



# Kol Kehilat

THE NEWSLETTER OF KEHILAT CHAVERIM

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**April 1, 2022 (5782)**

## Please Join Us for the Spring Annual Meeting *Theme: Back Together Again!*

**Sunday, May 15, 2022**  
**10:00 am Brunch, 10:30 am Business Meeting**



*Please bring lawn chairs – weather permitting,  
this meeting will be outdoors with food!*  
*In case of rain, we will meet indoors, and the current KC  
Covid policy will apply. If indoors, a Zoom link will be provided  
for those opting not to attend in person.*

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### REMINDER

Please let us know if any of your contact information changes. Periodically, we will send out a membership list, and want to make certain that it is current.

## Condolences

### Marcie B. Schwartz, in memorium

With the coming of spring, the re-emergence of life after Covid-19 and our upcoming Kehilat Chaverim annual meeting, we remember our friend Marcie Schwartz, an extraordinary life force in so many different ways. Marcie died Jan. 23 after a year-and-a-half battle with lymphoma. She was 68 and was a member of the KC steering committee until her passing.

The written recollections about Marcie, some from Kehilat members and the conversations at her memorial in her adopted longtime hometown of Farmington, all tell the story of a life with so many activities, so many engagements, so many directions. They carry a clear thread: service, love of family, dedication to community and mostly her joy of life, signaled to the world in part through her "striking blue eyes and dimpled smile that would light up a room," as her obituary said.

**From legacy.com in the Hartford Courant:**

She had a passion for travel, the performing arts especially Broadway, and spending countless hours with her friends and family. She was deeply loyal and her ferocious love of life was contagious. She had a passion for fitness and health, especially walks with her children and friends at the Hillstead Museum and on the Cliff walk in Newport, RI. Newport held a special place in her heart, as it was where Marcie and Jim first met, fell in love, got married and vacationed with their friends and family for over forty years. An active member of the Farmington community and

beyond, most recently Marcie served the town as an elected member of Farmington Town Plan and Zoning Commission. For over 30 years, she was an active and dedicated board member of Kehilat Chaverim, which allowed Marcie to integrate her Jewish identity and traditions into her family's life.

**From a Kehilat Chaverim profile of Marcie in in January, 2020 by Marsha Mason:**

*Marcie grew up in the Lower East Side of Manhattan (think Crossing Delancey) in a kosher family that attended a very traditional shul. Girls in that era went to Sunday school but did not learn Hebrew or have a Bat Mitzvah.*



Photo by Joan Walden

*After getting a degree in recreational therapy at SUNY Buffalo, she moved to Boston to work at Massachusetts General Hospital with spinal cord injured patients. The hospital paid for her graduate work and she earned her MBA. She continued in hospital administration for a short time while having a long distance romance with Jim Calcianno, a real estate appraiser she met while visiting Newport, RI. Jim was from Bristol, CT and when they married the couple moved to this area.*

*Marcie was recruited by Hewlett Packard and went to work in technology sales. Her knowledge of the health care industry was key to her work there and she logged 20 years with HP. She then went on to work for Intel for the last 10 years of her career.*

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## Condolences

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**From Faith Fuerst**, on a time Marcie and Jim's children, Ana and Michael, were kids:

*In 1999, Shem Fuerst and Ana Calciano were married in front of family and friends at Watkinson School in West Hartford, CT. The wedding was in support of learning about Jewish Milestones at KC Sunday School. It was a marvelous affair and the start of a wonderful relationship for Faith Fuerst, Marcie Schwartz and Jim Calciano. For decades after the wedding, it was one of the highlights of Faith, Marcie's and Jim's friendship.*

*Not everyone knew how much joy they had in being in-laws. Information about the kids was shared regularly and as Shem and Ana returned annually for KC High Holidays, there was always much interest in hearing about their love lives. Today, Ana is happily married to Bill Pratt and Shem is happily married to Lindsay Fuerst with a son, Cole, who is almost 1. While it was only a mock wedding in 1999, it brought two families together forever and Marcie will be deeply missed by the Fuerst's.*



