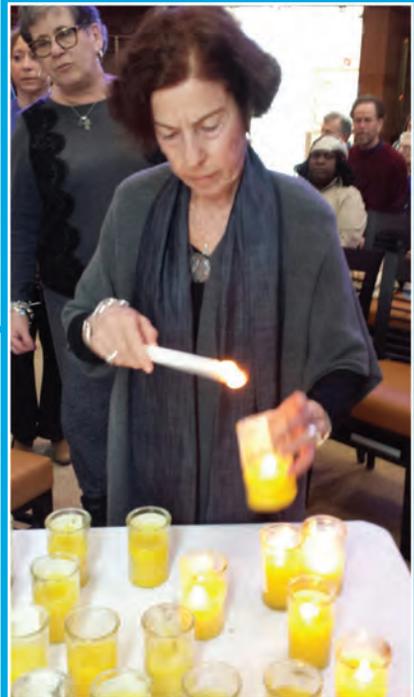




Jewish Federation®
OF WESTERN CONNECTICUT

Federation is Here to Make an Impact.



2017 ANNUAL REPORT

OUR MISSION

Centered on Jewish values that are
critical to Jewish continuity such as:

Am Yisrael –
Jewish Peoplehood,

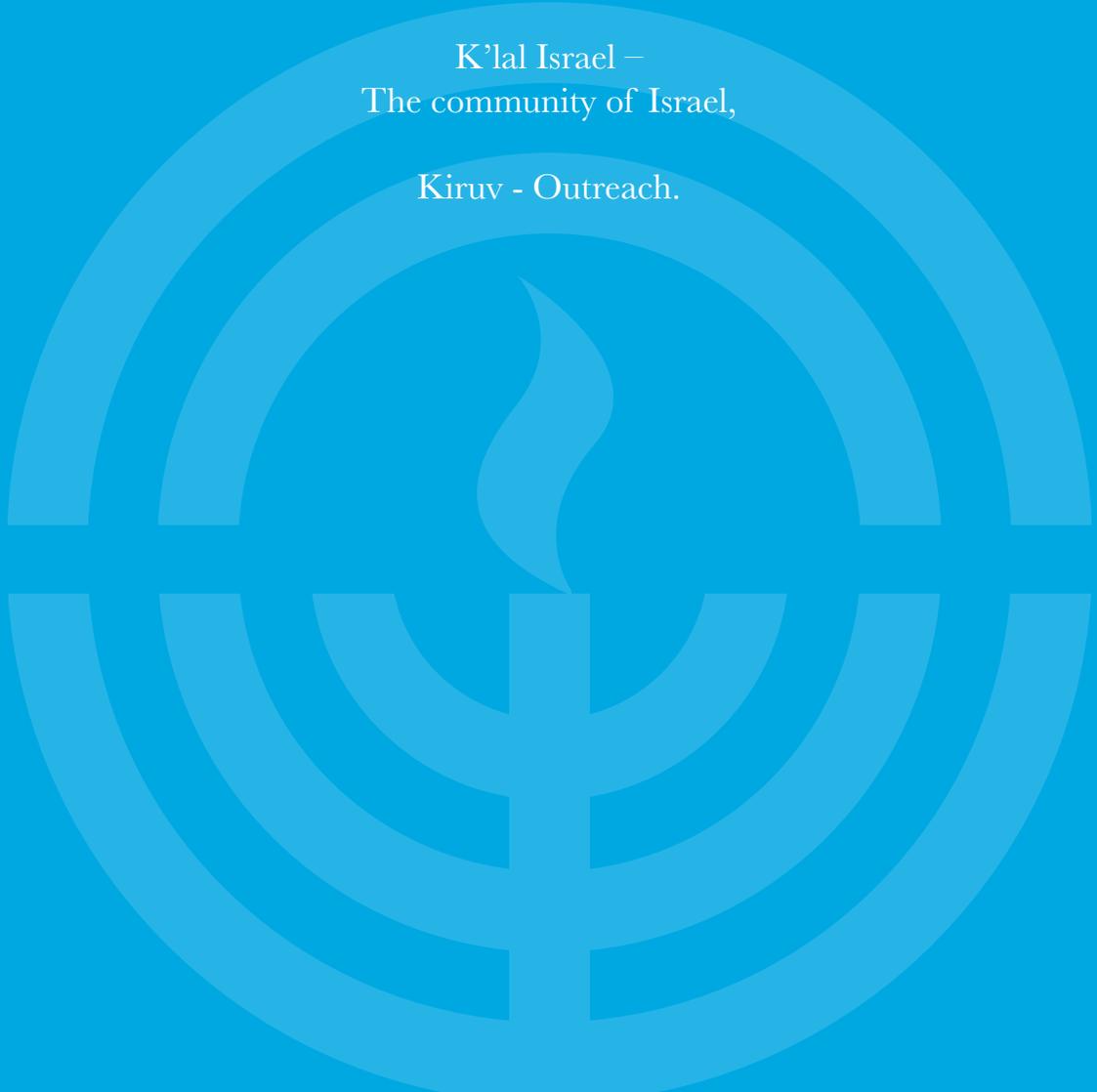
Talmud Torah –
Study of Torah,

Tikkun Olam –
Repair the World,

Tzedakah –
Charity,

K'lal Israel –
The community of Israel,

Kiruv - Outreach.





Jewish Federation[®]
OF WESTERN CONNECTICUT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jane Z. Mahler, *President*

Lisa Buccino, *1st ViceElect*

Roy S. Walzer, *2nd Vice President*

Rudolf Zeidler, *Treasurer*

Marian Dar, *Secretary*

Rachel Albert

Eric Albert

Joshua P. Grey

Jesse A. Langer

Matt Magida

Pauline Zimmerman

STAFF

Jade Stoltz, *Executive Director*

Roseann Hamilton, *Accounting Manager*

Antonietta Hallet, *Marketing and Events Director*

Lisa Levi, *Pf Library Coordinator*

Courtney Passman, *Social Work Intern*

2017-2018 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

“How wonderful it is that no one need wait a single moment to start to improve the world.”

—Anne Frank

The annual campaign is the means by which the Jewish Federation of Western CT helps to support the current operating needs and priorities of the Jewish community. With many and varied ways to contribute, we offer flexible means for donors to contribute no matter where they are on their philanthropic journey.

This year's Campaign Co-Chairs Jane Z. Mahler and Pauline Zimmerman worked yearlong to raise funds and find new sources of support. The campaign goal of \$190,000 was exceeded with xxx raised from 414 donors.

NEW CORPORATE SPONSORS INCLUDE:

Carmody and Torrance
Adam Broderick Salon and Spa
Curry Toyota
Hearing Aid Specialists of CT
Waterbury HEALTH
Hearing Balance and Speech
Palace Theater
Women's Imaging Ctr, Sbury
Comfort Keepers
Thomaston Savings Bank
Watermark at East Hill

