snowstorm forced us to postpone the event from Saturday night to Sunday night (for only the second time in A Taste of Honey history), we were grateful to all of our presenters who were able to switch their schedules on short notice and provide participants with an outstanding evening.

#### Beckerman Lecture Series

Thanks largely to the generosity of David Beckerman, we have an exciting lecture series in place this year. On April 14, we held a panel on rape and sexual assault on college campuses featuring visiting Yale Law lecturer and *New York Times Magazine* writer Emily Bazelon, Yale Law student and activist Alexandra Brodsky, and Yale faculty member Joseph Fischel. On May 14, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of the Maus graphic novels Art Spiegelman visited the JCC to present "What the \*&\$ Happened to Comics?" Finally, on June 25, the JCC will hold the third event, a screening of the popular documentary *Mortified Nation* that chronicles a movement of people who read from their childhood diaries in front of audiences of complete strangers. The screening will be followed by a talkback and Q&A session with the film's director Mike Mayer. It will also feature two JCC members taking part in this concept and reading from their own childhood diaries.

#### Visual Art

During the winter, the JCC featured the photography of Richard Blum, a JCC member whose work focuses on both natural and industrial landscapes of Connecticut. Currently, the photography series "In the Shadows" is being shown in the lobby through the summer. This series by Brooklyn portrait photographer Aviva Klein features agunot, women who are not granted Jewish divorce documents by their husbands and thus cannot remarry in the Orthodox

community. In tandem with this show, we hosted a highly engaging panel with the artist Aviva Klein, Federation CEO Sydney Perry, and community member Rachel Light about the issue of halakhic divorces and agunot. This summer, Israel artist Dorit Gur will have an exhibit of her work through the fall. Dorit's work is influenced by her interest in both kabbalah and Hebrew calligraphy.

#### JCC Afterschool Programs

The JCC Afterschool program provides a lifeline for families by providing a safe and supervised space for kids to engage in creative, educational activities with caring adults and mentors. A rocky economic climate and budget tightening, in addition to local schools offering after school programs at free or substantially cheaper rates, have had an impact on our Afterschool program. We welcomed 37 new families to our vacation programs during the 2014-2015 year. In addition to providing a safe and nurturing environment, the Afterschool program allows children to express their creativity, stay active, develop healthy behaviors, and make academic gains through activities such as homework assistance, sports, arts and crafts, swimming, and more. While keeping the children safe, assisting with homework and bringing children to enrichment classes there is always an opportunity for something new to learn, fun to do, engage their minds, and to put their working parents' minds at ease.

#### Camp

We are proud to report that we served 336 children last summer. We welcomed 45 new campers from the Bridgeport/Fairfield area and look forward to their return this summer. The campers had an amazing summer full of swimming, trips, sports, nature, and special days like Maccabiah and Israel Day. Thanks to the **Barry Vine Send a Kid to Camp Scholarship Fund**, 82 children who otherwise would not have been able to participate in camp were able to enjoy a fun-filled summer. Largely through Barry's efforts and thanks to dedicated and generous donors, the program raised more than \$96,000. **Shalom Shack**, our new camp store, had its grand opening. Campers enjoyed purchasing camp swag. All proceeds benefit the Barry Vine Send a Kid to Camp Scholarship Fund.

#### Yeladim

The Yeladim Early Learning Center's designs and plans for the new infant/toddler and preschool playground have been approved. **The Playground Campaign** has begun and we look forward to several exciting fundraising events to move the process along toward construction, including the new Hahn Shelling Playground in memory of Harold "Bub" Hahn and Dr. Richard Shelling. The JCC Kindergarten reopened this year with a successful and enriching program for all enrolled. Special events included: a clay sculpture display; an art opening exhibit; and field trips to Common Ground, the Ansonia Nature Center, the Native American Museum, and the apple orchard. The Violet Room class of 4 year olds joined the kindergarten for these enriching experiences. We are happy to announce that beginning September 2015, Yeladim will offer an extended day program from 5:30 to 6 p.m. that will be staffed by Yeladim teachers and teacher aides.

## Building Updates

#### Solar Carports Project

**We're going green!** The JCC is committed to sustainability and finding alternative energy sources to reduce not only the cost of our operations but also our carbon footprint. In October 2014, the JCC broke ground on our solar-powered covered parking project that will provide the building with nearly 50 percent of our yearly electrical needs. The solar panels sit on a covered parking structure that offers members more than 150 parking spaces that provide shade in the summer and protection from inclement winter weather. Additionally, the structure has an environmental impact estimated to reduce 603 tons of carbon dioxide annually, 12,060 tons over 20 years, and remove 131 vehicles from the road annually. This project is funded entirely by the State of Connecticut through the Clean Energy Finance and Investment Authority, Connecticut's Green Bank and is a perfect example of how the JCC is working hard to help our environment.

#### WHY WE'RE DOING IT

- To do our part to protect the environment.
- To reduce overhead costs.
- To provide protective cover for some of the parking spaces from snow, rain and direct sunlight.

#### OUR PARTNERS

Deutsche Eco USA  
Solaire Generation

#### FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT

State of Connecticut through the Clean Energy Finance Investment Authority (CEFIA), Connecticut's Green Bank

2015 JCC SOLAR CARPORT PROJECT





Families look forward to the enjoyable atmosphere, food and entertainment at the JCC's Grill 'n Chill.



Yeladim students enjoy the playground.



The Westfield Connecticut Post Mall in Milford welcomed the JCC for Hands on Hanukkah.



