



*Welcome to a weekend honoring the 85th Anniversary
of when Southbury Said NO to the Nazis.
We take pride in sharing the story of the courage
of the residents of Southbury.*

~Learn the history

~Reflect on the story

~Stand up against hate and fear

~Share the message

Proclamation

Whereas: In 1937, Reverends M.E.N Lindsay and Felix Manley of Southbury, Connecticut, spoke out against Nazi ideology to their church and community in South Britain; and

Whereas: After consultation with prominent members of the Southbury community, including First Selectman Ed Coer, a town hall was called to establish a zoning board to prevent the creation of a Nazi training camp; and

Whereas: The five-person zoning commission established an ordinance barring land usage in the town for "military training or drilling with or without arms except by the legally constituted armed forces of the United States of America"; and

Whereas: The resolve and patriotism of the Southbury community prevented the German American Bund from establishing a Nazi training camp on 178 acres of land purchased by a Bund member, Wolfgang Jung, in the Kettle town area; and

Whereas: Southbury became the first and only local government to stand up to the Nazi ideology that the German American Bund sought to instill in American youth through summer camps; and

Whereas: In 2012, the pride of the Southbury community led to the filming and production of the documentary, "Home of the Brave: When Southbury Said NO to the Nazis"; and

Whereas: In 2020, former First Selectman of Southbury, Ed Edelson, published a children's historical fiction book titled, "Lois's Story: A Young Girl's Inspiration Helps Stop Hate and Fear"; and

Whereas: The Town of Southbury continues to tell Lois's Story and share the history of how a small community banded together to defeat a global movement. Their actions capture the spirit of America and the intention of our Founding Fathers to create a country where all men are created equal, regardless of religion or race.

Now therefore, I, Jahana Hayes, Congresswoman of Connecticut's Fifth District, hereby proclaim the Town of Southbury to be a shining example of unity and resolve for the State of Connecticut. It is with pride that I honor the steadfast commitment, by the townspeople of Southbury, to reject Nazi ideology 85 years ago. May this legacy of community strength continue to be shared and celebrated for generations to come.

Given this 11th day of November 2022




JAHANA HAYES
Member of Congress



TOWN OF SOUTHBURY

OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN

501 Main Street South

Southbury, Connecticut 06488

(203) 262-0647

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Thank you for participating in the 85th Anniversary of When Southbury Said NO to the Nazis. All residents of Southbury can take pride in the courageous actions taken in this Town back in 1937. When confronted with a difficult challenge, the people came together to make a concerted response; a response that was unique at that time. Looking back, we can all say that Southbury was right and we should continue to celebrate that.

Planning for this work was done by bringing together many important Southbury organizations. Representatives came from Southbury's Economic Development Commission, Pomperaug Regional Schools District 15, B'nai Israel of Southbury, Southbury Community Trust Fund, Southbury Historical Society, South Britain Congregational Church, Tribury Rotary, United Church of Christ (Southbury), Church of the Epiphany, St. James Lutheran Church, Mattatuck Unitarian Universalist Society, The Lutheran Home of Southbury, Mid-South Catholic Church, and the Southbury Land Trust. They all deserve our appreciation for their contributions.

As many of you know, I have a personal connection to this story. My grandparents were signatories on the Resolution passed unanimously at the second Town Hall Meeting on November 24, 1937. The resolution appears in the back of this booklet. I strongly urge you to read this historical document. Although we often focus on the effort to keep the German American Bund from building their camp in Southbury, the people of Southbury saw Nazism to be a threat to the American way of life. That is why they called on the President of the United States to do everything he could to stop this "menace". No other Town took this action four years prior to entering World War II.

I hope you find participating in the many events for this weekend to inspire you to stand up against those who try to spread hate and fear of others. In addition, I believe it shows how much we can do when we work together as a community – both as we did in 1937 and as we are doing today, 85 years later.

Jeffrey A. Manville

First Selectman

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 15

Office of the Superintendent

286 Whittemore Road, PO Box 395

Middlebury, Connecticut 06762

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Joshua D. Smith

Superintendent of Schools



I would like to thank all of those who have been instrumental in bringing this story to the attention of a wider audience. That audience is not only here in Southbury, but across the country as noted by the inclusion of the story in the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC.

