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THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

NOVEMBER 2018/CHESHVAN-KISLEV 5779 VOLUME 20, NUMBER 7

A PUBLICATION OF UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER STAMFORD, NEW CANAAN AND DARIEN

Changing the World from the Inside Out

Seventh Annual Saul Cohen-Schoke JFS Lecture

Rabbi Dr. Shmuly Yanklowitz, a well-known activist for Jewish social justice, will speak on Thursday, November 8, at 7:30 pm, at the main branch of the Ferguson Library in Stamford. The title of the lecture is "Spiritual Transformation: Changing the World from the Inside Out." Rabbi Yanklowitz will focus his lecture around the ideas and thoughts in two of his books: "Pirkei Avot: A Social Justice Commentary" and "The Soul of Jewish Social Justice." The



Rabbi Dr. Shmuly Yanklowitz

annual Saul Cohen-Schoke Jewish Family Service lecture is a gift, offered free to the community through the generosity of Mimi and Saul Cohen. A book sale and signing and dessert buffet will follow the main lecture.

When asked to comment on the importance of the subject of the lecture, Rabbi Yanklowitz said, "Social justice is a call to action, an ethos and a reflective phrase. In all See "World" on page 3

Community Event Commemorates Kristallnacht

On Sunday, November 11, at 1:30 pm, the community will commemorate Kristallnacht at the State Cinema with a free showing of the film "1945." The film will be followed by a moderated discussion with Máté Vincze, consul for cultural affairs at the Hungarian Consulate in New York, and Arie Bucheister, chief of staff for The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany Inc. Bucheister has been involved in restitution negotiations with Eastern European countries, including Hungary. The event is part of the Stamford Jewish Community

Center Jewish Arts and Film Festival, and is co-sponsored by AJC Westchester/Fairfield and the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County.

Scott Richman, director of AJC Westchester/Fairfield, said, "We are proud that AJC is now a major sponsor of the film festival and is partnering with the JCC to bring high-level speakers to enhance the depth of the programming. As the leading global Jewish advocacy organization, AJC is deeply involved in advocating for the security of Jews globally and for a world where human See "Event" on page 13

Federation Year End Celebration

UJF Honors Edith Samers and Ed Smith

On Wednesday, November 28, the United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien will host a Year End Celebration and Annual Meeting. The event will be held at the Darien Community Association, 274 Middlesex Rd., Darien, beginning at 7:30 pm. Guests of Honor will be longtime Stamford residents and UJF volunteers Edith Samers and Ed Smith. The Harvey A. Peltz Award will be given to Drs. Kayla Mazer Hanna and Leon Hanna, and Volunteer of the Year Awards to Craig Price, Taly Farber, Shira Nerenberg and Stacey Palker. Event chairs are Eileen and Fred Springer, See "Celebration" on page 8



Ed Smith and Edith Samers (Photo by Alison Wachstein Photography)

The Gallery @ The J

New Exhibit Space for Local Artists

The Stamford Jewish Community Center has introduced a new venue for the purpose of supporting the public viewing of artwork by local artists. Called "The Gallery @ The J," the exhibit space is the focus of the Center's 1,200 square-foot entrance lobby.

The Gallery evolved as a part of the continued renovation and modernization of the almost 40-year-old Newfield Avenue campus. "The Gallery @ The J enhances the Center," notes Nancy Schiffman, associate executive director of Development and Signature Programs. "It sets a tone

and creates a positive environment that our visitors experience as soon as they enter the building."

Although for many years the JCC has exhibited artwork, it has typically been a part of the Jewish Arts and Film Festival of Fairfield County scheduled each fall, and has featured Jewish artists from around the world.

Now, the Gallery @ The J provides a great opportunity to celebrate local artists and display their work, be it photography, painting, fabrics or other medium. Exhibits are rotated every two See "Gallery" on page 4

Candle Lighting	2	Bits & Pieces	6	UJF Annual Meeting	10	Super Sunday	11	Voices & Views	18	Tapestry	20
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A Day in Nature

United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien's Chapter Two affinity group visited the Isabella Freedman Retreat Center in Falls Village, CT, during its "Sukkahfest." The Center is part of Hazon, an organization that focuses on creating a healthier and more sustainable Jewish community and world for all.

L-r: Eli Weinbach and Dana Samuels (Isabella Freedman staff), Sari Jaffe, Barbara Rosenberg, Elaine Nessim, Susan Holzman, Barbara Brafman, Myrna Lazarus, Debby Goldberg, Suzanne Horn, Allison Greenbaum and UJF Director of Community Campaign Sharon Franklin. (See page 5 for article and more photos of Chapter Two events.)



From UJF's Chief Executive Officer

Creating an enduring Jewish community

The Jewish calendar tends to envelop us with many holidays in short periods of time, especially during this time of year. We welcome the New Year, ask for forgiveness and repent for our sins and misdeeds, and marvel at the opportunity to start fresh and strive to be better. And then we welcome Sukkot, the festival of booths, and finish strong with the joyous celebration of Simchat Torah – celebrating the culmination and restarting of reading the Torah.



Diane Sloyer,
UJF CEO

During the Sukkot holiday, there is a tradition to read the Book of Kohelet – Ecclesiastes. The book struggles with the meaning of life and death, and also purpose. King Solomon, who many believe authored Kohelet, sees this as an opportunity to move forward.

The concept of a challenge or a struggle leaves me with renewed dedication to embrace every moment and every opportunity. A theme of Kohelet

is that everything has its appointed time and, after a year at Federation, I believe our time is here and now!

Our Federation identifies and addresses our greatest challenges and opportunities. As the Federation of today, we are the one local Jewish organization that is as focused on the future as much as the present. We have both the 35,000-foot view required

to plan for tomorrow and the hands-on partnerships that make it possible for us to care for our community today. We do this in collaboration with our organizational partners and our most committed leaders and donors.

I am excited to share that Ricky Arbron will stay on a third year as president so she can see through the innovative and impactful changes she and the board have brought to Federation, and we look forward to sharing the results with the community toward the end of the year. Our work is strategic, impactful and inspiring. We focus locally and serve as a global Jewish leader, doing essential work in Israel and throughout the Jewish world.

Did you know that thanks to Federation, more than 300 local kids receive PJ Library books every month and participate in communitywide PJ programs? And that more than 20 teenagers gather monthly as part of UJF's Kuriansky Teen Tzedakah program, or that more than 100 UJF volunteers spend time reading with local public school kids every month? This newspaper, *The New Jewish Voice*, is paid for by the Federation as a

service to our agencies and the community at large. With a readership of more than 10,000, it is one of the last Jewish print publications found in our community.

UJF's connection to Israel is about more than money. The program we fund in the Afula/Gilboa region creates partnerships and relationships. It's also about strengthening the bond between Israeli society and our community – something that benefits all of us.

We look forward to sharing our plans for 2019 and beyond at our Year End Celebration and Annual Meeting on

Wednesday, November 28. (See article on page 1 and ad on page 10 in this issue for more information.)

Ultimately, it's not what we do, but why we do it – which is to create the kind of enduring Jewish community we all want and need, based on shared goals and Jewish values. Thank you for allowing me to be part of this amazing journey. Please join us in making a difference.

Diane Sloyer
CEO

United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien

Your JCRC at Work

The Jewish Community Relations Council is the public affairs arm of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien. The JCRC represents the interests of the local Jewish community to public officials and agencies, the media and the wider community. The JCRC aims to convene and mobilize the Jewish community by building relationships and engaging in non-partisan work focused on education, advocacy, social justice, communal security, support for Israel and combating antisemitism. The scope of priorities and issues varies, depending on the nature of challenges faced by, and the level of consensus within, the community.

The JCRC works closely with local law enforcement to be informed and inform the community of security-related issues and to act upon them. For example, leaders and staff of local Jewish organizations attended a security briefing workshop led by Captain Sue Bretthauer of the Stamford Police Department. She discussed maintaining appropriate levels of precautions, communicating with local law enforcement and situational awareness. These briefings will continue and the captain has made herself available directly to the area institutions.

The JCRC also advocates on behalf of Israel and educates the community on events taking place there. As a member agency of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs and The Israel Action Network, UJF's voice is part of a bigger platform encompassing North America. The partnership with Afula/Gilboa provides a close look at the complexities facing Israel, and UJF will host an interfaith delegation from Afula in November as part of the Tapestry adult education event. In addition, on Wednesday, November 14, the JCRC along with the Jewish Community Center will host an opening of an Israel@70 exhibit in the Stamford Government Center. Norine Krasnogor is chairing the evening and Mayor David R. Martin is participating



Diane Sloyer, UJF CEO, welcomed everyone to a Gubernatorial Forum hosted by UJF, JFACT, BBYO and Federations in Fairfield and Greenwich.



Michael Bloom, executive director of JFACT (Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut), introduced the candidates.

along with other elected officials.

The Jewish community's relationship with local elected officials benefits from the work of the JCRC. With its partner, Jewish Federations Association of Connecticut, the JCRC has hosted Senator Richard Blumenthal, a breakfast forum with more than 20 local officials and a recent gubernatorial forum.

With the support and advocacy of the JCRC, policy now ensures that Holocaust education in Connecticut schools will be required. Connecticut is one of only seven states in the country that requires schools to include Holocaust education in their curriculum. The JCRC will continue to be a force behind implementing this new policy.

"I am so proud of the way our community rallied behind this bill. Our voices were heard. This was a huge victory and shows that we can make a difference. I was in Harford for the vote and it was very powerful," said Peter Lilienthal, JCRC chair.

"Building bridges within as well as beyond the Jewish community, especially in this difficult time, is an area where the JCRC can make a difference and we would look for community members to get involved. Working with such groups as the Interfaith Council has been especially important as we as a community work to combat hate and bigotry," added Lilienthal.

With this in mind, the JCRC encourages participation in two programs – 3SQUARE and Reading Partners – that are committed to building

See "JCRC" on page 6

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

October 26..... 5:40 pm
 November 2..... 5:31 pm
 November 9..... 4:23 pm
 November 16... 4:17 pm
 November 23... 4:12 pm
 November 30... 4:09 pm
 December 7..... 4:08 pm

United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien invites you to

NEXT Gen
Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien

A Night of Good Spirits

November 3rd ~ 8:00pm

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The crowd listened to the candidates present their views and answer questions.

COMMUNITY NEWS

United Jewish Federation Holds Super Sunday Extravaganza

BY SHARON FRANKLIN

On Sunday, November 18, the community will join together to help raise funds for United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien's Super Sunday. This year's "Extravaganza" themed fund-raiser will feature volunteer opportunities for teens and adults, as well as a variety of fun-filled activities geared for all ages. The event will take place from 9 am-1:30 pm at the Stamford Jewish Community Center, and is being co-chaired by Shari Raymond and Super Sunday veteran Taly Farber. The annual phone-a-thon will be held once again toward the end of the year, enabling donors who like to focus on end of the year giving to pledge at their preferred time of year.

The co-chairs are planning a day that has something for adults, teens and kids alike. Volunteers can make calls, assist with kids' programming and crafts, help with administrative tasks or take a shift at the *tzedakah* coin station. Volunteers who would like to make calls can take an on-site training session; staff will be present in the call room to help or answer

questions. Teens can catch up with friends and help raise funds at the teen calling table or take a shift running children's games or crafts. Family friendly activities include a carnival game room, face painting, balloon animals, counting and wrapping *tzedakah* coins, crafts and sampling carnival themed snacks such as popcorn and cotton candy. Families can also visit the PJ Library room, which will feature a mosaic-themed craft and story time.