**Hila Yanai remembers the youth group, and more:**

*My friendship with Marcie began when we joined forces, along with Maggie Cohen, to organize a Kehilat Chaverim Youth Group twenty years ago. I saw in Marcie then the qualities I've seen ever since: a "can do" spirit, love of fun and adventure, a commitment to problem-solving and making things happen, an open mind, and above all, love*

*of family and friends.*

*Marcie's optimism and adventurous spirit were infectious, reducing all challenges to manageable "molehills." When talking about problems in our lives, Marcie was always empathetic but also convinced that, despite circumstances, we and those close to us have the ability to make choices that enable us to live the best lives we can live. Being of a less optimistic disposition, I found Marcie's attitude encouraging and bracing.*

*After her retirement, Marcie and I had the chance to spend more time together. One of our favorite activities was taking theater courses with Frank Rizzo at Presidents*

*College. Hamilton, My Fair Lady, West Side Story . . . Some classes were better than others, but it was so fun to take them together!*

*And speaking of theater . . . Mike and I were co-subscribers to Theaterworks with Marcie and Jim for a long while. We really enjoyed going out to a pre-theater dinner, checking out new restaurants on the Hartford scene, and later, discussing the TW show we had just seen. Marcie and Jim were frequent theater-goers, both in Hartford and on Broadway, but for Mike and me, these TheaterWorks outings were our wonderful foray from suburbia to an urbane, sophisticated evening out with good friends!*

*These remarks provide a "tip of the iceberg" view of Marcie. She was a beautiful person inside and out, and I will miss her always.*

**From Sue Garten, who worked with Marcie for years on the High Holiday services:**

*Every June, I look at the calendar and am*

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Condolences

*(Continued from page 3)*

surprised by the High Holidays- either so early or so late in the fall! I'd email Marcie, my long-time partner in planning KC's High Holiday services, to suggest that we get together to begin planning. Every time we met she looked younger and more elegant, even when wearing workout clothes. I can hear her funny, clear-eyed yet compassionate observations, delivered in her gravelly voice. I spent more social time with her during the past couple of years, and I witnessed her generosity, passion for justice, and love of family, friends and community, often while walking at top speed around Farmington or Newport. She had a beautiful spirit, and I miss her deeply.

### **Charlotte Gara recalls Marcie at work and at KC:**

I first got to know the family when I coached Ana for her Bat Mitzvah in 2001. Marcie had a really generous heart. When I wanted to get in contact with my high school best friend, Marcie helped me because she was a 4th level contact on Linked In. We always traded jewelry stories because she worked at her friend's jewelry store from Thanksgiving to Christmas. When I was in outplacement in 2013, my mentor told me she was engaged; they both worked at Hewlett Packard. And then my mentor and her fiancé broke up. After she was laid off Marcie stood by her even though her other work friends did not. That was the kind, helpful and generous soul Marcie was.



### **Karen Harrington recalled Marcie on the steering committee:**

*I got to know Marcie several years after she became a member of the Kehilat. She was smart, funny and cared deeply about her community. As a member of the Steering Committee, she was a hard worker who took her commitments seriously. At times her perspective on an issue might have been different from mine but she was thoughtful in discussions and in listening to others.*

*Before COVID, Marcie and I would occasionally meet for coffee at Starbucks. I enjoyed walking in and seeing her beautiful smile. She always had stories to tell in her wonderful New York accent.*

### **Joan Walden remembers Marcie's style, her smile and a graceful way of being:**

*Two memories of Marcie involve a KC program at her lovely home in Farmington and a meeting at the Mandell JCC.*