This year the 3rd Annual Health and Leisure Fair in June raised nearly \$8,000 and featured health care organization from throughout the region who contributed sponsorships to the Federation. The event will occur on June 27 and is known to attract over 150 attendees. This year, WATR radio station will broadcast live throughout the entire event which will feature workshops and screenings for the benefit of the community.

THE VALUE OF SAYING THANK YOU

Several board and community members gathered at Federation offices this spring for Super Sunday, a time-honored Federation tradition. Several thousand dollars were raised and friend-raising took place with board and lay leaders taking time to personally thank our generous donors for their support. Of note, more and more studies show that gratitude makes a person happier and healthier. Appreciation is a major driver of job satisfaction and general happiness. We make a powerful impact by practicing gratitude to our donors and giving formal and personal recognition for campaign gifts.

WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY

Through Women's Philanthropy's engaging events, acts of service and meaningful gifts, there's no limit to what we can do. Together as women, we harness our collective power to care for the most vulnerable populations, strengthen our Jewish community, inspire our next generation, and empower our families and friends to change the world.

A Women's Philanthropy Luncheon was held in April to honor existing Lions of Judah, Pomegranates and New Pearl Society members. Featured speaker Stacey Battat spoke about life's thin thread moments and encouraged us all to pursue our individual journeys of discovery, philanthropy and community building in keeping with Jewish values.

We are proud to acknowledge the incredible women whose passion and dedication make our community a powerful force for change. They plan our events, lead our committees, and prioritize giving back in their busy lives

– THANK YOU!