The Southbury story provides an important educational tool for all of us about historical events and how we can think global and act local.

As a result of events like those scheduled, we can help to make more people aware of the power of this story to help us see how we can work together to make a better world.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joshua D. Smith".

Joshua Smith

Superintendent

Region 15 Public Schools



November 1, 2022

The Jewish Federation of Western Connecticut is proud to be a Presenting Sponsor of the activities commemorating the 85th Anniversary of When Southbury Said NO to the Nazis. We are so grateful to all of the organizers and participants who have made this Commemoration so meaningful.

Chief Executive Officer
Gary D Jones

It is of course exceptionally important to recognize one of the rare instances in which an American community stood up to Nazis prior to the Second World War. The fact that the historic and heroic action took place here in Southbury makes the opportunity to celebrate the event especially compelling. However, if we as American have learned anything over the last number of years, it is the fact that Antisemitism and other forms of hate seem to be growing and becoming more virulent.

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We know that uncontested hate spreads, and spreads fast. Our state, our country and our world need people of good will to stand up to hate, without regard to the target of the hate and without regard to the source of the hate. In this sense, what Southbury did 85 years ago is not just history. Nor is it only a local story or only a Connecticut story. It is a story that should reverberate and be emulated everywhere – and for all times.

Directors

Eric Albert
Rachel Albert
Chaim Gerwitzman
Lisa Miller

Southbury's brave and consequential decision to give no safe haven to Nazis and stand up to hate can and should serve as a role model for what we all have to do today. By being here today and supporting this Commemoration, the Jewish Federation and everyone else associated with the Commemoration are trumpeting the reminder that standing up against hate is an ongoing part of our obligations as good Americans and good people. We urge you all to do everything you can to combat hate every place you find it. After all, there is no better way to remember and honor the actions of Southbury and its citizens in 1937 than by following their lead in 2022 and in all years thereafter.

Sincerely,

Gary Jones
Chief Executive Officer

The Walzer Family Jewish Community Campus
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Thank you for your generous support!

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Schedule of Events

Friday, November 11;

B'nai Israel (444 Main St. North, Southbury)

Time: 7:30pm

Honoring Scott Sniffen, Director of "Home of the Brave: When Southbury Said No to the Nazis".

Followed by reception with musical performances by Linda Goodman (Makhelah) and Femina Melodia.

Saturday, November 12;

Pomperaug High School (234 Judd Road, Southbury)

9:45 am - 10:00 am

Welcome and Introduction: First Selectman Jeff Manville and Region 15 Superintendent Josh Smith.

10:00 am - 11:00 am

Showing of "Home of the Brave" and Q&A with Scott Sniffen, director of the documentary.

Moderated by Chris Gardner.

11:15 am - 12:30 pm

Panel Discussion: Using the Southbury Story in K-12 education. Moderated by Barbara Mechler (former Assistant Superintendent and Teacher); Steven Armstrong, Connecticut Department of Education; Carrie Chiappetta, Assistant Superintendent Region 15; Erin Birden, Teacher in Residence for Diversity and Cultural Competence and Natalia Reid, Longmeadow Elementary School student.

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

Lunch.

1:45 pm - 3:15 pm

Panel Discussion: HISTORICAL INSIGHTS: SOUTHBURY VERSUS THE BUND. Moderated by Melinda Elliot, President of Southbury Historical Society and Author of "No Swastikas in Southbury"; Arnie Bernstein, author of "Swastika Nation: Fritz Kuhn and the Rise and Fall of the German-American Bund", and James Calaski, a researcher on the German American Bund.

3:15 pm - 4:00 pm

Book signing in the lobby.

4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Reverend Lindsay's Sermon and the Town Resolution – Reflections by Southbury Clergy on Their Meaning and Significance Today. Moderated by Rabbi Eric Polokoff, B'nai Israel Southbury; Monsignor Joseph Donnelly, formerly of Sacred Heart Church, Rev. Shawn Garan, United Church of Christ-Southbury, Pastor Abigail Johnson, St. James Lutheran Church, Rev. Donna Cassity, South Britain Congregational Church and Rev Tony Lorenzen, Mattatuck Unitarian Universalist Society.