*Marcie and Jim had opened their home for a Sunday KC ed-cult meeting/ gathering and I was reminded of the earliest days of the group where nearly everyone's home was spacious and could easily accommodate large numbers of people. Marcie and Jim were gracious hosts, of course, and after the program had concluded I asked Marcie if she would give me a tour of her splendid home. She and Jim had undertaken renovations and the result was a residence with "good bones," as they say, and a modern updo. Her eye for detail could be seen in the understated elegance that was evident in the materials, the layout, and the furnishings.*

*We spent perhaps twenty minutes as she*

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## Condolences

*(Continued from page 4)*

*took me through the home, ending in her office on the top floor where we paused to chat. I hadn't known her well until that point, and although we had been in close proximity at various KC functions over the years, it was likely our first one-on-one conversation without ambient noise and distractions. She told me about meeting Jim, her work, and her kids, topics about which I had known very little. It was a meaningful exchange, and I so wish we had made the time to continue it. But our work and our lives got in the way.*

*The second memory pertains to a meeting with Sue Garten at the MJCC to discuss arrangements leading up to that year's High Holiday services. I remember how beautifully attired Marcie was -- something that was part of her signature style -- and how professional her demeanor as we met with the staff member, who was hardly accommodating. And yet, by the end of the meeting, Marcie had won him over by being persuasive in her gentle, yet forceful manner.*

*I loved the sounds of her voice and her laugh. I can hear them in my mind's ear still. I hope that her family and close friends*

*find solace and comfort in knowing that she touched many people in large and small ways. Her immeasurable contributions to our group, for which she never sought credit or recognition, are embedded in our essence. And the echo of her laugh lives on.*

Marsha Mason, in her 2020 story, recounted that Marcie declined to run for the Farmington town council "but later realized that her dissatisfaction with national politics could be mitigated by rolling up her sleeves and committing to her strongly held belief that "all politics are local." Marsha also recalled like so many of us. "she is passionate about being a mentor for young women in the sciences and volunteers at the Connecticut Invention Convention. Her love of documentary films also inspired her to volunteer at the Newport Film Festival."

Marcie is survived by her husband, Jim Calciano, her daughter Ana Calciano Pratt and her husband, William Pratt, of Farmington and her son, Michael J. Calciano and his partner, Joshua Morgan, of New York City. She is also survived by her sister, Laurie Consumano, of New York City, as well as numerous nieces and nephews. Marcie is predeceased by her mother and father, Joseph and Etta Schwartz, and her brother, Mitchell Schwartz, all of New York City.

### MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT CONTACT INFORMATION

Healing wishes are sent to members who are ill or grieving. If we can help by providing food or sustenance, a ride, or a sympathetic ear, please reach out to one of us.

If you become aware of a member in need please contact one of us. If you are comfortable please ask your friend/member if they mind having a person from membership support reach out. Some people prefer to keep their situation private or only among their inner circle. Thank you for caring.

Debby Szajnberg

[support@kehilatchaverim.org](mailto:support@kehilatchaverim.org)

Elaine Groundwater

[support@kehilatchaverim.org](mailto:support@kehilatchaverim.org)

## Condolences

### *In Loving Memory of Marcie Schwartz*

#### **Gates** (Rabbi Rami Shapiro)

At each moment of our lives  
 we encounter gates behind which beckon the unknown.  
 We have little choice but to enter, and as we do,  
 the gates swing shut behind us. We can never go back.  
 The known, the comfortable, the safe, all these are in the past.  
 Only the unknown, the dangerous,  
 the mysterious and the terrifying lay ahead.  
 Moving on makes us human,  
 doing so lightly and at peace makes us divine.

Eventually we come to the final gate, the final closing.  
 The trail ends, leaving behind only memories  
 of steps taken, leaps tried, grace achieved and shared.  
 How do we honor this final gate?  
 With tears and stories, with memories and love,  
 with food and friends,  
 and with silence.

Silence is the heart of death, and silence alone does it justice.  
 But silence does not mean passivity,  
 and our tradition speaks of four virtues that form the core of silence.