Co-chair Farber and her husband, Trevor, have been Stamford residents for more than 10 years; their three children attend Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy. In the past, Farber has served on the UJF Young Leadership board and chaired Federation's Star of David Alliance monthly giving program. "I have chaired and been a committee member for several UJF events. I am



Taly Farber and Shari Raymond are the co-chairs of UJF's Super Sunday Extravaganza.

excited to chair Super Sunday once again. I want to support Federation and all that it does – helping fellow Jews both locally and internationally in this day and age of uncertainty," says Farber.

Raymond moved to the area with her family over a year ago and has quickly become involved in the community. Raymond, a member of the UJF board, grew up with parents who were very involved in their local Jewish community; she is proud to pass that legacy onto her children. "I am excited to work on Super Sunday

and show my children how to be active volunteers in the community. I am giving my time and support to UJF because it is a place that touches so many lives both locally, in Israel, and around the world. It's an honor to be able to help support and bring our community together for an important cause," says Raymond.

Whether coming to volunteer, see friends or take part in the variety of activities offered, attendees will be supporting their local Federation and all that it does for the local community, Israel and Jews in need in more than 70 countries around the globe.

For more information on United Jewish Federation and Super Sunday, or to volunteer, go to www.ujf.org or call 203-321-1373.

CAS Scholar-in-Residence on Menachem Begin

Herzl Makov, CEO of the Menachem Begin Heritage Center in Jerusalem, will visit Stamford as scholar-in-residence at Congregation Agudath Sholom on the weekend of Friday, November 9, and Saturday, November 10.

His Shabbat morning presentation on November 10 will be on "The Leadership of Menachem Begin and the Attack on the Osirak Nuclear Reactor."

Makov will also offer a class titled "Key Issues in the Life of Menachem Begin"



Herzl Makov

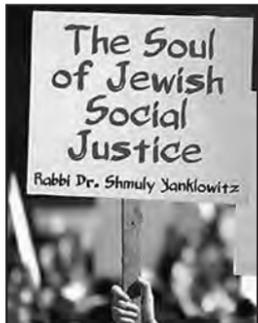
at Tapestry, an evening of adult Jewish learning co-sponsored by UJF of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien and UJA-JCC Greenwich, the evening of November 10 at the Stamford Jewish Community Center.

The Menachem Begin Heritage Center memorializes the life and achievements of former Prime Minister Menachem Begin, and is also an education center and meeting place for many Jewish and Israeli events. Makov is a former IDF fighter pilot who flew protective cover for the attack squadron

that destroyed the Osirak Nuclear Reactor in Iraq in 1981. He then went on to become chief of staff to former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. For more information, visit www.hiddenlightinstitute.org.

World Continued from page 1

that we do during the short time we are on this planet, we must do all we can to ensure that the next generation thrives because of our actions. It is difficult work; it is frustrating work. But the challenge of the work is what is most inspiring about it. What motivates me most of all is that I look out in the world and see that there are people struggling every day to make sense of the randomness and chaos that permeates society. The social justice tradition looks at this chaos and says, 'The world can be improved, the world must be improved, but we have to strive for this improvement.' This is a point that the sages bring up repeatedly: The day is short; the task is abundant (Pirkei Avot 2:2)."



The cover of one of Rabbi Dr. Shmuly Yanklowitz's books, which was a finalist for the 2014 National Jewish Book Award.

Rabbi Yanklowitz's writings have appeared in outlets as diverse as *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *The Guardian* and *The Atlantic*, among many other secular and religious publications. Rabbi Yanklowitz is an educator, social justice activist and motivational speaker, as well as the author of 14 books on Jewish spirituality, social justice and ethics. Rabbi Yanklowitz is the president and dean of Valley Beit Midrash, founder and president of Uri L'Tzedek, founder and CEO of The Shamayim V'Aretz Institute, and founder and president of YATOM: The Jewish Foster and Adoption Network.

Rabbi Yanklowitz will also speak separately to the young professionals Jewish Twenties and Thirties group, and conduct a workshop for Jewish professionals at the Schoke JFS Bridgeport office. For details about this programming, contact Jonathan Fass at 203-912-4161 or jfass@ctjfs.org.

Prior to the lecture at the library, a Patrons' Reception will be held for a group of generous donors to thank them for their support of Schoke JFS. For details or to learn how to become a Schoke JFS patron, contact Lisa Rich, donor relations coordinator, at 203-921-4161 or lrich@ctjfs.org.

For more details about the lecture, call 203-921-4161 or visit www.ctjfs.org.

Deadlines for articles

The deadlines for the next three issues of *The New Jewish Voice* are:

Monday, October 29 December
Wednesday, December 26 February

Monday, January 28 March/April

Send *New Jewish Voice* article submissions to Sandy Golove at sandy@ujf.org marked "Stamford Voice" in the subject line. Expect an acknowledgment; please re-send if you do not receive one.

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Joan and Henry Katz Lecture in Judaic Studies
"Looking for Bubbe: The Remembered and Forgotten Jewish World in Heritage Tourism"
Dr. Daniel J. Walkowitz
Monday, October 29 at 7:30 p.m.
Dolan School of Business Dining Room



Jacoby-Lunin Humanitarian Lecture
"Defending Human Dignities"
Dr. Kirsi Stjerna
Wednesday, November 14 at 8 p.m.
Quick Center for the Arts, Kelley Theatre - ticket required



Adolph and Ruth Schnurmacher Lecture in Judaic Studies
"Is a Manuscript a Mirror? Reading Jewish History in Jewish Art"
Dr. Marc Michael Epstein
Monday, November 26 at 7:30 p.m.
Dolan School of Business Dining Room



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Israel on Campus Today

UJF Donors Hear from JAFI Israel Fellows Director

United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien held its annual Major Donor Reception on October 7. The event, co-chaired by Jill Kaplan and Ellen Weber, was held at the Carriage Barn Arts Center, a 120-year-old historic carriage house on the grounds of the former Waveny Estate in New Canaan.

Guests had the chance to mingle, enjoy refreshments, view the Center's current Members Art Exhibit and hear from guest speaker Michelle Rojas-Tal.

Rojas-Tal is the current central *shlichah* (emissary) for Hillel International and director of the Israel Fellows Program, a program which places recent Israeli college graduates in Hillels on North American college campuses to assist with Israel education and advocacy. She supervises Hillel emissaries on 79 college campuses.

Rojas-Tal grew up with virtually no knowledge of or connection to her Jewish background. After 9/11, she

See "Campus" on page 6



UJF donors attended the reception held at the Carriage Barn Arts Center in New Canaan.



Speaker Michelle Rojas-Tal (center) with (l-r) Diane Sloyer (UJF CEO), Jill Kaplan (event co-chair), Eve Nachman (director of Israel Education Fund at JAFI) and Ellen Weber (event co-chair).



L-r: Edith Samers, Helene Kaminski, Harvey Kaminski, Elliot Sloyer, Claude Bernstein, Linda Spilka, Meryl Gordon, David Gordon and Eileen Springer attended the Major Donor Reception.



Join Chapter Two For a Trip to New Haven

November 15, 2018

Departure at 8:45a.m. (1035 Newfield Avenue) - 4:00p.m. return
 Fee: \$72 per person includes tours, kosher lunch and coach transportation

First stop: The Joseph Slifka Center for Jewish Life, the central place for Jewish life at Yale University.
 Rabbi Jason Rubenstein, the Howard M. Holtzman Jewish Chaplain, will give a tour and a lecture, followed by lunch.

Second stop: Docent led tour of the Yale University Art Gallery, including a special exhibit "Sights and Sounds of Ancient Ritual"

Chairs: Sue Frieden and Sari Jaffe
 Sign up: www.ujf.org/chapter2yale or
 Contact Sharon Franklin at 203-321-1373 ext. 109/sharon@ujf.org

Gallery. Continued from page 1

months, with a "Wine and Art" opening reception free to the community featuring the artist.

Earlier exhibits included "Idyllic Moments," photographs by David Sussan; "Spring," landscape paintings by Karen Adams; "Summer Breeze," featuring watercolors by 99-year-old Rosalind Kahn; and "Changing Perspectives," photographs by Caroline Temlock Teichman.

Exhibits to look forward to will feature recent works by painter Beth Styles; mixed media art by Ellen Gordon; photographs by Steve Labkoff; and the paintings of Liron Sissman.

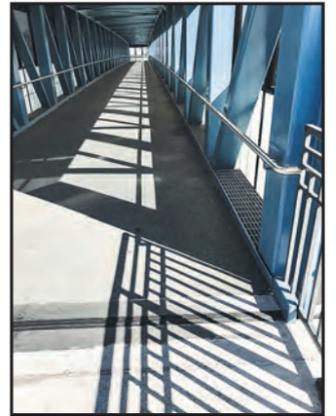
"Our goal in creating an art gallery at the JCC is to provide an environment that will initiate conversations around Jewish, human and global values and issues. We are the community's town square and it is our responsibility to facilitate opportunities for the community to convene and celebrate the richness of our diversity," said JCC Chief Executive Officer Marshall Kurland. "It is important to encourage these conversations that will stimulate openness to new ideas in an ever evolving society."

The upcoming exhibition, a part of the Jewish Arts and Film Festival of Fairfield County, titled "Blue Like Me," will open on Sunday, October 28, with a "Wine and Art" reception at 1 pm, featuring painter Siona Benjamin. Originally from Bombay, India, of Bene Israel Jewish descent, Benjamin will share what inspires her art, the meaning behind it and how Judaism plays a role. She will also talk about the Jewish community in India and share her experiences growing up there. The reception, free to the community, will be followed by an art workshop with the artist titled "Identity: What Color Are You?"

For more information about festival events, including the art exhibit and workshop, and to purchase tickets, visit stamfordjcc.org.

The Gallery@TheJis curated by a committee of JCC members and volunteers who reach out to local artists. Suggestions for potential exhibitors should be submitted, along with a sample of their artwork, to Nancy Schiffman at nschiffman@stamfordjcc.org.

The JCC is a recipient agency of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.



Photograph by Caroline Temlock Teichman from the photography exhibit "Changing Perspectives."



Painting by Rosalind Kahn from the art exhibit "Summer Breeze."



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The Future is in Our Care

On the Road with Chapter Two

BY SHARON FRANKLIN

United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien's Chapter Two affinity group spent two fall days enjoying outings in the tri-state area. Chapter Two has been offering programs and trips for more than four years for women in the empty nest phase of life, and is co-chaired by Sue Frieden and Sari Jaffe.

On September 27, the Chapter Two group ventured to the Isabella Freedman Retreat Center in Falls Village, CT, during Sukkahfest. The Center is part of Hazon, an organization that focuses on creating a healthier and more sustainable Jewish community and world for all. Set on 400 acres of woods, green meadows and farmlands, Isabella Freedman offers Jewish holiday experiences, workshops, festivals, farm vacations, retreats, yoga classes, prayer services and farm-to-table kosher meals throughout the year.