Schedule of Events Continued

Saturday, November 12;

Wyndham Hotel (1284 Strongtown Road, Southbury)

Time: 6:00 pm

Commemorative Dinner with presentations including keynote speaker: Michael Benson, author of "Gangsters vs. Nazis: How Jewish Mobsters Battled Nazis in Wartime America". Musical performances by Jim Tomatore, Karen Lampiasi, Meg Capen, Alyce Cognetta Bertz, Gary Bertz and Katherine Mombo.

Sunday, November 13;

South Britain Congregational Church (693 S Britain Road, Southbury)

Time: 11:15 am

The dedication of Historical Road Marker to be placed at the Church. Tours of South Britain will be leaving from Southbury Historical Society.

Sunday, November 13;

Fox Hollow Preserve (200 Sleepy Hill Road, Southbury)

Time: 1:30 pm

Southbury Land Trust's Hike through their property that the Bund owned in 1937. Hiking boots and poles recommended.

Southbury Stops Nazi Training Camp 1937

In this church, the citizens of Southbury met for a special town meeting on November 23, 1937, to create a zoning commission to prevent the establishment of Camp General von Steuben by the German-American Bund, a pro-Nazi organization. The camp was planned in the Kettletown area of town, as the largest Bund camp in America. A second meeting followed with residents adopting a resolution against the Bund, which received unanimous support.

Reverend M. Edgar N. Lindsay, pastor of South Britain Congregational Church, was instrumental in leading the town in denouncing the Bund, declaring Nazism to be "un-Christian, un-American and an insidious menace." After bold actions taken by the residents of Southbury, the Bund abandoned the campsite, never to return. Southbury was the only town in America known to take such action.

South Britain Congregational Church will now have this historic road marker.

Saturday Night Program

**Reception, Cash Bar, and
Buffet Dinner**

Musical Performance

Jim Tornatore

**Proclamation from Town of
Southbury**

Jeffrey Manville, First Selectman

Video - Recognition of Southbury

US Senator Chris Murphy

**Gratitude from Presenting Sponsor,
Jewish Federation of Western CT**

Gary Jones, CEO

Musical Performance

Karen Lampiasi and Meg Capen

Keynote

Michael Benson, author of
“Gangsters vs. Nazis”

Announcement by Tribury Rotary

Ron Webb

Poem by Woodbury Poet Laureate

Sandy Carlson

Final Musical Performance

Alyce Cognetta Bertz, Gary Bertz
and Katherine Mombo

Final Thoughts and Closing

Rabbi Eric Polokoff

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who made this weekend possible including all the coordinating organizations: Pomperaug Regional School District 15, Town of Southbury, B’nai Israel of Southbury, Southbury Economic Development Commission, Southbury Community Trust Fund, Southbury Historical Society, South Britain Congregational Church, Tribury Rotary Club, United Church of Christ - Southbury, Church of the Epiphany, St. James Lutheran Church, Mattatuck Unitarian Universalist Society, The Lutheran Home of Southbury, Mid-South Catholic Church and Southbury Land Trust.

Special thanks to Kevin Bielmeier, Gosia Liedlich and Sara Panaccio of the Town of Southbury; Elise Gamauf of Southbury Printing Centre; Kelly Keenan and Kim McNeil of the Southbury Economic Development Commission and Brian Marganski of Pomperaug High School.

Participants



Stephen Armstrong is the Social Studies Consultant for the Connecticut Department of Education. He has served as a classroom teacher, department chairperson, and school administrator in the Manchester Public Schools and West Hartford Public Schools. Steve is an instructor in the History Department at Central Connecticut State University, where he works with pre-service teachers. He is a past president of the Connecticut Council for the Social Studies and the National Council for the Social Studies and is also past president of the Association for the Study of Connecticut History.