BROWNSTEIN JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE

Brownstein JFS has served the community with dignity and integrity for decades. Our goal is that everyone in the community has a path to a stable and emotionally healthy life.

Our tradition of caring and compassion expresses itself in multiple ways throughout the year. We have provided information and referral to over 200 individuals from western CT and New York. Most of our inquiries involve housing or health care and we have also fielded requests for financial aid and counseling. Brownstein JFS has a rich network of referral sources in western CT and have provided information and details to all clients in a confidential manner.

FOOD INSECURITY

Millions of older Americans are at risk for hunger. Our catchment area is no exception and we distributed \$2,500 worth of grocery gift cards this year. In addition, we provided Chanukah Gift Baskets and Passover Food Baskets to 50 families and individuals in western CT.

JFS Cares continues to respond to requests for financial support from members in the community. Aid was extended to 12 families/individuals in need in order to pay health care and utility bills, catch up on finances after job loss, and help with moving to new and safe living situations. We receive inquiries from family members who seek advice on how to handle changing relationships with their parents, in-laws and children and referrals are made on a regular basis to local social workers and psychiatrists, too.

Love and Knishes continues to offer kosher meals and entertainment to persons from all walks of life. Remember the ad line, “You don’t have to be Jewish?” It’s true and all JFS programs are open to community members of all faiths. Hearty meals are provided at very low cost along with live musical entertainment ranging from opera, to country, to rock, soul and blues. Whether it’s a tribute to Dean Martin, or a trip back in time to the disco sounds of the 70s, Love and Knishes provides nourishment and companionship for seniors in our region.

SUPPORT GROUPS

A continuing service is the provision of monthly support groups for bereavement and support for those living with persons with Alzheimer’s. Thanks to our robust partnerships with Regional Hospice and the Alzheimer’s Association, seasoned facilitators meet monthly at no charge with community members who seek information and comfort in dealing with grief, loss and life changes.

In addition to the above services, programs are offered throughout the year that include cultural, educational and service oriented topics. This year Brownstein JFS featured a screening of “Being Mortal” in cooperation with Borrow My Glasses and the Connecticut Community Foundation. This award-winning documentary delved into the topic of patients and families facing terminal illness and their relationships with the doctors, nurses and family members who care for them. A Q & A followed the screening which was well attended.



Jewish Federation®
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JEWISH FEDERATION OF WESTERN CT – ENDOWMENT

Legacy is about life and living.

It's about learning from the past, living in the present, and building for the future.

The Endowment provides a stable source of financial support through planned giving opportunities and grant making is the heart of what we do. Our aim is to strengthen community programs and organizations, solve pressing problems and provide support for our Jewish community. This past year, the Endowment and its donors distributed over \$370,000 to programs and institutions, both Jewish and in the community at large, locally and around the world.

The Foundation's unrestricted grant program addresses new and emerging community needs, and the endowment program provides a reliable stream of funding for core community programs and organizations through a rigorous process. The Federation funds a wide range of programs as a part of our ongoing commitment to the local community and to Israel. Funds generated from special giving opportunities are distributed directly to projects donors wish to support. We have supported local non-profit organizations that serve at-risk youth, improve youth literacy, food banks and food rescue organizations that feed the hungry, programs serve those affected by domestic violence, and Jewish youth organizations including BBYO and Hillel.

The Endowment funds generous college scholarship grants for study in the U.S. and Israel, and we provided generous support in the area of Jewish education to all local synagogues and the day school in our region.

We also fund day camperships and overnight camperships as we value the impact of Jewish camping and how it can transform lives. Jewish camping in North America has been around for over 100 years. Initially, it was a time to get the kids out of the city to be in the country with their peers in a healthy environment. Today, in addition to the benefits of a summer spent outdoors, Jewish camp has become a place to develop and create a Jewish community, to find Jewish roots, to connect to the land and people of Israel and to live a 24/7 Jewish life. This is where Jewish passion, creativity, and spirituality can grow and leadership skills can be developed. This is where our community's next generation of leaders is nurtured.