During the visit, the group took a tour of the farm where they had the chance to taste a variety of herbs and produce fresh off the vines. A workshop was held featuring an artisan who taught scribal art, followed by a homemade kosher farm-to-table lunch buffet in the Center's communal sukkah. The group had the opportunity to hear some words from Center Manager Adam Sher about the mission of Hazon. The day finished with the group pickling their own vegetables to take home.

A few weeks later, on October 11, the group set out on a cultural and gourmet experience. First stop was Brent Delman's, The Cheese Guy, a kosher cheese business based in Yonkers, NY. Delman, who has 20 years of experience in the food industry, started his gourmet kosher cheese business after he saw the growing need to provide kosher aged cheeses to kosher, vegetarian and gluten-free consumers. His vision was to combine his Eastern European Jewish heritage, Italian upbringing outside of Cleveland and his proximity to Amish farms to create artisanal, kosher cheeses from his Yonkers home cheese cave. A visit to his cheese cave included a sampling of a variety of cheese, jams and other products.

The second step of the day was the Derfner Judaica Museum at the Hebrew Home in Riverdale, NY. Participants had the opportunity to have a private docent led tour of the museum. The art collection features American and Western European contemporary and modern artists, who represent a range of styles, from Cubism to Abstract Expressionism, Pop Art to Minimalism. The museum was founded in 1982 with a gift of 800 Jewish ceremonial objects from local Riverdale residents Ralph and Leuba Baum, who wished to preserve and pass down to future generations the memory embodied



Chapter Two participants enjoyed a tour and tasting in the cheese cave at The Cheese Guy in Yonkers, NY.

Chapter Two toured the Derfner Judaica Museum at the Hebrew Home at Riverdale, NY. L-r: Elaine Nessim, Lois Afrin, Marsha Matthews, Myrna Lazarus and museum educator Elana Kaplan.



in the objects they collected. For more information about Chapter Two, contact Sharon Franklin at 203-321-1373, ext. 109, or sharon@ujf.org.



A farm-to-table lunch in the sukkah at the Isabella Freedman Retreat Center.



Chapter Two members enjoyed a workshop with a scribe.



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BITS AND PIECES

BY SANDY GOLOVE

To submit information to Bits and Pieces, call 203-912-9945, or e-mail me at sandy@ujf.org.

WELCOME TO GROWING FAMILIES:

Diana and Matthew Friedman on the birth of a son, Tyler Garrison Friedman; grandparents are **Susan and Robert Friedman**.

Lori and Sam Gressel on the birth of a son; grandparents are **Jeff Glazer, Barbara Gressel, Joe Gressel, Susan Gressel, Jeffrey Gross, Nina Gross and Gary Wigoda**.

Marcy and Micah Julius on the birth of a daughter, Lainey Rachel Julius; grandparents are **Nan and Paul Gordon**.

Erica and William Kraypohl on the birth of a daughter, Talia Amber Kraypohl; grandparents are **Judy and Bob Amster**.

Belana and Michael Warmflash on the birth of a daughter; grandparents are **Misha and Ira Mlynash and Doris and Ron Warmflash**; great-grandmother is **Camille Warmflash**.

Emily and Eric Weinstein on the birth of a daughter, Lily Madelyn Weinstein; grandparents are **Debbie and Paul Weinstein**.

Leah and Noah Zeide on the birth of a daughter, Iyla Mae Zeide; grandparents are **Dorothy and Steven Zeide**.



MAZEL TOV TO:

Mel Goldstein on his 100th birthday. **Sharon and Doug Karp** on the marriage of their daughter, **Lauren Karp**, to **Andrew Bonnesen**.

Rina and Chanoch Nof on the marriage of their son, **Eliram Nof**, to **Dina Kolker**.

MAZEL TOV TO B'NAI MITZVAH:

Jonah Hoff, son of **Tricia and Rob Hoff**.

Callie Morson, daughter of **Michele and Eric Morson**.

Samuel Sherman, son of **Jessica and Alex Sherman**.

WE MOURN THE LOSS OF:

Ellen Jacoby Arditti – mother of **David Arditti**.

Ruth Bernhard – wife of **Harry Bernhard**; mother of **Michael Bernhard and Nancy Bernhard**.

Mae Lupatkin – grandmother of **Judith Bernstein**.

Aron Pinker – husband of **Li-la Jacobs**; father of **Edieal Pinker and Itiel Pinker**.

Daniel Roberts – husband of **Betty Roberts**; father of **Jeri Appel**.

Leslie Rosenberg and Sophie Rosenberg – sister and niece of **Mitchell Bell**.

Larry Seligson – father of **Richard Seligson**.

Alan B. Siegel – husband of **Shirley Rothman Siegel**; father of **Elena Siegel**.

Lois Tronick – wife of **Leon Tronick**; mother of **Adam, Andrew and Lisa Tronick**.

NEW AROUND TOWN

Yolly Dratch

Yolly Dratch, a Stamford native, joins Schoke Jewish Family Service as an intern, while studying for her M.S.W. at Yeshiva University's Wurzeiler School of Social Work. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in psychology from Yeshiva University. Dratch and her husband, Yaakov Farati, are currently working as the youth directors at Congregation Agudath Sholom. They are also the NCSY city directors in Stamford where they strive to create and implement fun and educational programs for the teenagers of Stamford.

"Working with people, especially focusing on how I can help them, is a passion of mine. I am excited to learn from my experiences here at Schoke JFS and gain insight from all the wonderful people here who are on a mission to strengthen our community. I am honored to be able to give back to the community which has welcomed me and my husband with open arms!" she said.



Yolly Dratch

Ashley Mail

Ashley Mail recently joined the Schoke Jewish Family Service staff as the new Jewish Twenties and Thirties coordinator. A Westport resident, Mail has been an active member of JTT for the past few years.

To connect with Mail and the JTT program, e-mail her at amail@ctjfs.org. For up to date information, join the Jewish Twenties and Thirties group on Facebook.



Ashley Mail

Helene Wurtzel

Helene Wurtzel, a Ryebrook, NY, resident, has joined Schoke Jewish Family Service as an intern working on her M.S.W. from Fordham-Westchester. She has a degree in psychology and a master's of education from New York University. Wurtzel worked as a public school teacher and Hebrew school teacher in Port Chester before enrolling for her advanced studies. Wurtzel will be a group facilitator at the "Let's Talk" support groups in Westport and at the Stamford Jewish Community Center.

"I am very excited to work with and learn from this special staff of dedicated professionals and look forward to making meaningful connections with all those involved in the Schoke JFS community," she said.



Helene Wurtzel

Jewish Historical Society Community Partnership

At right: Elissa Kaplan (right), president of the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County, thanked Mayor David R. Martin (left) for a Stamford Community Arts Partnership Program Grant. JHSFC requested funds for a new project to offer the entire community an opportunity to revisit the era of the "Family Store in Downtown Stamford: 1940-1965." The funding will be used for a projection art kick-off event in downtown Stamford in late spring or early summer.



JCRC Continued from page 2

strong relationships with community neighbors. The 3SQUARE program is a volunteer-driven program that provides elementary-school age children and families in the community with a bag of food each week to help sustain them throughout the weekend. The Herbert and Sarah M. Gibor Reading Partners program consists of volunteers who devote at least one hour a week throughout the school

year to work one-on-one with children in grades kindergarten-three in the Stamford public school system and beyond. Each Reading Partner spends a half-hour weekly with each of two children who need a boost in reading skills. Both the 3SQUARE and Reading Partners programs welcome new volunteers.

To learn more, contact Diane Sloyer at 203-321-1373 or dianesloyer@ujf.org.

UJF Tribute Cards are a wonderful way to connect with your family and friends and mark any occasion while supporting the extraordinary work of UJF. To send a tribute, go to www.ujf.org.

Campus. Continued from page 4

and her brother were singled out by their classmates, where they were the only Jews. This left her wanting to know more about Israel and Judaism.

Fortunate to attend Pace University, where she obtained a full scholarship from comedian Jerry Seinfeld, Rojas-Tal's connection to Israel grew with an antisemitic incident on campus. Her first trip to Israel was on a Birthright Israel trip. She later returned to Israel and worked for StandWithUs, which is dedicated to educating people about Israel and to combating antisemitism and extremism.

After graduating from college, Rojas-Tal made *aliyah* through the Jewish Agency for Israel (or JAFI), an organization that receives annual support through UJF. And she married "the love of her life," whom she had met on her Birthright trip. She has spent the last 10 years working on behalf of the Jewish people and, one year ago, became the director of the Israel Fellows Program, a joint project of the Jewish Agency for Israel and Hillel International.

The emissaries educate students about Israel and on protecting campuses from anti-Israel activity and associated antisemitism. They help students build pro-Israel coalitions with diverse allies and teach mutual respect, and seek to positively educate people on campus about Zionism and Israel.

"Michelle Rojas-Tal's presentation was eye opening," said Weber. "My children have been out of the college setting for several years now. I was amazed as to what our Jewish college students face today on campuses. I am thankful that the emissaries from the Jewish Agency are there to provide support to our Jewish youth."

A few years ago, Rojas-Tal was featured as part of *The Jerusalem Post's* list of influential Jews, and was listed as one of six "Women to Watch" in the Jewish world.

For more information about future UJF programs, contact Diane Sloyer at 203-321-1373, ext. 105, or e-mail at dianesloyer@ujf.org.



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Virtual Visit to the Tenement Museum

BY ELISSA KAPLAN

The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County's program year will begin telling the story of Jewish history with a "virtual visit" to the Tenement Museum in New York City on Wednesday, November 7, at 7 pm, in the Community Room of the Darien Library, 1441 Post Rd., Darien. According to Mallory Arents,

"Finding Your Way" – A Memoir

Temple Sinai Sisterhood will host guest author Rachel Beck, pen name V. Lakshmi, on Sunday, December 2, at 9:30 am, in the Temple Sinai social hall for a lecture and breakfast. This is a free event and open to the public.

Beck's memoir, "Finding Your Way When Life Changes Your Plans: A Memoir of Adoption, Loss of Motherhood and Remembering Home" (Citrine Publishing, 2018), is rooted in a cross-cultural, adoptive-family love story. Beck was an orphan born in a remote village in India, and was adopted and raised by a Jewish family in America. Her story addresses society's expectations for women to look a "certain way" and to slip comfortably into the American dream.

Beck, an international award-winning photographer, has owned and managed a photography business in the Midwestern United States for eight years. She holds a B.A. in general studies, with minors in psychology and gender studies, and says she has one goal: that her stories of triumph through tragedy inspire as many as possible before she leaves the planet. For more information about Beck, visit www.VLakshmiAuthor.com.

associate director of programs and services, "The Darien Library is proud to co-sponsor this event with the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County."

Many people have visited the Tenement Museum in New York City, whose mission is to "preserve and interpret the history of immigration through the personal experiences of the generations of newcomers who settled in and built lives on Manhattan's Lower East Side." During a visit to the museum, Stamford resident Rhonda Jacobs Ginsberg discovered that among the newcomers who settled in the actual Tenement Museum building were her great-grandparents, Samuel and Minnie Moss Jacobs, and their son, her grandfather, C. Louis Jacobs. Her relatives arrived in the early 1900s, not from Europe, but from Charleston, SC, where the family had resided for more than 70 years.