Michael Benson is one of today's most popular American history writers. During his three decades as a professional writer, Benson has worked closely with: a former gangster for a biography of several mobsters, a retired Army Intelligence agent during the tense days after 9/11 for a book about the CIA, and a retired FBI agent for a book about National Security. Benson has a B.A. with honors in Communication Arts from Hofstra University. He is the winner of an Academy of American Poets award, and was in 2016 named a Wheatland-Chili High School Graduate of Excellence.



Arnie Bernstein is a narrative nonfiction writer who enjoys telling the forgotten tales of history. His book *Swastika Nation: Fritz Kuhn and the Rise and Fall of the German-American Bund* was praised as a definitive story by *The New York Times*, *Publishers Weekly*, *The Chicago Tribune*, and many others. His other books include *Bath Massacre: America's First School Bombing* and *The Movies Are: Carl Sandburg's Film Reviews & Essays*. Arnie lives in Chicago where he teaches writing and roots for the White Sox. He is a typewriter devotee and writes all his first drafts on three vintage manuals: a Royal Quiet Deluxe, an Olympia SM-9, and Smith-Corona Skyriter. Check out his website at www.arniebernstein.com.



Erin Birden is a pre-K-12 educator and Southbury resident who currently serves as Teacher in Residence for Diversity and Cultural Competency in Region 15 Public Schools. She serves on the Middlebury and Southbury Equity and Inclusion Council and cares deeply about the Southbury and Middlebury communities as well as teaching and learning. Erin serves as an advisor to multiple student-led organizations in Region 15, a founding member of Connecticut Math Teachers' Circle for Social Justice, and is a member of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Educator Network in Connecticut. Erin earned her doctorate in Instructional Leadership from University of Connecticut.



Alyce Cagnetta Bertz is the concertmaster of the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra. She recently returned from summer tour of concerts in Connecticut, Vermont, Martha's Vineyard, Colorado, California and Burning Man Project in Nevada. Alyce is also a teacher and mentor to young violinists who study with her in Southbury at her Geodesic Dome studio. Alyce is currently working on her next album entitled *Time is Now*. She performs on an exceptional Italian violin made by Postiglione in 1869.



Gary Bertz is an acoustic guitarist. He plays with Hot Acoustics, guitar and violin duo. Concert Tours have included Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Montana, New York, Florida, California and Wyoming. Gary has played shows internationally with Leon Russell, Steven Stills, Bonnie Raitt, Hot Tuna, Todd Rundgren, The Ramones and Ritchie Havens.



James Calaski is a police Detective Sergeant who serves in Glen Rock, New Jersey. His investigative experiences have come in handy researching the German American Bund. His master's thesis was titled *The German American Bund as a Fifth Column Threat During the Interwar Years: An Examination of the FBI Investigation*. Living near the sites of two old Bund camps, Nordland and Bergwald, James has explored the area and has collected many artifacts along the way. He enjoys helping others by searching for their family histories and discovering the stories of old houses. James is married to his high school sweetheart and they have two children.



Meg Capen has enjoyed a professional singing career as a mezzo soprano. She has sung in Europe, New York and throughout New England, giving performances in vocal solo recitals, oratorio and operatic performances. She has performed operatic roles with the Connecticut Lyric Opera and Opera Oggi of New York, and has been a guest soloist with the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra and the Waterbury Chamber Concert Series. She is currently the soloist for the First Church of Christ Science, in Southbury, CT. Meg is also a board certified music therapist with a private practice in Music Therapy.



Donna Cassity has been an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ for 25 years, and a Registered Nurse for the last 38 years. She has served as an interim pastor and chaplain throughout her ministry helping churches who are going through transitions and change. Currently, she is the Interim Transitional Pastor at South Britain Congregational Church. Donna lives in Southbury and is a mother of three adult children, grandmother of five, and friend to many. When she's not working, Donna loves planting flowers, going for walks and playing with her spoiled, standard poodle, Bella or at the park with her grandchildren.



Sandy Carlson is a poet and educator living in Woodbury, where she currently serves as poet laureate. Sandy, who hosts the podcast *People and Their Poems* and leads the Orenaug Chapter of the Connecticut Poetry Society in the Woodbury area, is the author of five books: *Seventeen Park Lane*, *Silent Spaces*, *Always True*, *Slow Passage Home*, and, most recently, *Bearing Witness to the Wind*. Over the years, she has published essays, reviews, and short works of fiction in various periodicals in the US and in Ireland. You'll find Sandy's podcasts and information about her books on her website, sandycarlson.net.