Our passion is community building and this past year has been a vibrant one in terms of grant support. Whether providing critically needed dental care in Israel, or serving youth who are being treated in a residential care facility for behavioral health challenges, or providing hurricane relief to sister organizations in Puerto Rico, the Endowment has answered the call to care for C'lal Yisrael. In caring for those who are most vulnerable, we provided grant awards to seriously physically challenged youth receiving hydrotherapy care in Israel. We provided thousands of dollars to insure kosher for Passover for food was available for our community.

Everyone can be a philanthropist with a gift made through a bequest or estate plan. Contact the Endowment and we are here to help you create a meaningful legacy that fulfills your personal and financial goals..

OUR GRANTS AND ALLOCATIONS COMMITTEE

Roy S. Walzer, *Chair*

Lisa Buccino

Chicky Kuhn

Jesse A. Langer

Matt Magida

Jane Z. Mahler

Lisa Miller

Carrie Singer

Jade Stoltz, *Executive Director*

Roseann Hamilton, *Accounting Manager*

2017-2018 ENDOWMENT YEAR IN REVIEW

LOCAL GRANTS – over \$130,000 Awarded

Reading Partners Program

- Serve students in Danbury's 12 elementary schools

Susan B Anthony Project

- Support services for victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse

JFS Danbury

- JFS Danbury to help serve the Jews in need in the Danbury area

BBYO – Woodbridge

- Creating connections with Jewish teens for a meaningful Jewish experience

Daily Bread Food Pantry

- Provide assistance for their dairy and fresh fruit program for their food pantry and soup kitchen

B'nai Israel

- To fund two students to attend the AIPAC conference in Washington DC

Yeshiva K'tana Passover Food Assistance

- 70 families received a week's worth of Kosher food for Passover

Beth El Synagogue

- Community Shabbat dinners

Congregation Adath Israel

- Website redesign

Greater Waterbury Interfaith

Ministries (GWIM)

- Emergency food pantry and soup kitchen

B'nai Israel Religious School - BIRS

- Israeli Emissaries program

Waterbury Youth Services

- Youth and family emergency services

Congregation B'nai Israel Danbury

- Outreach workshop and keynote speaker

UCONN Hillel

- Underwrite High Holiday programs serving 2,000 Jewish college students

Jewish Education Grant

- To assist families with the cost of their Jewish education for B'nai Israel, Beth El, Temple Shalom, Adath Israel, Congregation B'nai Israel, UJC and Yeshiva K'tanah

CAMPERSHIPS – over \$95,000 Awarded

Over \$65,000 given to 68 families to help send 167 children to day and overnight camp

- 104 day camp camperships
- 63 overnight camperships
- 27 different Jewish camps

Joel Varnick Overnight Camperships

- Over \$30,000 awarded – Assisted 30 children to afford Jewish overnight camp

SCHOLARSHIPS – over \$19,000 Awarded

Israel Scholarships

- 3 children were awarded \$1,500 each to study in Israel

College Scholarships

- 7 Students received over \$ 14,000 in college scholarships

HURRICANE RELIEF GRANTS – \$10,000 Awarded

JCC of Puerto Rico

- Provide hurricane relief in their local area

Temple Beth Shalom

- To help fund for a solar powered generator

OVERSEAS GRANTS – \$112,850 Awarded

Aleh Dental Clinic – Finkelstein Fund

- Dental care for patients with special needs or lower income

Dental Volunteer of Israel – Finkelstein Fund

- Dental care for under privileged children and no cost dentures for Holocaust survivors

Jewish Agency for Israel

- Youth futures: Afula – Gilboa

Kol Israel Haverim – Kiah

- Matzmichim 'Sprouting'

Israel Lacrosse Association

- Sponsor participating European teams to tour Israel as a means to achieve international bridge building

Jerusalem Hills Therapeutic Centers

- Long term residential services for children with severe emotional, behavioral & learning disabilities

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National Food Bank – Table to Table