The Tenement Museum staff have expanded their research to include stories about people typically overlooked in history, that is, women and children. Tenement Museum Director of Programs Kathryn Lloyd will explore how three immigrant women were part of the story of the making of America: Natalie Gumpertz, a single mother and German-Jewish immigrant in the 1870s; Victoria Confino, a teenager from Kastoria whose Sephardic Jewish family fled war; and Bella Epstein, the daughter of Holocaust survivors who grew up in the changing Lower East Side of the 1950s. Lloyd will connect these stories from past to present, and interact with the audience to show how these stories can help people understand the diversity of experiences lived by people in one building.

At the Tenement Museum, Lloyd collaborates



A JHS talk will feature a virtual visit to the Tenement Museum and explore how three immigrant women were part of the story of the making of America. (Photo provided by Darien Library)

on museum programming and educator training to inspire connections from past to present about migration and American identity. She has taught in museums and after school programs for 10 years, working to foster connections between learners and their local histories. She received her M.A. in psychology from St. Andrews University.

Anyone who has questions about this program or any others should contact the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County at 203-359-2196 or info@jhsfc-ct.org, or visit <http://jhsfc-ct.org>.

The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County is a recipient agency of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.

Celebration.....

and Journal chairs are Carol and Peter Lilienthal.

"It's hard to think Federation and not think of Edith and Ed. And not just Federation, our Jewish community as a whole is a better place because of them. Edith and her late husband, Bernie, talked to me on a train ride years ago, beginning their development efforts of my leadership path in Federation," said past UJF President Fred Springer. "Eileen and I are honored to chair an event celebrating such wonderful deserving individuals."

Samers and her late husband, Bernie, moved to Stamford in 1959. Their children Audrey, Michael and Bill were born and raised in Stamford. Samers holds master's degrees in education and in business administration. Her professions have included teaching, business and non-profits. She is a former executive vice president of UJF. She currently works with Rabbi Mark Golub for JBS-the Jewish Broadcasting Service.

"My history with UJF goes back to its beginning in 1973 when Bernie and I, along with community leadership, saw the need for Stamford and the surrounding area to finally be a Federated community, instead of just separate Jewish organizations," shared Samers.

Samers began her professional role at UJF in 1999 and asked Smith to volunteer. And that led to their marriage. "Throughout my life I have done volunteer work and/or had leadership roles for many organizations, including starting Quest, quality education for Stamford schools, the League of Women Voters, American Jewish Committee, AIPAC, the Congres-

sional Club, Hadassah, UJF, Schoke Jewish Family Service and Chavurat Aytz Chayim," shared Samers.

Smith was born in Stamford. His father, an immigrant from Palestine, opened Syl-May Drug Store. Smith received degrees from Cornell University and University of Virginia Law School. After working at a law firm in Bridgeport, he began working at Syl-May when his father retired, managing operations along with his brother, Bruce. He has three children: Craig, Brian and Amanda.

Smith's family were members of Congregation Agudath Sholom since the early 1900s and he served as treasurer for two terms. He also raised funds for Israel Bonds and United Jewish Appeal (currently UJF). He was a volunteer at Corporate Angel Network in Westchester for 10 years, responsible for obtaining free flights for cancer patients on corporate jets.

Smith began volunteering at UJF in 1999 at the request of Samers. "I was responsible for managing the database and data entry of constituents' pledges and payments, as well as keeping the database current. Edith and I married in 2003. While she retired from UJF in 2005, I continued to volunteer for another 10 years," added Smith.

Smith served on the Board of Directors of UJF as secretary and on the Allocations Committee. He is a member of Chavurat Aytz Chayim, where he served six years as president and three years as treasurer. "I have always supported Israel and Jewish causes, but I owe my recent passion in this regard to my wife, Edith, whose boundless enthusiasm and

energy inspire me," said Smith.

Drs. Kayla Mazar Hanna and Leon Hanna with receive the Harvey A. Peltz Award, recognizing them for their commitment and leadership. Kayla is a past president of Women's Philanthropy and still serves on the board. In addition, she is currently serving on the UJF Federation Forward Committee. Leon currently serves on the Executive Committee of BCHA and the board of Schoke Jewish Family Service. He has served on UJF committees, most recently the Nominating Committee. Kayla and Leon share a local dental practice and are parents of Daniel, Sarah and Naomi.

Volunteer awards will be given to Craig Price, Taly Farber, Shira Nirenberg and Stacy Palker. Price helped create the annual dodgeball tournament raising money for UJF's 3SQUARE program. Farber, Nirenberg and Palker chaired Super Sunday together. The four awardees have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for UJF.

"These awards enable UJF to recognize community members who have given of their time on behalf of UJF. Their commitment to the Jewish community of Greater Stamford has had a positive impact on us all," said Diane Sloyer, UJF CEO.

Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will be from 7:30-8:15 pm, with the program and annual meeting to follow. Journal information along with registration can be found at www.ujf.org/celebration. Invitations will be sent by mail; anyone is interested in receiving one should call UJF at 203-321-1373.

Continued from page 1

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Your UJF Dollars at Work

The Joan and Ben Zinbarg Camp Scholarship Program

In 2018, UJF provided \$13,500 to Schoke Jewish Family Service for camp scholarships. "The influence of summer camp on the ways in which adult Jews choose to engage with the community is something we feel every day when we look around our community. The impact is striking, especially when compared to those who did not spend their summer months at Jewish camp," according to Diane Sloyer, UJF CEO.

Statistics show that Jewish campers, as adults, are:

- ◆ 30 percent more likely to donate to Jewish charity.
- ◆ 37 percent more likely to light Shabbat candles.
- ◆ 45 percent more likely to attend synagogue one or more times monthly.
- ◆ 55 percent more likely to be emotionally attached to Israel.

The Schoke JFS-Zinbarg Camp Scholarship Program is one of the ways that the Jewish community reaches Jewish families who are unaffiliated and uninvolved. Families who have no other connection to the Jewish community often send their children to Jewish camps, and this is a way for these families to connect and ultimately engage and be part of the community. Children sometimes return from a Jewish camp experience transformed, eager to learn and experience more, and to get more involved in the Jewish community. This scholarship fund also reaches Jewish families who are affiliated and committed to the Jewish community. These families recognize the value and importance of sending their children to Jewish camp, but are using their funds for various other Jewish purposes. These include sending their kids to day schools, supporting their congregation and Federation, being members of the Jewish Community Center and other Jewish causes.

UJF is proud to support this scholarship program and its broad reach in the community. Its annual support helps bridge the shortfall, allowing more families to receive the aid they need.

- ◆ Average number of children applying annually over past five years – 51.

- ◆ Average total amount requested over the last five years – \$48,000.

- ◆ Total average amount awarded during the same period – \$39,000.

Here is a thank you note received from a scholarship recipient this past summer: "Thank you for the Joan and Ben Zinbarg-Schoke Jewish Family Service Camp Scholarship you gave me for Camp Ramah in New England for Kayitz 2018. I am grateful to have the opportunity to attend. I have been going to Camp for eight years, so it is a crucial part of my life. Ramah helps me keep in touch with my Jewish identity by creating a welcoming environment with new and old

faces, with whom I keep in touch even during the school year. Ramah teaches passion for Judaism and builds community, as well as other virtues that have helped shape me as a Jewish young adult.... Camp has helped shape who I am, as a Jew and a young adult. It is with your help that I can be myself. Thank you, for giving me the opportunity to create a home away from home, one filled with friends, family, and a strong Jewish connection."

For more information on how UJF's annual campaign impacts lives locally and around the globe, contact Diane Sloyer at dianesloyer@ujf.org or call 203-321-1373.

Mitzvah Opportunities for All

Celebrating a bar/bat mitzvah can be one of the most joyous family occasions and memorable milestones for a Jewish child. The United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien has worked with families over the years to enhance the "mitzvah" part of their celebration.

Gil Vadel, son of Shira and Ofir, teamed up with UJF for his bar mitzvah when he learned about the 3SQUARE program, under the direction of UJF, to provide children in grades kindergarten-eight in need with a weekly food bag to sustain them through the weekend. "It is more important that kids have food than sports equipment—I want that to be my mitzvah project!" shared Vadel. Vadel helped select food for the bags, helped pack them and deliver them to the 3SQUARE program. He also collected both monetary and food donations from others.

Ben Madan, son of 3SQUARE Co-chair Robin Madan and her husband Jamshed Madan, celebrated his bar mitzvah in Israel and connected his celebration and mitzvah project to Beit Singer, a residential program for at-risk Israeli children. Most of these children had been removed from their families by court order, for neglect or various forms of abuse.



Ben Madan, as part of his bar mitzvah project and celebration, helped feed the animals at Beit Singer in Afula, Israel.

Beit Singer is located in Afula and is a recipient agency of UJF's overseas allocation and partnership with Afula/Gilboa.

See "Mitzvah" on page 12

United Jewish Federation of
Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien
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United Jewish Federation of
Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien
2018 Year End Celebration and Annual Meeting

Guests of Honor
Edith Samers & Ed Smith

November 28, 2018

7:30 p.m. Reception and Cocktails

8:15 Awards Ceremony Followed By Annual Meeting

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For event registration and journal ads visit ujf.org/celebration2018

or call 203-321-1373 ext. 101

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- 9:30am-1:30pm: Volunteer to make calls or with administrative tasks
- 10:00am-1:00pm: PJ Library & PJ Our Way welcome all children 18 months and up for an interactive program: Featuring the book, *Something from Nothing* and creating a personalized mosaic
- 11:00am-1:00pm: Teen calling table



To volunteer or for more information, visit ujf.org/ss2018 or call Sharon Franklin 203-321-1373 ext. 109/ Sharon@ujf.org



United Jewish Federation
OF GREATER STAMFORD, NEW CANAAN AND DARIEN

2018 CO-CHAIRS
Taly Farber and Shari Raymond

Friendship Circle Teen Volunteer Kickoff

On September 16, more than 80 Fairfield County teens gathered at the Gatz home for the 2018 Friendship Circle teen volunteer kickoff. The ninth-12th-graders enjoyed an evening of barbecue, bonfire, laser tag and a games truck. The volunteers participate in various Friendship Circle programs with children, teens and adults who have special needs.

The evening began with a barbecue. After dinner, Malya Shmotkin, director of the Friendship Circle, explained to the teens how much of an impact they are making in the lives of families of individuals with special needs. "Your visit," she told the teens, "is the highlight of your friend's week. You may even

be their only friend!" Mitchell Zucker gave a first-hand account about how his son, Dovi, has benefitted from the various programs the Friendship Circle has to offer.

The teens then learned about the many volunteer opportunities available to them, including a new fellowship award. This year, for the first time, teens who meet a certain number of volunteer requirements will be eligible to earn an award that includes a college scholarship.

Chana Reicher, program coordinator for the Friendship Circle, led the teens in a Jewish Jeopardy game before everyone returned outside for laser tag, a games bus and roasting

marshmallows. Adin Fogel, who will volunteer on a weekly basis in a child's home, said, "I had fun hanging out with my friends and playing laser tag. The Friendship Circle provides me with the opportunity to become friends with children who have special needs. This is an opportunity that often does not come along so easily. I am especially

looking forward to being a 'friend at home' volunteer this year."