Dr. Carrie Chiappetta is the Assistant Superintendent for the Pomperaug Regional School District 15. Prior to this, Carrie had numerous positions within the Stamford Public Schools including Director for School Improvement and Professional Development for Secondary Schools and K-12 Director for Math and Science. In 2006, Carrie received the Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship.. Carrie has presented at numerous conferences in the United States as well as in Mexico, Germany, the UK, and Ireland, and has visited schools in countries such as Russia, Egypt, and Japan.



For 18 years, Monsignor Joseph T. Donnelly was assigned to Sacred Heart Church of Southbury and was a prominent member of the religious life in town. He was an important member of the Three Amigos who helped to bridge the misunderstandings between the Abrahamic religions (Catholic, Jewish and Muslim). A native of Waterbury, CT, he was known and loved by so many in Southbury before retiring in 2021. He was appointed Episcopal Vicar of the Western Region of the Archdiocese of Hartford, 2019-2020. He retired to Senior Status in 2021 and continues to consult and work with regional parishes.



Melinda K. Elliott is the president of the Southbury Historical Society. She enjoys historical research and sharing her latest finds through her writing. Melinda is the author of two published books, Connecticut Schoolhouses Through Time and Southbury Through Time: Remnants of Our Past. Her newest book, No Swastikas in Southbury will be released in February 2023. Melinda and her husband Ray have three children, all living nearby, and seven grandchildren to spoil.



Reverend Shawn Garan recently became the 21st Senior Minister at the United Church of Christ of Southbury. He previously served as the Associate Pastor at Second Congregational Church of Greenwich, CT. Shawn and his wife Ashley have 3 children: 11 year old twins and a 1 year old. Shawn is a military veteran and has degrees from UConn and Alliance Theological Seminary. He is currently in his third year of psychoanalytic residency at the Blanton-Peale Institute in Manhattan, NY and preparing to begin his Doctor of Ministry degree soon after that.



Chris Gardner is Director of Communications for the Department of Psychiatry at Yale School of Medicine. He promotes the work of the department's nearly 1,000 faculty members and trainees. He maintains the department's portfolio of over 70 websites and manages its messaging service and media relations. Prior to working at Yale, Chris enjoyed a 20-year career at the Republican-American newspaper in Waterbury, CT. He serves as Senior Burgess on the Borough of Newtown Board of Burgesses and is an elected member of the Newtown Legislative Council.



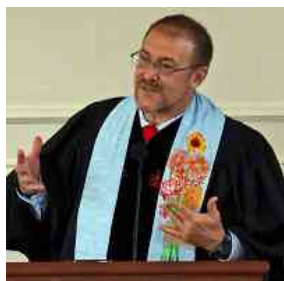
Linda Goodman has been involved in choral singing for over sixty years. As a special education teacher for thirty-five years, she used music to comfort and educate children. She has been director of Mahkelah, B'nai Israel's adult choir, for eighteen years and is currently the temple's Director of Sacred Music. In that role she leads a variety of worship services, celebrating with congregants during happy occasions and comforting congregants at sad times. Linda is grateful for the opportunity to work with Mahkelah. A diverse group of singers from a variety of backgrounds, this choir consistently makes a beautiful and inspiring sound, transporting congregants to a higher spiritual plain.



Reverend Abby Johnson is the senior pastor at St. James Lutheran Church in Southbury. This is her first congregation; she previously served as a hospital chaplain and in camp ministry. Abby earned her Masters of Divinity at United Lutheran Seminary, Philadelphia. Her academic interests lie in social and ecological ethics, particularly how faith can foster responses to environmental injustice. She's an artist and outdoor adventure sport enthusiast, accompanied by her dog Thule, the unofficial greeter at church.



Karen Lampiasi, soprano, graduated from the Hartt School of Music Mus.Ed/Voice, Westfield State University Masters in Education and had a career in education K-8. She has been a soloist and an organist in many Churches throughout New England. She is now retired with her husband, Jack, and they live in Heritage Village. They have 2 children and 5 grandchildren.