- Project Leket

Keren Or Centers

- Hydrotherapy services for the blind, visually impaired and disabled children

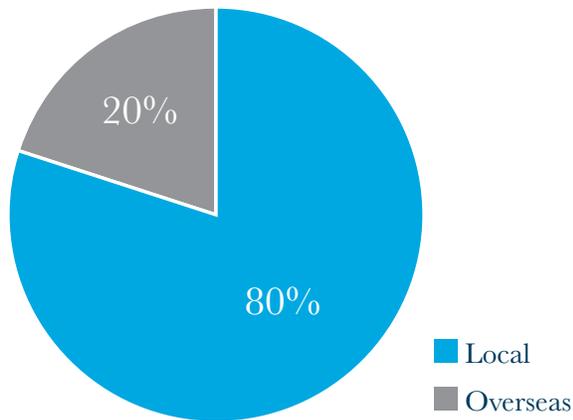
Ethiopian National Project

- Providing Ethiopian-Israeli students scholastic assistance

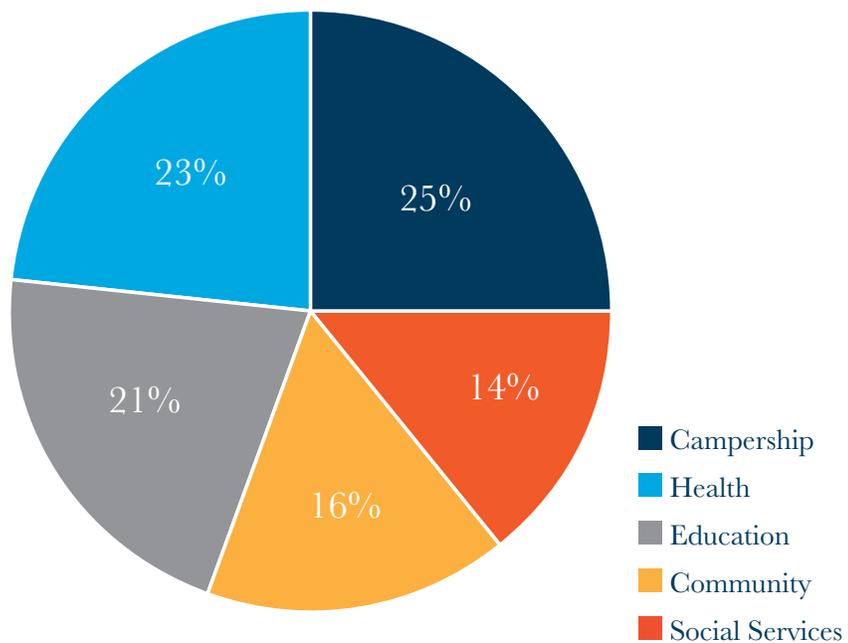
SNEC Afula-Gibloa Partnership

- Supporting medical clowns, young emissaries, after school programs for at risk children and animal-assisted therapy for children at risk

DISTRIBUTION OF UNRESTRICTED GRANT FUNDS



TYPES OF GRANTS





WILLIAM AND AUDREY WALZER ENRICHMENT CENTER

The William and Audrey Walzer Enrichment Center launched in September 2017 as a way to provide meaningful program and content to individuals and families in Western CT.

A variety of programs were held during the year including Painting in Pairs, Fitness Fury, Yoga, and the Teen Acting and Drama Club. Specialty programs for youth were featured including the highly successful BubbleMania which drew 80 children and families.

The center is open to everyone in the community and in its inaugural year drew participants from Southbury, Middlebury, Danbury, Oxford, Naugatuck and New Fairfield.

Community partnerships with non-profit organizations and companies helped launch the winter/spring offerings. Curry Toyota of Watertown sponsored Bossy Frog which was a perfect fit for very young children. Staff from the Palace Theater conducted “The Myths and Secrets of the Palace Theater” which drew a crowd from greater Southbury and beyond.

And the Spring Fling Dance and Lunch featured delicious deli lunches from Katz as well as a dee-jay that featured music from across the decades.



PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The Program Committee continued its second year of successful offerings that featured educational, cultural and enrichment programs for youth, families and all segments of the community regardless of their faith, background or orientation.

In the spirit of conducting “public space Judaism,” the kickoff event was held at a local brewery and people gathered to talk and engage, meet new community members and hear about the vision for Federation for the year.

In lieu of a Chanukah party, cash grant awards were given to each synagogue in western CT in order to carry out mitzvot and celebrate the Chanukah holiday in a manner of their own choosing. This community endeavor featured parties, good deeds and good will all around.