There are many ways for Fairfield County Jewish teens to become involved with the Friendship Circle with varying amounts of time commitment. Anyone interested in learning more should visit www.friendshipct.com or call the office at 203-409-1543.

PJ Library Kicks Off Fall Season

United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien's PJ Library held two fall programs for area families. In addition to holding kid-friendly events throughout the year, UJF's PJ Library provides free award-winning books for children ages 6 months through 8 years old that celebrate Jewish values and culture for the whole family.

PJ Library kicked off the season with a "Fall Family Harvest Celebration" on September 16 in the sukkah at Temple Beth El. Children enjoyed a craft, story time, refreshments and a honey and apple tasting from the Savannah Bee Company. Families also had the opportunity to hear from a Savannah Bee Company expert about bees and how honey is made.

On September 28, children took part in a PJ Library program at the Stamford Jewish Community Center titled "An Edible Sukkah in the Sukkah." The event featured a Sukkot-themed story and a craft that focused on the importance of sharing. Kids were also able to create their own snack by making an edible sukkah.

The next program will be held on Monday, November 12, at 11 am, in partnership with the JCC. It will have a Veteran's Day theme, including a story, craft and a visit from a Jewish war veteran. UJF's PJ Library has events scheduled throughout the year, open to all PJ Library families and their friends. For more information about PJ Library, contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org or 203-321-1373, ext. 109.



The Friendship Circle teen board members (l-r, facing the camera): Jacob Herz, Tyler Pomerance, Zach Blomberg, Tim Hannah, Zach Ostroff, Zevi Mehl, Juliette Wilder, Ella Rosen, Zoe Jaffe-Berkowitz and Ashley Shapiro. Members missing from photo: Celia Rosen and Rebecca Kanfer.

Chabad Launches CTeen Program in Stamford

Chabad of Stamford has introduced CTeen, a global group for high school-aged teens, inspired by the Lubavitcher Rebbe. The Lubavitcher Rebbe believed that the power of youth transformed the teen years into a time of purpose and self-discovery. CTeen seeks to harness the potential of teenagers with programs that bring them together to give back to their communities and the environment. Headed locally by youth leader Mushki Haller, CTeen will run several programs in Stamford throughout the year for teens from all over Stamford, no matter their high school or Jewish education background, to participate in events, have fun, meet other teens and give back to the community.

"Our mission is to provide a nurturing environment where teens can learn about themselves through giving to others, identify with individuals who share the same faith, and be part of a group that focuses on building core values and stresses positive character development," says Haller.

The first CTeen kickoff event was a Sushi in the Sukkah event. The second event was CTeen Fun Day, which was scheduled for October 14 at Get Air trampoline park. The third event will be a CTeen Shabbaton scheduled for Friday, November 9. For more information and to register for the event, e-mail Haller at youth@stamfordchabad.org.

For more information on CTeen events, go to www.StamfordChabad.org.



UJF's PJ Library participants gathered in the Jewish Community Center's sukkah over the holiday of Sukkot to make edible sukkahs and enjoy the company of friends.



UJF's PJ Library attendees were treated to honey tasting and learned about bees and pollination thanks to the Savannah Bee Company.



L-r: Rebecca Friedlander, Priscilla Tehrani, Danielle Hadge, Daniella Klein, Ally Hadge, Gabriel Israel, Ed Zeligson, Josh Beder, Adam Israel, Sophie Yellen and Shira Cohen attended the CTeens Sushi in the Sukkah event. (Photo by Mushki Haller)

Mitzvah. Continued from page 9

Madan was drawn to Beit Singer's use of animal assisted therapy. "Ben and his bar mitzvah tour spent time cleaning up the animal cages and interacting with the kids. In addition to raising money for the important needs of such a vital institution, Ben was able to touch and feel the important work of Beit Singer," shared Robin. "It was inspiring and I hope we will maintain a relationship with Beit Singer for many years. It was an important part of Ben's bar mitzvah experience and a part of our trip to Israel he speaks very fondly of."

Other projects have included col-

lecting sports equipment for places like Beit Singer and collecting books for UJF's Bookends Program, which distributes books to those in need in the local community to promote literacy.

UJF will meet with families and teens to help create an individualized and unique bar or bat mitzvah project. By embracing young teens' energy, enthusiasm and desire to give back, this milestone can also serve as an opportunity to foster the next generation of Jewish leaders.

For more information, call Diane Sloyer at 203-321-1373 or e-mail dianesloyer@ujf.org.

Gan Yeladim Visits Adult Day Care Center



On September 27, children from Gan Yeladim Early Childhood Center's Room Chet (4 year olds), with morahs (teachers) Kelley Lombardo and Hillary Isaacs, visited the Lina Adult Day Care Center. The children sang and engaged with the seniors. Ari Krinsky handed a new friend (name held on request) a card.



Suri Nayini handed a new friend (name held on request) flowers. Says Leah Shemtov, co-director of Gan Yeladim Early Childhood Center, "This visit was the start of what we hope will be a year-long event. We plan to go back for Shabbat and other Jewish holiday celebrations in the future." (Photos by Hillary Isaacs)

► Brain Fitness Group – Session #2

Those who want to stimulate their brain power are invited to attend the Brain Fitness session 2 on Mondays, November 26, December 3 and December 10, from 10:30 am-noon, at the Stamford Jewish Community Center, 1035 Newfield Ave.

Sessions will focus on logic, language and memory and perception. Advance registration is suggested. The cost for JCC members is \$8 per session; for non-members, the cost is \$10 per session. To attend all three sessions, the cost is \$20 for JCC members or \$25 for non-members.

To register, contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203-487-0983 or e-mail cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org. For additional information, contact Dr. Toby Lazarus, Schoke JFS Brain Fitness Program coordinator, at 203-921-4161 or tlazarus@ctjfs.org.

► Camp Laurelwood Hosts S'mores and Tours Open House

On Sunday, November 11, from 1-3 pm, Camp Laurelwood, a Jewish day and overnight camp, will host a second S'mores and Tours open house for prospective families. The camp offers a day camp for children in kindergarten and up, and overnight camp options for children in grades two through 10. All camp staff participate in a week-long staff development program prior to the summer.

At Camp Laurelwood, campers can participate in activities ranging from the creative arts to nature, archery, video and photo editing, ropes and lakefront (canoes, kayaks, water inflatables, etc.). The camp also offers a sports program, which includes softball, soccer, lacrosse, basketball and other sports. Woodworking and gardening are being added for 2019. Summer 2019 will also feature bunk renovations, an updated archery range and a softball field.

Attendees will meet with camp staff and see the newly renovated campus. To RSVP, e-mail info@camplaulwood.org. For more information, visit camplaulwood.org.

► Kristallnacht Shabbat at TBE

Ben Evans, a Temple Beth El congregant, will speak at services on Friday, November 9, in commemoration of the 80th anniversary of Kristallnacht. Evans will give a first-hand view of Kristallnacht: "Kristallnacht thru the eyes of a 9-year-old Jewish Boy." Services will begin at 7:30 pm and are open to the community.

Event..... Continued from page 1

and civil rights are respected and democratic values are honored."

The film "1945" tells the story of the return of an Orthodox man and his son to their village in Hungary, and the resulting apprehension and fears of the local townspeople. Critics said that it takes on a transitional time in Hungarian history with subtlety and nuance. As stated by Variety magazine, "This gripping period drama offers a fresh, intelligent cinematic approach to a difficult topic, about a village in Hungary that profited from the deportation of Jews."

Elissa Kaplan, president of the Jewish Historical Society, said, "On Kristallnacht in 1938, Nazis torched synagogues, vandalized Jewish homes, schools and businesses, and killed Jews. Over the next five years, over 1,000

years of Jewish life in Europe was almost completely destroyed and more than six million Jews were murdered. Kristallnacht and the film '1945' represent bookends to the tragic period of the Holocaust."

In addition, AJC will partner with the JCC on another related film, "Back to Berlin," on Tuesday, October 30, at 7:30 pm, at the State Cinema, with a post screening moderated discussion with Jason Isaacson, director of AJC's Office of Government and International Affairs in Washington, DC, and the film's director, Catherine Lurie-Alt.

To reserve free tickets for "1945" or to purchase tickets for "Back to Berlin," visit stamfordjcc.org. For more information, visit ajc.org/westfair or contact Sharon Saias, AJC Westchester/Fairfield, at saias@ajc.org or 914-948-5585.

➔ Visit www.ujf.org or facebook.com/stamfordFederation

Bi-Cultural "Reach for the Stars" Open House

BY JUDIE JACOBSON

Parents of young children are invited to a two-tiered event at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy of Connecticut that will include an open house fair for parents highlighting the school's pre-kindergarten through eighth grade program and an experience aimed at preschoolers.

"Reach for the Stars" will be held on Sunday, November 4, from 10 am-noon, on the BCHA lower school campus, 2186 High Ridge Rd., North Stamford. A kosher dairy buffet lunch will be served at 11:30 am.

In addition, a separate open house for high school students and their parents will be held at 2 pm at the BCHA high school (formerly the Jewish High School of Connecticut), located on the school's upper campus, 1937 Main St., Stamford.

The "Reach for the Stars" Open House Fair for families of children in pre-kindergarten-eighth grade will feature booths that showcase various areas of the school's inter-disciplinary, dual-language and STEAM curriculum. Faculty will be on hand at each booth to discuss the highlighted program and answer questions. Parents may also have the opportunity to see the curriculum "in action" by brows-

ing through students' work and/or viewing student projects.

While parents spend time at the fair, preschoolers can be dropped off at 10 am in the school's cafeteria, where they will take part in a *tikkun olam* project designing and creating "Stars of Hope." Launched in 2007, Stars of Hope is a New York-based international organization that empowers children to bring messages of healing to those grieving in the aftermath of a tragedy. With kits provided by Stars of Hope, students paint inspirational words and works of art on wooden stars, which are then delivered to communities in need. This year, BCHA became the first school in the country to establish a Stars of Hope Club as a schoolwide enrichment program and *chesed* project.

The "Stars of Hope" project will be followed at 10:45 am by a magic performance by The Great Charlini. At 11:30 am, preschoolers will join their parents for lunch.

For more information, contact Denise Rafailov at 203-329-2186, ext.1310, or drafailov@bcds.org.

Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy is a recipient agency of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New canaan and Darien.

► Rock Shabbat at TBE

Rock out with Rabbi Joshua Hammerman, Cantor Magda Fishman and musical guests at a Shabbat service to be held on Friday, November 16, at 7:30 pm, at Temple Beth El. The evening will be filled with Jewish music that is set to rock tunes. Everyone is welcome.

2018

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Annual Turkey Drive at the JCC

The community is invited to join JCares, KinderPlace and the entire Stamford Jewish Community Center community on Sunday, November 18, from 8-11 am, as the JCC presents its 12th Annual Turkey Drive.

It is estimated that more than 15,000 local neighbors will need help putting Thanksgiving dinner on the table this year. The J will be collecting frozen turkeys (kosher and non-kosher), stuffing, and all the Thanksgiving fixings. Any non-perishable food

item is welcome. For the youngsters, and those young at heart, there will be paper turkey feathers to decorate. After dropping off food items, the J welcomes everyone to decorate a feather, write their name on it and hang it on the turkey. The feather represents the family that will have Thanksgiving dinner because of each community members' act of *zedakah* (charitable giving).