Reverend Tony Lorenzen currently serves as the full-time minister with two small yoked congregations in Connecticut, The Mattatuck Unitarian Universalist Society and The Unitarian Universalist Church in Meriden. He has served a number of congregations in Massachusetts and Texas. He has a spiritual direction practice and a robust online ministry with regular posts to social media, including two different video series on YouTube, "A Morning Walk" and "Monthly Spiritual Challenge." He lives with his wife, The Rev. Tuesday Jane Rupp, an Episcopal priest, in Woodbury, CT. His theological interests include public theology, the work of James Luther Adams, New Testament literature and history, and the spirituality of friendship. He enjoys playing the guitar, chess, cribbage, writing fiction, and reading.



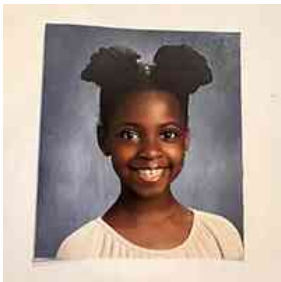
Femina Melodia is a women's a cappella group founded and directed by Jan Gregory. For the past 22 years we have presented Spring and Fall concerts, for the most part making our home here at B'nai Israel. We enjoy the wonderful acoustics in the space but even more we appreciate the warm welcome we have received from Rabbi Eric and members of the congregation. Femina Melodia joined the B'nai Israel choir, Makhela, for this year's Pride Shabbat and we look forward to marking the 85th anniversary of When Southbury Said NO to the Nazis.



Barbara Mechler retired from her role as New Fairfield Schools Assistant Superintendent in 2014. During her thirty-four-year career in education, Barbara taught in Naugatuck and Meriden in a variety of roles: elementary school principal, reading consultant, and classroom teacher. A CT native, Barbara holds an undergraduate degree in Education and postgraduate degrees in Reading and Educational Leadership.



Rabbi Eric Polokoff is the founding rabbi of B'nai Israel of Southbury, serving the congregation since 1997. He gives great attention to his roles here as a teacher, pastor, speaker and community leader. His interests and activities begin locally and extend beyond our community: Moderator of the Southbury Clergy Association, Executive Committee of the Connecticut Community Foundation, and Executive Committee of CT ADL and an ADL Associate National Commissioner. He is also known locally as one of The Three Amigos, working with a Monsignor and Imam to extend interfaith understanding.



Natalia Reid is a student at Long Meadow Elementary School. In 2022 she started, and is President of Upstanders Club – a club where members learn how to act upon their pledge “When I see something wrong happening to someone I will say something or help in any way I can”. all kids can feel safe from bullying. Natalia loves to help others and also loves to read, draw, play the drums and piano. She wants to be a veterinarian when she grows up. Natalia lives in Southbury with her parents and two sisters.



Scott Sniffen has enjoyed 25 years' experience shooting television, commercial, feature, documentary and business communication films. As an accomplished director of photography Scott has specialized in digital cinema and has DP'd 3 independent feature films. A recent project is the Emmy nominated documentary “Home of the Brave”, a film documenting a town's fight against a Nazi group in 1937. Another new documentary is “Haiti: Day by Day” which aired on CPTV and the Pitney Bowes' 100-year milestone doc also aired on CPTV.



Jim Tomatore is a performer; director; music educator; music liturgist and composer. As Artistic Director of Newbury Musical Theatre Company (based in Southbury since 2008) Jim finds it particularly gratifying to work with young performers and is interested advancing the Arts in Southbury. A resident of Southbury since 2006, Jim is also Vice-Chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

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**farm fresh
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Our mission is to continue through "A Taste for Ukraine Menu" Offering traditional dishes for you to savor.
Hoping you appreciate & come in to support our efforts*