Our Federation’s annual program on Israel was an astounding success. This year, we focused on Israel’s global leadership role in technology and innovation. There were over 90 attendees of all ages from B’nai Israel/ Southbury, Beth El, Temple Shalom, Adath Israel and the Washington Coalition. With assistance from UConn’s Hillel, we were fortunate that Adam Rothstein and Dan Gottfried graciously made themselves available for this event. Adam, a venture capitalist specializing in Israeli tech companies and Dan, a partner at Hinckley Allen, were engaging and interesting. After the program, everyone enjoyed making their own falafels and socializing in the Weinberg Function. It was gratifying to watch the students from the different religious schools mingle.

The Yom HaShoah annual remembrance featured an incredibly powerful panel of survivors and second generation survivors who spoke eloquently about both what motivated them to survive and also sustained hope during the most rigorous of times. The program was attended by B’nai Israel religious school students who were able to ask the survivors questions and speak directly with them about their experiences in what was a most meaningful exchange.

Our goal of connecting with all segments of the region included a comedy show with up and coming comic Avi Liberman at the Edmond Town Hall in Newtown. The event garnered attendance from all segments of the community and the young man known as “the new Jerry Seinfeld” was very well received.

A great deal of thanks is given to Outgoing Program Committee Chair Rachel Albert for her tireless efforts in finding new and exciting ways to inform, motivate and entertain the Jewish community with meaningful gatherings and compelling speakers. In Rachel’s own words, “What an amazing two years it has been. From Tango to Avi, we have tried to entice, entertain, educate, and most importantly, build community. It has been an honor and a pleasure to work with the “dream team.” Each of us has different skills; together, we brought our A game on court!”

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Rachel Albert, *Chair*

Joshua P. Grey

Barbara Phillips

Pauline Zimmerman

PJ LIBRARY IN WESTERN CT: YEAR IN REVIEW

PJ Library in Western CT had a wonderful year, gaining increasing traction in the greater Southbury area as the year went on. Our major events have included:

- Rosh HaShanah Apple Picking
- Thanksgiving Family Service Project at Audubon
- Hanukkah Painting Party
- Painting for Passover
- Stories, Holidays, & Playtime at Tot Town

Our smaller events are just as important for community building, as the more intimate atmosphere lends itself to building relationships among participating families, most of whom love it so much that they come back for almost every event. Some of these events have included:

- Yom Kippur Tot Shabbat
- Children's Tu B'Shevat Seder
- Purim Mask Making Party
- Lag B'Omer Campfire

We also had a very successful Hanukkah Story Time outreach event at the Woodbury Public library, which has led to an ongoing relationship between our organizations.

We have had a surprisingly warm reception from the religious community in Waterbury, where they love to attend our bigger craft-based events. On the other end of the spectrum, we've done a great deal of outreach on social media in order to attract unaffiliated families that may not be interested in a more traditional, institutional approach to Jewish engagement.

To that end, we have also just launched a new "Western CT Jewish Parenting" group on MeetUp.com, which is a popular place for young parents to look for family friendly activities and interest-based communities. The response in just a couple of weeks has been very encouraging, particularly because it is drawing in a) families that are not yet enrolled in PJ Library or affiliated with any Jewish institution, and b) families who are enrolled in PJ Library, but who have never attended any of our more formal events. The casual, low threshold format of MeetUps seems to draw in young parents who are, for whatever reason, not yet engaged in any other aspect of Jewish communal life. Through the MeetUp group, we will be hosting a series of pop-up "Playdates in the Park" in playgrounds around our catchment area this summer, so that we can reach as many of these families as possible.



ISRAEL AND OVERSEAS

Southern New England Consortium (SNEC) and the Afula-Gilboa Region

More than 30 years ago, as part of the then-called Project Renewal, the Jewish Agency for Israel created 46 partnerships between American Jewish communities and regions and cities in Israel. Jerusalem was paired with New York, Tel Aviv with LA, and Boston with Haifa.

Several Southern New England communities, including Greater New Bedford, were paired with the Afula-Gilboa region and a partnership began. In 1994 several New England communities thought synergy may be found in a collaborative effort of neighboring communities. SNEC, the Southern New England Consortium, was formed. Today SNEC members include four Massachusetts federations (New Bedford, Worcester, Springfield and the Berkshires) and seven Connecticut federations (Stamford, Greenwich, Hartford, New Haven, Western CT, New London and Upper Fairfield). The primary areas of interest shared by the various communities relate to children and young people at risk, professional exchange programs and the partnership's flagship project, "Young Emissaries" - a Year of National, Community Service.