Beginning on Thursday, November 1, there will be a basket at the JCC wel-

come desk for collecting gift cards to local grocery stores, and 100 percent of all donations will go to the Food Bank of Lower Fairfield County.

"There is something special and unique about Thanksgiving. It is a holiday that invites the entire community to pause and take time to be with family, friends, loved ones and to practice gratitude and 'giving thanks.' It also presents an opportunity to live Jewish values and to model them for

our children. *Tikkun olam* (repairing the world) inspires us to engage in activities that help to bring about healing in the world. It reminds us that what we do matters," said Liz Gebert, director of KinderPlace at the J.

Those with any questions should contact Gebert at lgeb@stamfordjcc.org or 203-487-0968.

The JCC is a recipient agency of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.

JCC Thanksgiving Luncheon for Senior Adults

All senior adults in the community are invited to share in a traditional Thanksgiving meal and entertainment on Friday, November 16, at 11 am, at the Jewish Community Center. The Thanksgiving Luncheon is sponsored for the senior adult community, free of charge, thanks to the generosity of Marsha Shendell.

Make reservations by Friday, November 9, by calling Connie Freeman at 203-487-0983.

The Jewish Community Center is located at the corner of Newfield Avenue and Vine Road in Stamford.

Kids Menorah Building Workshop

On Wednesday, November 28, Chabad Kids Club youth program, headed by Morah Mushki Haller, will partner with Home Depot in Stamford to have a menorah building event in honor of Chanukah. The event will take place from 4-6 pm.

Open to kids in kindergarten-seventh grade, the event will allow children to build their own menorahs. The event is open to the first 50 children who register. Hebrew Kids Club participants can attend at no cost; the cost is \$10 for non-Hebrew Kids Club participants.

Says Haller, youth program leader, "We've been trying to make this event happen for many years, and we're so glad it's finally happening with our own local Home Depot."

For information or to register your child, e-mail Haller at youth@stamfordchabad.org.



Hannah Haron and Daniella Raich at the 11th Annual Turkey Drive.

Turkey Pot Pie

BY RONNIE FEIN

One of the best things about Thanksgiving dinner is the leftovers, especially the ones from the turkey. There's something useful from every scrap: slices for sandwiches, chunks for salad, bones for soup. And with all the bits and smaller pieces that are left, there's pot pie.

Pot pie has a lot going for it. It's homey and comforting – the kind of dish you can make ahead and freeze, and take out for dinner when you're rushed and feeling in the need for something homey. The crispy crust and the tender, juicy center with its rich, velvety gravy are most wonderful on a cold winter night.

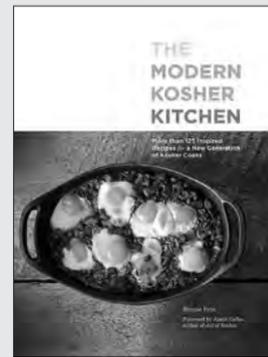
Also – the recipe is extremely flexible. First of all, it works for chicken, too. You can use different doughs for the crust, including pie dough, biscuit dough, phyllo dough and puff pastry (good *pareve* puff pastry is available in the freezer department of a few supermarkets). You can even top the pie with mashed potatoes (when it would become, technically speaking, a shepherd's pie).

The vegetables – well, I've suggested some, but any leftover cooked vegetable will do, including potatoes, carrots, corn, broccoli, zucchini, peas, parsnips and onions. As for the seasonings, there's a lot to consider. I use dill because I like how it pairs with turkey, but you can substitute parsley, chives, thyme or marjoram.

Pot pie gravy is nothing more than a simple roux, made by heating vegetable oil with flour, then adding stock and cooking the mixture until the sauce thickens. These days, though, I use a shortcut by cooking everything together with the sauce. It takes less time, there's less equipment to clean up and it's as delicious as when I've made it preparing everything separately.

TURKEY POT PIE

- 3 Tbsp. vegetable oil
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 carrots, sliced ¼-inch thick
- 2 stalks celery, sliced ¼-inch thick



The cover of Ronnie Fein's newest cookbook, "The Modern Kosher Kitchen"

- 2 cups bite-size cut vegetables, raw or cooked*
- 5 Tbsp. all-purpose flour
- 4 cups chopped cooked turkey
- 3 cups chicken stock
- 2 Tbsp. chopped fresh dill or other herbs (thyme, savory, parsley)
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

Crust: thawed frozen puff pastry sheets, pie dough, biscuit dough, etc. Preheat the oven to 350°F.

Heat the vegetable oil in a large saucepan over medium heat. Add the onion and cook, stirring frequently, for 2-3 minutes or until softened. Add the carrots and celery (*and raw vegetables such as broccoli or Brussels sprouts), and cook for 2 minutes, stirring occasionally. Sprinkle the flour over the ingredients and stir to mix it in completely. Cook for 1-2 minutes, stirring frequently.

Add the turkey and stir to distribute the ingredients evenly. Pour in the stock gradually, stirring constantly. Raise the heat and bring the liquid to a boil. Reduce the heat and simmer the ingredients, stirring frequently, for about 10 minutes or until the sauce has thickened. Stir in the dill or other seasoning. *Stir in cooked vegetables and/or frozen small items such as corn or peas. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Spoon the filling into a baking dish. Cover with the crust. Seal the edges to the dish or place on top to partially cover. Cut two or three slits in the crust if it covers the filling completely (to allow steam to escape). Bake for about 35 minutes or until crispy and golden brown.

Makes 4-6 servings.
Ronnie Fein is a cookbook author, food writer and cooking teacher in Stamford. She is the author of "The Modern Kosher Kitchen" and "Hip Kosher." Visit her food blog, Kitchen Vignettes, at www.ronniefein.com, friend her on Facebook at [RonnieVailFein](https://www.facebook.com/RonnieVailFein), or follow her on Twitter and Instagram at @RonnieVFein.

CHANUKAH Greetings

Deadline: November 19 (December issue)

Once again this year, *The New Jewish Voice* is inviting its readers and local organizations to extend New Year's greetings to the community by purchasing a New Year's greeting ad, which will appear in our December issue.

You may choose from the designs, messages and sizes shown here - more are available. You may also choose your own message, as long as it fits into the space of the greeting you select. (Custom designs available upon request.) The price of the small greeting is \$18 (styles E and F), the medium one is \$36 (style A and D) and the largest one (not shown) is \$72.

To ensure that your greeting is published, for more information on additional styles, sizes and designs and the address to send this form to please contact Bonnie Rozen at (800)779-7896, ext. 244 or bonnie@thereportergroup.org, or Diane Sloyer at (203) 321-1373, ext. 105 or dianesloyer@ujf.org.

Wishing you a Happy Chanukah
light • peace • love

Your Name(s)

Style A - \$36 • Actual Size: 3.22" x 1.975"

May the lights of Chanukah shine in your hearts forever

Your name(s)

CHANUKAH Greetings

Deadline: November 19 (December issue)

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Message _____

How you would like it signed _____

We accept Visa Mastercard American Express Discover

Print Name on Card _____

Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Address, City, State, Zip (Registered billing address of card) _____

THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

For more information, including the address to send this form to: please contact Bonnie Rozen at (800)779-7896, ext. 244 or bonnie@thereportergroup.org or Diane Sloyer at (203) 321-1373, ext. 105 or dianesloyer@ujf.org

Style D - \$36

Actual Size: 3.22" x 1.975"

Warm Chanukah wishes to you and your family!

Your Name(s)

Style E - \$18

Actual Size: 1.5278" x 1.975"

HAPPY CHANUKAH!

YOUR NAME(S)

Style F - \$18

Actual Size: 1.5278" x 1.975"

Carmel Students Connect with Ancient Jewish Traditions

BY JULIE LAPIN

Carmel Academy students got their hands dirty and their toes wet as they experienced the rituals surrounding the Hebrew month of Tishrei. In the days leading up to Rosh Hashanah, Carmel Academy's sixth grade students spent an afternoon with Rabbi Schneur Wilhelm, who teaches about the crafts of Judaism. Rabbi Wilhelm, who is the rabbi at the Chabad of Milford, led the sixth-graders in a hands-on *shofar* workshop, as each student cleaned, sawed, sanded and created their very own *shofar*.

"The Rosh Hashanah *amida* is made up of three parts: *shofarot*, *zichronot* (remembrance) and *malkhuyot* (kingship). At Carmel, each middle school grade studies one of the sections and each has a corresponding experiential activity to help them grasp the meaning and relevancy of the ancient liturgy," said Rabbi Jordan Soffer, Carmel Academy's rabbi-in-residence.

"Our sixth-graders learned about the powerful sound of the *shofar*, the blast for ultimate redemption, and then built their own *shofarot*," he said.

"Our goal is to re-mystify the rituals by demystifying the rituals," Rabbi Soffer added. "We hope to create a sense of awe and wonder that emerges from a familiarity. By making the *shofar* with their own two hands, our students gained a deep appreciation about how remarkable a *shofar* is, and, at the same time, how accessible it is."

Sixth-graders Lyla Dynner and Abby

Malkin said the workshop gave them an entirely new appreciation of the *shofar*.

"I thought it was really interesting to have a chance to make my own. Now, whenever I see a *shofar*, I know what goes into making it," said Dynner.

"I learned what makes a *shofar* kosher and not kosher, and I also learned just how much work it takes to saw and sand it," Malkin said.

In the days leading up to Yom Kippur, the entire student body traveled to the beach to learn together, reflect and then to have a communal *Tashlich*. The students sat in small groups on the sand, as the school's fifth-eighth-graders taught the younger students about the meaning and significance of *Tashlich*. Each student wrote or illustrated their intentions for the new year on dissolvable paper. Then, they walked to the shore to cast them into the water.

"It was a really different experience and I liked spending time with the lower school students teaching them about *Tashlich*," said sixth-grader Maddie Wisse.

As the students gathered along the shoreline, Rabbi Soffer invited them to glance at the horizon. He told them: "Take a look at the water and notice how the horizon stretches as far as the eye can see. Think about our potential to change and to do *mitzvot*, which is as wide as the vast water in front you."

Carmel Academy is a recipient agency of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.



Carmel Academy fourth-graders Miri Young, Sebastian Freedberg and Zachary Braun walked to the water at Greenwich Point Park to do Tashlich.



L-r: Carmel Academy sixth grade students Sam Bier and Abby Malkin worked together to make a shofar.

Carmel Academy Family Gathers for Welcome Back BBQ



More than 300 parents, students, faculty and alumni kicked off the new school year at the Carmel Academy Parent Association Back-to-School Family BBQ. This annual Carmel Academy tradition is a way for families to welcome in the new school year, see old friends and meet families new to the school. Shown are Carmel Academy parents Karen Malkin, Lee Bednarsh, Maureen Pollack, Heather Dynner, Jenn Hylton and Suzannah Coll at the Back-to-School Family BBQ.



At left: Activities at the Carmel Academy Parent Association Back-to-School Family BBQ included a student vs. parent soccer game, a live parent band and giant inflatables. New this year was the Carmel Community Closet, in which families donated gently used children's clothing, which were given to the nonprofit organization Kids' Klostet. Shown are Carmel Academy second-grader Amalya Konikoff and first-grader Jenna Napach, with Carmel Academy alumni Hannah MacDonald, Chaya Banschick and Mimi Chapman.