The **first** is hearing:  
 Hearing the inner voice of our pain and love,  
 rejoicing that nothing, not even the grave,  
 can rob us of the supreme human emotion.  
 The **second** is memory:  
 reclaiming the past by refusing to forget the joys it once held.  
 The **third** is action:  
 we must honor our dead by continuing to live ourselves.  
 Their memory is quicken only in the fullness of our own lives-  
 our own futures, our own ongoing struggles  
 to make sense out of an often senseless world.  
 The fourth is wisdom:  
 every life is a teaching, every person a guide to truth.

Hearing, memory, action, wisdom...  
 May each of these find a place in our silence, our grief,  
 and our moving out again into the world  
 where yet another gate beckons wide.

## Community Action

### Hands on Hartford Soup Kitchen

On November 29, Lucas and Linda Busch, and Amy Gallant served up lasagna, salad, bread and brownies.

On January 31, Linda Busch, Clarissa Basch and Amy Gallant provided homemade chili, salad, bread and cookies - in both cases serving about 65 meals. Thanks to all the KC members who generously donated money and provisions. We'll be back at Hands on Hartford October 31.

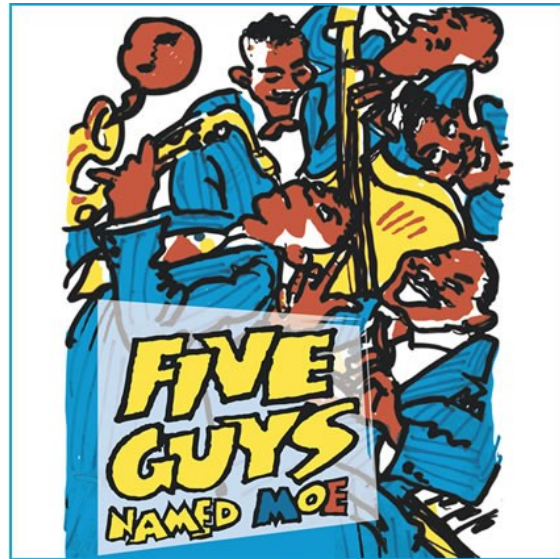


Amy Gallant and Clarissa Basch



## Social Activities

On February 27th, a group of 13 Kehilat Chaverim members went to see 5 Guys Named Moe at Playhouse on Park. The event was organized by the Social Activities committee.



[https://www.playhouseonpark.org/web2/Season13/mainstage\\_FiveGuysNamedMoe.html](https://www.playhouseonpark.org/web2/Season13/mainstage_FiveGuysNamedMoe.html)

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## Steering Committee

March 16, 2022

Re: KC Covid Policy for Indoor Events Revisited

Dear KC Members and Friends,

At its meeting last night, the Steering Committee revisited KC's Covid policy in light of decreasing case numbers and relaxing of guidelines by the Town of West Hartford and others. After thorough discussion, it was agreed that the existing Covid policy should be relaxed. The revised policy is as follows:

**We are advising members to wear masks indoors unless eating.  
We will return to events with food.  
All attendees are to be vaccinated (on the honor system) or if they cannot be, they will keep their masks on at all times.**

A vote was taken on the above and the policy change was approved unanimously. It was also agreed that for indoor events we would do our best to provide a Zoom option for those opting not to attend in person. We will continue to revisit the policy as conditions in our community change.