Our partnership with the Afula-Gilboa region in Israel continues to flourish and this year the SNEC staff paid us a visit in January. Led by team leader Naveh Yogev, the group continues to explore meaningful ways to promote positive relationships between western CT and Afula-Gilboa. The Zug program this year invited artists from both the U.S. and Israel to participate in a joint project and our region has an artist who has joined this effort. SNEC initiated the ZUG project in 2017-18. Eleven pairs of professional and amateur artists, coming from five SNEC communities and Afula-Gilboa, studied the Book of Tehilim together, creating diverse pieces of art in the process.

An opening exhibition will take place in Israel on Oct. 25, 2018. After presenting the artwork in Israel, we will send a delegation of five (four artists plus a staff person) to present the artwork and the stories behind the pieces in a mobile exhibition, traveling between the communities.

OUR PARTNERSHIP INCLUDES FUNDING FOR FOUR UNIQUE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN AFULA-GILBOA:

- Women to Women – to support the Rape Crisis Center & women's empowerment workshops

Beit Singer – Beit Singer provides a warm and loving home to children and youth who have suffered abandonment, neglect and abuse from an early age.

The children are organized into small, intimate groups where they receive intensive attention from a range of professionals including educational staff; social workers; psychologists; and movement, art and animal therapists.

- Bait Cham - After School Program for children at Risk- Bayit Cham creates a response for children from struggling and disadvantaged families and/or families in crisis—identified by professionals as in need of a safe and protected environment immediately after school hours.
- Medical Clown program in Emek Medical Center - The Medical Clown Program is a supportive profession in Israel that assists in reducing stress, anxiety and fear patients experience and aids in healing.

JEWISH FEDERATION OF WESTERN CT

Published by Jade Stoltz – April 25

Starting the day with our Federation Legislative Breakfast including Michael Bloom, JFACT Executive Director; Jane Mahler, Board President, Jewish Federation of Western CT; State Senator Tony Hwang; State Senator Toni Boucher; State Representative David Labriola and State Representative Aurthur O’Neill along with State Senator Joan Hartley. Lots of great discussion and questions from our community.

Thanks to our board members and community members who took time to join us this morning for an enlightening discussion about local and state pressing issues. Kudos to Michael Bloom of JFACT for setting this in motion.



IMPACT

Making a positive impact is what we do best! This year we were able to provide over 25 Passover care packages to constituents of our partner area Synagogues. The care packages contained food, sweets and grocery gift cards for the holiday. One recipient was so overwhelmed when we delivered her package. She tearfully stated, “I cannot believe that Federation could be so generous and giving to us for our holiday. Thank you so much for caring about us!” Our generous donors help us to carry out great “mitzvahs” in our Jewish community.

JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL OF WESTERN CT

The Jewish Film Festival is in its 6th year. This highly successful festival draws crowds from within our community and beyond.

The committee is comprised of a very dedicated group who give selflessly for the greater good. Everyone has their specialty, and the group divides itself into subsets for film vetting, fundraising, design, marketing and program orientation. This is one very successful cultural program of the Federation in which the community can come together as one. The Jewish films that are chosen include history, culture, education and of geographical interest. The festival this year kicks off on October 14. The films are shown at the Heritage Hotel in Southbury on Sundays at 2:00 PM.

We thank the entire committee for their support and dedication to the Jewish Community.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Bobbi Knezek	Chicky Kuhn
Gloria Aronheim	Barbara Phillips
Peggy Klein	Bernice Shlian
Arlene Kreinik	Antonietta Hallet

SAVE THE DATES!!!

6TH ANNUAL
JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL OF WESTERN CONNECTICUT

2018 SCHEDULE
2:00 PM - Sundays
The Heritage Hotel
522 Heritage Road
Southbury, CT 06488

Featuring:
Theodore Bikel
October 14th
A Bag of Marbles
October 21st
Shalom Bollywood
October 28th

Jewish Federation OF WESTERN CONNECTICUT



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