Support Services in Our Community

Employment & Life Transitions Support Group - Wednesdays, 1st & 3rd of every month, 3pm Schoke JFS 733 Summer St. Join the support group, facilitated by Lois Meyer, LMSW, Schoke JFS Case Manager, to help you through life transition. No cost. For registration, please contact Lois Meyer at 203-921-4161 or email lmeyer@ctjfs.org

Financial Fitness Coaching - twice a month at 10:00 am - 12 noon at Schoke JFS 733 Summer St. In partnership with LifeBridge and UJF, Financial Coach, Chris Giralmo, will help clients manage their income, expenses and debt, create a household budget, establish short and long-term financial goals, and make positive financial changes. Register at ekrebs@lifebridgect.org or call 203-368-5537.

Schoke JFS Spousal Bereavement Group, Fridays at 10:30am Gather to share feelings and exchange ideas in a non-judgmental environment that provides emotional, practical, and spiritual support for grieving the loss of a spouse or significant other. Contact Amanda Geffner, Schoke JFS Therapist at 203-921-4161 or ageffner@ctjfs.org. at Stamford JCC, 1035 Newfield Road, Stamford

Programs for Seniors

Let's Talk, Tuesdays, 11 :00 AM

Seniors talk about common interests and concerns, facilitated by a Schoke Jewish Family Service counselor. JCC, 1035 Newfield Avenue. Free. Contact Helene Wurtzel at 203-921-4161 or hwurtzel@ctjfs.org.

Welcoming in Shabbat at The J!

Come together each week to celebrate Shabbat and Birthdays at the JCC, sponsored in part by UJF. Enjoy a hot kosher meal. Fridays, 12 - 1 p.m. JCC Member \$6 / Community \$9 Reservation required by Tuesday. Contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203.487.0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org.

Senior Lunch Specials

available at Soosh, located at the JCC, 1035 Newfield Ave. on Tuesdays & Thursdays for \$6.

Strength In Chairs Exercise

Various exercises are performed while sitting in a chair or standing by a chair to encourage strength, mobility and balance while utilizing bands, balls and light weights. Great class for active retirees. Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10:15 - 11 a.m. JCC Member Free / Community \$10

Lean, Mean, Senior Machine

Great for active retirees and anyone who is looking for a full-body workout. Low and controlled impact cardio, strength training using light weights and/or exercise tube, balance and core work. Wednesdays, 7:45 - 8:45 a.m. and Sundays, 10:15 - 11:15 a.m. JCC Member Free / Community \$10

Bi-Cultural Annual Family BBQ



The fact that the wet weather had finally retreated in favor of a cloudless sky and 80-degree temperature was considered a reason for some rain-weary New Englanders to take to the outdoors on September 16. But, for the more than 40 Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy families, there was an additional incentive: the promise of food, friends and fun at the school's annual "welcome back" barbecue. "It's a great way to start the school year," said BCHA Head of School Jackie Herman who handed out lots of hugs as she greeted families to the school's 13-acre campus. Among those enjoying the barbecue were the Lipsker family: Dad Yanky Lipsker with children Yossi (left) and Mendel. (Photo by Kathryn Banner)

Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy Welcomes Alumni

Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy of Connecticut brought ruach and ray'ut – spirit and friendship – to the school's student-built sukkah during Chol Ha'moed (intermediate days of) Sukkot, when the school hosted a barbecue dinner for more than 70 alumni of its lower school. (The alumni are graduates of the former Bi-Cultural Day School, which served grades pre-kindergarten-eighth. Recently, the school merged with the Jewish High School of Connecticut to form the new BCHA.) The alumni were at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy for a reunion dinner, which was held in the school's sukkah. "It was heartwarming to hear these very special young adults speak so eloquently of their years at Bi-Cultural," said BCHA Head of School Jackie Herman. "Their accomplishments are our reward. We are so proud and gratified to share in their successes."



Step into history with first mobile virtual-reality walking tour in Jerusalem

BY MIKKI SHANA

(JNS) – One of the challenges, when walking through Jerusalem, is to picture what the city looked

like through different periods of history. Now, for the first time, visitors can "step into history" with the aid of cutting-edge technology and explore Jerusalem during the time of the Second Temple 2,000 years ago. The Tower of David Museum and the ToD Innovation Lab have teamed up with Australian company Lithodomos VR to produce the first virtual-reality mobile walking tour in Israel. It will be available to the general public beginning in late September.

The tour, led by a guide, takes visitors through the Tower of David Museum and then winds its way down from the ancient fortress through the Old City using virtual-reality viewpoints at the Western Wall, Robinson's Arch, the Jewish Quarter and the Cardo to show Jerusalem today and as it was during the Herodian time period. Instead of the usual tools that a guide has at hand, such as large colored pictures, he or she can now explain the mysteries of the ancient city by simply allowing the visitors to don headsets in the right location and the magic of virtual reality fills in the missing pieces, providing the visitor with a full picture and a deeper understanding of Herod's Jerusalem.

Virtual reality is a technology that museums such as the Tower of David Museum, visitor centers and tourist attractions are finding more and more important as a tool to innovatively engage visitors. It allows users to explore areas and time periods not limited by time, space or reality, and it captures video in 360 degrees, or 3D imaging. It works by playing two separate videos into each eye that form a comprehensive video of the virtual reality, giving a perception of depth, presence and activates a sympathetic response from the viewer making them feel a part of the experience being viewed. There are two lenses in the headset that allow the user to be able to look at the content close up, enabling 360-degree 3D footage.

Eilat Lieber, director of the Tower of David Museum, said he is excited about the possibility that VR technology can help enhance visits to the city: "Certainly, the grandest building period in Jerusalem's history is that which took place during the reign of King Herod. From the Second Temple to the Antonia Fortress, from the hippodrome to the theater, the public monuments, the markets and the streets, Herod's Jerusalem was one of the greatest cities of antiquity."

Participants on the tour are lent a Samsung Gear VR headset, a Samsung Galaxy 7 phone and personal earphones. The tour is comprised of a series of viewpoints linked together by narrative from the tour guide and the VR content, which allows visitors to experience different aspects of socialization in ancient Jerusalem, including religious life and commercial activities.

More than 2,000 years later, said Lieber, Herod's buildings remain integral parts of the city, with many stones still visible. In fact, she notes, "The best view of Jerusalem is still from the top of King Herod's tower built at the Tower of David Museum. However, until now, it took a distinguishing eye and a creative mind to really imagine the city that was."

The virtual reality tool represents the first product out from the Tower of David Museum's Innovation Lab, which was created a year ago.

See "Mobile" on page 18




Join PJ Library and JCC Stamford on Veterans Day

Monday, November 12th 11:00 - 11:45 a.m.
1035 Newfield Ave. Stamford, JCC

Hear a story read by a U.S. veteran from the Jewish War Veterans post #142 and make cards for our Jewish troops in the U.S. Army.

This program is free of charge, however, registration is requested.
Please register at www.ujf.org/veteran

Questions: Please contact Sharon Franklin (203) 321-1373 ext. 109/ Sharon@ujf.org

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VOICES AND VIEWS

WHY I CARE...

“It is not how much or how little you have that makes you great or small, but how much or how little you accomplish with what you have.” – Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch

Focus on: Aviva Maller

BY JANE LEVENE

Aviva Maller has been a member of the Stamford Community since she was in high school. Both sets of her grandparents came from Iraq and, in the early 19th century, ran away to India before the Jews were expelled. Maller was born in Bombay (Mumbai) and came with her family to New York City in 1970, moving to Stamford a couple of years later. She attended Rippowam High School and then the University of Hartford. Her children grew up in Stamford and attended the Jewish Community Center Sara Walker Nursery School, Bi-Cultural Day School, Carmel Academy and then Westhill High School. She believes it is important to give to others and to her community, and has been tirelessly involved with many Jewish organizations throughout the years.



Aviva Maller

stolen and I bought it back from the crooks! My eye was sharpened while working in advertising amongst great art directors and production talent. I worked in corporate communications at Salomon Brothers, where I was responsible for PR and marketing. When my kids were born, my focus was on them

and I soon became the official photographer for their Sara Walker Nursery School. I also began photographing for other Federation agencies. One day Lisa and Seth Linzer asked me to photograph their daughter's bat mitzvah and that was the seed of my event photography business.

Describe your current and past involvement with UJF and how long you have been involved.

I have been photographing UJF and agency events since 1995. In addition to photography, I have been involved with planning and organizing countless events for many different organizations under the UJF umbrella, including being the ambiance co-chair for the first Stamford JCC Maccabi Games. I am almost always seen at their Women's dinners and Super Sunday and basically any event they need to capture, or have even done a cooking demonstration!

Have you been involved with other Jewish organizations?

In addition to Sara Walker, I have

been involved with Bi-Cultural, where David Shavrick and I designed their logo and tagline; WFHA/Carmel, where I helped in any way I could in the Parents Association from decorating to event planning; my synagogue, Congregation Agudath Sholom; Temple Beth El; Schoke Jewish Family Service; Chabads of Greenwich, Stamford, New Canaan and Westport; Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County; ICRF; and countless more.

From your perspective, how has your involvement benefitted the local community as well as the greater Jewish community?

I think my most important contribution, through being a photographer in the Stamford Jewish community, is that I have also become a historian. I have thousands of photographs of people who have been involved with the Federation over the past 20-plus years. Some of my photographs are of people who are no longer here and are precious gifts to their families and our community.

I feel I contributed further by having a vision – to make Star Night brighter or *erev tov* more “*tov*” from hanging beautiful cloths from the ceiling to create a faraway mood and introducing a new format with Middle-Eastern and Indian food on a buffet, or mimicking the stained glass at Agudath in the ballroom

for a gala, or choosing meaningful quotes to create soulful messages to hang from the ceiling or creating a tent for the Women's Seder at Beth El, or making sure the dessert display at Tapestry was beautiful and sumptuous – I suppose that is why, in addition to photographer, my other shingle is event planner.

Why is it important for you to give back in this way?

I think it is in my nature to give. My kids have benefitted from being a part of a very rich Jewish community. I thank the UJF for supporting the many Jewish organizations within our community that have been so important to my family – from nursery school to Jewish high school in the form of Kulanu to the March of the Living, which took them to Israel and Poland! In return, I gave and continue to give. I want to set an example of *tikkun olam* – to make the world a better place, which starts here in our community. When I was an immigrant at 13 when we would visit my grandparents and aunts, I busied myself working magic in their apartment without anyone noticing. After I left, my aunts would exclaim, “When did Aviva do this? The apartment has the Aviva touch!” That is how I want to create, with a wand in my hand – bibbity bobbity boo! And then I want to capture it and save it, like a time capsule – in a photograph.

THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

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TEEN VOICES

Teen Voices is an opportunity for our community to connect with and learn more about its younger members – the future leaders of the Jewish community.

The *New Jewish Voice* asked: “Tell us about your most meaningful or favorite Jewish experience you have had.”

Re-Discovering My Tallit

BY ELLA ROSEN

In preparation for my 2015 bat mitzvah, I created my own *tallit*, painting a piece of silk with my mom, and tying the blue and white *tzitzit* onto it with my dad. I wore it proudly at my bat mitzvah, but, after that, I used it less and less. I still felt its holiness as something I created with my parents and as something that reminded me of my rite of passage, but I never felt any longing to wear it while praying.