JCC Largest Loser is the most fun you can have while losing weight!



JCC Blue Marlins Swim Team practices in the Dr. Stanley F. & Marcia Reiter Swimming Pool.



Yeladim Blue Room students celebrate Heritage Month.



The combined youth choir and Temple Emanuel singers perform at A Taste of Honey.



JCC made an appearance at Woodbridge's Little League opening day.



Hundreds of families have a blast exploring trucks at the annual Family Fun Day.

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James M. Shure  
Mark Sklarz, Esq.  
Deborah R. Witkin, Esq.

Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven

Sydney A. Perry, Chief Executive Officer  
Scott Cohen, Chief Operating Officer  
Hilary Goldberg, Executive Assistant

Campaign

Endre Sarkany, Donor Services and Campaign Manager  
Enid Groves, Women’s Philanthropy Director  
Danielle Vitelli, Data Manager

Finance

Deb Cole, Finance Director  
Dorothy Popoloski, Accounting Manager  
Sylvia Horowitz, Accountant  
Victoria Kalish, Accountant  
Jessica Santello, Accountant

Human Resources

Marlyn Henry, Human Resources/Payroll Manager

Information Technology

Marina Milgram, IT Specialist

Jewish Community Relations Council

Rabbi Josh Ratner, Director

Jewish Coalition for Literacy

Brenda Brenner, CoordinatorJewish Cemetery Association

Andy Hodes, Administrative Coordinator

New American Acculturation

Yelena Gerovich, Coordinator

Eder Leadership (ELI)

Emily Sandberg, Coordinator

Shoreline

Jill Weyler Lesage, Program Coordinator

Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven

Lisa Stanger, Director  
Tiberius Halai, Funds Administrator  
Jennifer Bayer, Foundation Associate  
Dorothy Popoloski, Accountant  
Danielle Vitelli, Administrative Assistant

Jewish Community Center of Greater New Haven

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Shelley Gans, Director  
Cathy Lombardi, Office Manager/Room Rental Coordinator  
Debbie Brander, Business Development Manager  
Tanya Weinberg, Corporate Relations Manager  
Marge Bonito, Receptionist

Member Services

Lisa Sandora, Member Services Director/Control Desk Supervisor  
Lee Grenier, Member Services, Assistant Director  
Barbara Zalesch, Registrar

Center for Jewish Life & Learning

Anne Grant, Cultural Arts Manager  
Laura Ross, Jewish Family Engagement Director  
Amalya Brownstein, Young Emissary Coordinator  
Ruth Gross, Administrator

Yeladim Early Learning Center

Lynn Bullard, Director  
Celeste Baez  
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Kim Bogert  
Amani Boutros  
Yafa Buzo  
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Laura Prestash  
Elizabeth Ratchford  
Sarah Tardy

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Jennifer Gelband, Marketing & Communications Director  
Alan Falk, Graphic Design  
Christina Cagliotti-Diglio, Graphic Design  
Stephanie Plude, Marketing & Communications Associate

Health & Fitness

Allan Greenberg, Director  
Debra Kirschner, Assoc. Director, Camp Director  
Susan Donovan, Group Fitness & Development Director  
Jess Ciola, Asst. Fitness Director  
Sheila Schrier, Fitness Services  
Syndi Garay, Health Spa/Raquetball Director  
Amy Kemler, Aquatics, Director

Youth Services

Kari McInerney, Afterschool Director  
Alison Lurie, JCC Youth Programs Director  
Nancy Olins, Youth Services, Camp Secretary

Plant/Environmental Services

Israel Ortiz, Plant/Environmental Services Director  
Jose Rivera, Building Supervisor  
Lou DeAndrus, Mechanic  
Chris Massaquoi, Building Attendant  
Zoraida Gonzalez, Building Attendant  
Evelyn Ross, Building Attendant  
Nelson Rodriguez, Building Attendant  
Xavier Ycaza, Building Attendant  
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Felisberto Santos, Building Attendant  
Benjamin Little, Building Attendant

THANK  
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FOR YOUR

HELP



2015 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN HONOR ROLL (as of May 18th 2015)

The Annual Campaign is the cornerstone that supports the building of a vibrant Jewish community in Greater New Haven, more than 60 countries around the world and Israel. Every year, our community-wide campaign raises funds the help support the vital human services and Jewish education provided by our local, national and international agencies. These funds have a daily impact on the education of children, strengthening of family life, providing care and comfort to the frail elderly, and sustaining our partnership here and overseas.

For the 2015 Annual Campaign, we have continued our customary breakdown of 90% local, 10% overseas distribution of funds. It is through the generosity of our Jewish community that the Federation is able to provide support when needed. Your time and financial contribution enable us to fulfill the obligation of tzedakah. Tzedakah means justice and justice demands that we as Jews connect with those who are in need.

The Jewish Federation, Jewish Foundation and Jewish Community Center recognize and thank our part-time employees and volunteers whose many contributions enhance our services to the community.

# Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven Honor Roll 2015

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Shirley Scholder  
Sandy Seidman  
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Shifra Zamkov  
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Joan & Stuart Margolis  
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James Shure  
David & Judy Skolnick  
Lisa Stanger & Greg Colodner  
Jeffrey & Robyn Teplitzky  
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Kalman Watsky & Deborah  
Fried  
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Alan P & Dr. Pnina Weiss  
Peter & Liz Wolpert

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Linda & Jeffrey Chaffkin  
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Jack & Helen Cooper  
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