Sincerely,

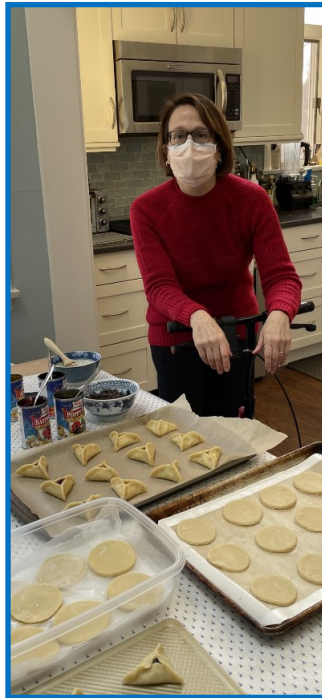
The Kehilat Chaverim Steering Committee



## Purim

### Purim Fun!

On Sunday, March 13, Harriet Winograd, Ellen Coffey, Elaine Groundwater, Linda Carlson and Debby Szajnberg got together at Harriet's house for a Festivals Committee event to make Hamantaschen. Thank you so much, Harriet and Ellen for organizing and hosting this fun Purim event! Using dough from the Crown and a wide variety of fillings, everyone was able to take home a batch of delicious cookies. It was so great to be together, even without eating (well maybe we did taste a few samples.)



Photos by Ellen Coffey and Linda Carlson

## Passover Tasting



# The Festivals Committee Invites You to a Potluck Passover Tasting

**When:** Saturday, April 9, 2022, 11:30 am  
(rain date: Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>)

**Bring a favorite Passover dish to share –  
it can be a main dish, side dish or dessert!**

*Please also bring copies of your recipe for others.*

**RSVP:** [festivals@kehilatchaverim.org](mailto:festivals@kehilatchaverim.org)

*We encourage you to RSVP early – we may need to limit attendance to a comfortable number in case it is too cold to be outdoors.*

## Social Activiites

### November 2020 Turkey Drive



## Thank You



Dear KC Friends,

Thank you so very much for all your lovely cards, messages, phone calls, visits, and delicious food during my recovery from foot surgery. Having to be off my feet for so many weeks has been challenging but the warm generosity of our wonderful community has made it much more bearable.

Gratefully,

Ellen Coffey

### ***Kehilat Chaverim Contact List***

#### **2020-2021 Steering Committee Members—**

##### **Administration**

|                                   |                  |                             |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Steering Committee Administration | Ellen Coffey*    |                             |
| Membership Administration         | Debby Szajnberg* | support@kehilatchaverim.org |

|           |               |
|-----------|---------------|
| Treasurer | Nancy Malley* |
|-----------|---------------|

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| Email Distribution to Membership and Mailing List | Marcia Walker |
|---|---------------|

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| Interface with Public and Prospective Members | Karen Dworski* |
|---|----------------|

|           |             |
|-----------|-------------|
| Webmaster | Bob Abraham |
|-----------|-------------|

##### **Jewish Life**

|           |                   |                               |
|-----------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Festivals | Ellen Coffey*     | festivals@kehilatchaverim.org |
|           | Harriet Winograd* | festivals@kehilatchaverim.org |

|         |              |
|---------|--------------|
| Shabbat | Susan Doran* |
|---------|--------------|

|                                  |                  |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| High Holidays (Ad Hoc Committee) | Sue Garten*      |
|                                  | Marcie Schwartz* |

##### **Community Life**

|            |                     |                             |
|------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Membership | Debby Szajnberg*    | support@kehilatchaverim.org |
|            | Elaine Groundwater* | support@kehilatchaverim.org |

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| Community Engagement<br>& Education and Culture | Sue Garten*    |
|   | Marcie Swartz* |

|                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Community Action | Clarissa Basch* |
|------------------|-----------------|

|                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Social Activities | Andrea Levy* |
|-------------------|--------------|

##### **Communication**

|                              |                  |                                    |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|
| Marketing and Communications | Dan Haar*        | communications@kehilatchaverim.org |
|                              | Eric Hammerling* |                                    |

\* Steering Committee Member

### **CALENDAR**

**Future events, including Shabbat, will be announced by e-mail.  
See the KC Website at [www.kehilatchaverim.org](http://www.kehilatchaverim.org)  
Please check the website calendar for conflicts before scheduling**

Thank you to Joan Walden, Eric Hammerling and Dan Haar for proofreading this newsletter.



Kehilat Chaverim

c/o Linda Carlson

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Manchester CT 06040

**Featured this Month:**

- Marcie Schwartz-  
Calciano Condolences
  - Purim
  - Passover Tasting
-