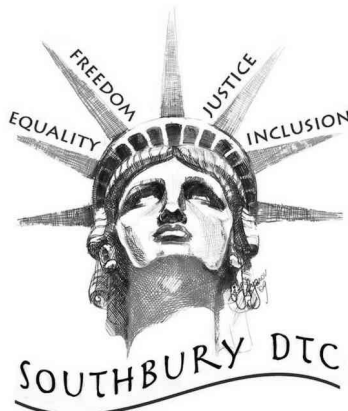
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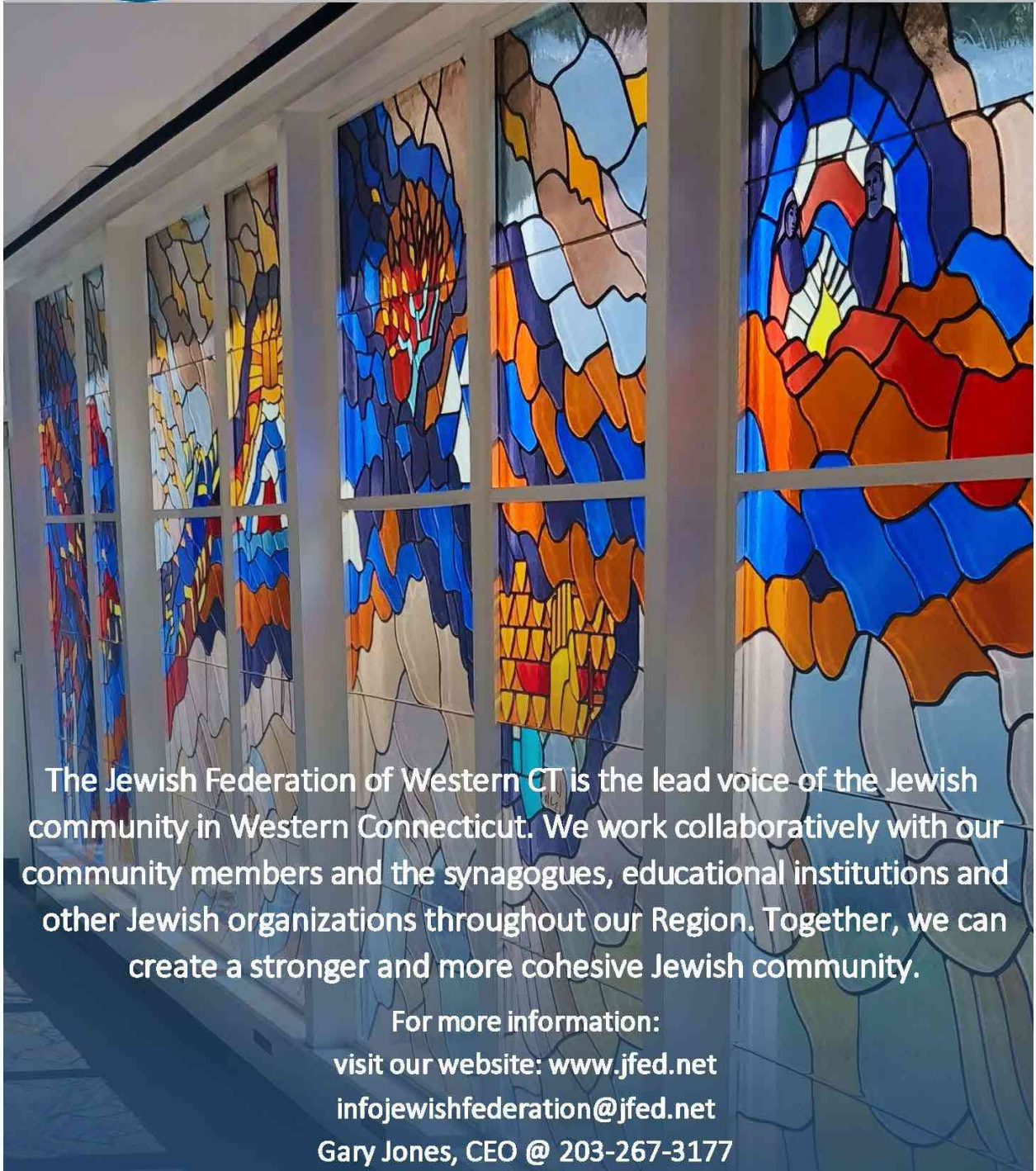


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