I go to Camp Ramah in the Rockies, a Jewish camp in the mountains of Colorado; it is a place where campers are encouraged to use the close prox-



Ella Rosen

imity with the natural world to deepen their connection to God and Judaism. We participate in everything from traditional *davening* to musical services to meditation services, each opening the door to a different part of our spiritual connection. For girls over the age of bat mitzvah, wearing a *tallit* and

tefillin is optional, but encouraged. Every year, when I packed for camp, my mom handed me my *tallit*, folded neatly in its blue and gold velvet case; every year, I indulged her by bringing it, but it spent three summers stored in my duffel bag under my bunk bed.

Until this summer.

I don't know what changed for me: maybe it was the inspiring female role models (counselors and staff) who encouraged me to deepen my experience of *tefilla* by wrapping myself in my *tallit*; maybe it was the feeling of being protected and embraced by my *tallit* that allowed me to feel completely at home at 8,000 feet in the Rocky Mountains. I do know that my re-discovery of my *tallit* awakened a joy and spiritual energy in me. I realized that I had been taking for granted a humble religious article that, when I rediscovered it, was able to offer me a gateway to a powerful Jewish experience.

Ella Rosen is a 10th-grader at the Academy of Information Technology and Engineering.

Mobile Continued from page 16

The lab itself is housed in one of the three towers King Herod built to guard the entrance of the city. Considered an integral part of the museum's activities, the lab strives at connecting visitors to the history of Jerusalem.

Together with the TOD Innovation Lab, Lithodomos VR worked together on the new tour with the Tower of David Museum bringing a beta site of visitors and a wealth of content support, and the Company Lithodomos supplying the technology, know-how and visuals. Lithodomos VR, founded in 2016 by archaeologists, artists and software developers, are establishing themselves as one of the leading suppliers of VR

experiences having previously completed projects in major European cities such as Rome, Barcelona, London and Lisbon.

Working in Jerusalem, however, was an entirely different experience, according to their CEO Tony Simmons. “Israel, especially the small parcel of land that is Jerusalem, is the single most written about, argued about and pored over piece of land in the universe,” he said. “Our work needed to be sensitive to history, ensuring that it was inclusive and not polarizing. This is also our most advance tour to date with the closest integration with Oculus, as opposed to our original app, which was for a Cardboard on

a standard phone. This tour also includes GPS guidance, and narration in Hebrew and English.”

For Simmons, it was not just a business venture, but also a personal connection when it came to creating a tour in Israel. Speaking from his home in Melbourne – the city with the largest Jewish community in Australia – he said, “This is something that holds great personal satisfaction, as we want the whole world to see how amazing Israel is and how deep Jewish culture runs. I want my children to see firsthand how important Israel is to me.”

For more information, visit www.tod.org.il/en/discover-jerusalem-vr/.

Honoring Polish Rescuers in Warsaw Who Risked All to Save Jews During the Holocaust

BY JNS STAFF

The sacrifices of Polish rescuers of Jews living in Warsaw during the Holocaust was honored recently in one of the largest gatherings of Shoah rescuers in the Polish capital – and in what may be one of the last of the annual occasions due to the ages of these Righteous Gentiles, with some older than 100.

The annual program, hosted by the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous at the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jewry, has become the largest and most prominent ceremony honoring Polish rescuers. The JFR, established in 1986, provides monthly financial assistance to around 180 elderly and needy Polish rescuers of Jews during the Shoah. The JFR will send approximately \$600,000 to rescuers in 2018

living in Poland, according to the organization.

“These are heroic people of exceptional character who risked their lives, and often the lives of their families, to save Jews during the Holocaust,” JFR Executive Vice President Stanlee Stahl said in a statement. “This special event is designed to recognize them and give them the proper honor they deserve.”

“You are heroes not only because you have done the right thing, but because it was so hard in the horrible times of the second world war to do so,” Deputy Israel Ambassador to Poland Tal Ben-Ari Yaalon said at the event. “Often, I have thought to myself if I would have been brave enough were I in your shoes. I still can’t honestly say, and I pray to God never to have my courage tested in that way.”

“While memorials in Poland and other places in Europe help us to remember the victims of the Holocaust and the unspeakable brutality human beings are capable of inflicting on other human beings, you have shown us something different: the humanity some humans are capable of,” said Eric Green, deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw.

“You had the courage and compassion to defy and overcome this brutality,” he continued. “You risked everything to save the lives of your Jewish neighbors, fully knowing that the Nazis killed anyone who helped Jews. Your deeds helped to preserve our collective humanity – and we are forever in your debt for doing so.”

JDC Responds to Indonesia Tsunami, Earthquake

BY JDC STAFF

(NEW YORK, NY) – Following the deadly earthquake and tsunami that struck Indonesia’s Sulawesi island on September 28, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee is providing emergency medical services, critical supplies and psychosocial support with one of its longstanding local partners. Additionally, JDC’s Indonesia representative, in cooperation with its global disaster response team, is engaging in ongoing needs assessments and working together with local organizations to help ensure best practices among responders to protect groups especially vulnerable in disasters, including women, children and the elderly. With a presence in Indonesia since the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, JDC is raising funds for immediate and long-term support in the face of a spiking death toll and widespread devastation impacting millions. To support JDC’s Indonesia relief efforts, visit www.jdc.org/indonesiarelieff.

“Our hearts go out once again to the people of Indonesia, who have suffered two tragic disasters

in recent months and find themselves in need of immediate care and tools to better prepare themselves for future crises,” said JDC CEO David M. Schizer the week of September 30. “As Jews around the world gather in the coming days to celebrate the conclusion of our High Holiday season, we are keenly aware of our blessings, our responsibility to repair a broken world, and the need to act now to deliver hope to those facing so much despair.”

In August, JDC responded to the earthquake in Lombok by providing survivors critically-needed shelter, food, medicine, electricity and psychosocial support. This response built off of JDC’s work in Indonesia providing direct aid through local partners and, in its major focus, strengthening disaster risk reduction and response capabilities over the last 14 years. Those JDC efforts culminated in a just-completed flagship program, funded by USAID’s Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, that trained local communities in disaster management and psychosocial services.

JDC’s disaster relief programs are funded by special appeals of the Jewish Federations of North America and tens of thousands of individual donors to JDC. In the last year, JDC has responded to disasters and crises in Guatemala, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Mexico, the Caribbean, Sri Lanka and East Africa, and has continued its post-disaster development work in Nepal and Haiti. JDC also provides ongoing humanitarian aid to refugees in Europe and the Middle East.

JDC relief activities are coordinated with the U.S. Department of State, USAID, the Israeli government and the United Nations, as well as local and international partners.

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee is the world’s leading Jewish humanitarian assistance organization. JDC works in more than 70 countries and in Israel to alleviate hunger and hardship, rescue Jews in danger, create lasting connections to Jewish life, and provide immediate relief and long-term development support for victims of natural and man-made disasters. For more information, visit www.jdc.org.

Oldest-ever Inscription of “Jerusalem” Found on Pillar

BY JNS STAFF

(JNS) – A pillar from the Second Temple period bearing a three-line inscription was unveiled at the Israel Museum on October 9, the earliest stone inscription of the full modern Hebrew spelling of “Jerusalem.”

“Hananiah son of Dodalos of Yerushalayim [the way the ancient Jewish city is written in Hebrew today]” was discovered during a salvage excavation earlier this year of a large Hasmonean Period Jewish artisans’ village near what is today’s western entrance to the city.

In an interview with *The Times of Israel*, Israel Antiquities Authority archaeologist Danit Levi said when her team alerted her to the find, she could not believe that the word “Yerushalayim” could be on an ancient pillar, and that it must be graffiti. When she saw the “expertly chiseled” Hebrew lettering in the 31.5-inch tall column, she dusted it off and began to read.

“My heart started to pound, and I was sure everyone could hear it. My hands were trembling so badly I couldn’t properly take a picture,” she said.

Levi believes the column and inscription date back to 100 B.C.E., and belonged to or was built with money from Hananiah son of Dodalos – Dodalos being a nickname used at the time to refer to artists, based on the Greek myth of Daedalus. Levi said the



The oldest discovered inscription of “Jerusalem” found to date, unveiled in October. (Photo by Danit Levy, Israel Antiquities Authority)

column was located in a Jewish village, but that it was found in a ceramic construction workshop used by the Tenth Roman Legion – the army that would eventually destroy Jerusalem and exile the Jews – evidently being reused in a plastered wall.

There is a disagreement among experts as to whether the word “Yerushalayim” was etched in Aramaic or Hebrew. While *bar* is the Aramaic word for “son,” the Aramaic pronunciation of Jerusalem was “Yerushalem,” whereas the word in the inscription was written “Yerushalayim,” just like in Hebrew.

The artisan village was located near a natural source for clay, water and fuel, along a main artery leading to the Temple, which, as noted by IAA’s Jerusalem Regional Archaeologist Dr. Yuval Baruch at the event, is still in use today as a roadway to the Old City. The artisan village is situated on a 200-acre plot, likely in order to accommodate the needs of hundreds of thousands of pilgrims who would ascend to the Temple three times a year during festivals, as well as the 50,000 residents of the city at the time.

The column is currently on display at the Israel Museum in the Second Temple period exhibit.

Though this is the first inscription of its kind in stone, the full spelling of Jerusalem has been seen before, including on the Dead Sea Scrolls, which were written as early as 400 B.C.E.

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THE NEW JEWISH VOICE



Saturday Evening, November 10, 2018 ~ 6:30 p.m.
1035 Newfield Avenue (Stamford JCC)



Presented by
United Jewish Federation
OF GREATER STAMFORD, NEW CANAAN AND DARIEN



Co-Sponsored by the Stamford Jewish Community Center

Schedule

- 6:30 p.m. Registration
- 6:45 p.m. Welcome & Havdalah
- 7:10 - 8:00 p.m. Session #1
- 8:10 - 9:00 p.m. Session #2
- 9:00 p.m. Dessert Reception

Bios for all presenters and online registration can be found at www.ujf.org/tapestry2018

Session 1:

- A) Jazz Torah, The Creativity of The Rabbinic Mind:** Presented by Rabbi Greg Wall of Beit Chaverim Synagogue, Westport.
- B) G-d Is In This Space, and I Did Not Know. G-d Talk In The 21st Century:** Presented by Rabba Dr. Carmella Abraham.
- C) Coexistence, Living Together In The Afula/Gilboa Region:** Presented by an inter-religious delegation visiting from the region, featuring Amani Masalha Zoabi, Amir Chaner, Ayala Carmi and Ravid Patero.
- D) Key Issues In The Life Of Menachem Begin:** Presented by Herzl Makov, CEO of the Menachem Begin Heritage Center in Jerusalem.

Session 2:

- A) Jewish Comedy, A Serious History:** Presented by Author Jeremy Dauber.
- B) An Inside and Current Look at (BDS) Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions:** Presented by Stephanie Hausner, Deputy Director of the Israel Action Network.
- C) Films and Discussion, A Jerusalem Tale and Barriers:** Presented by Laura Blum, a curator, journalist and producer.
- D) Is Character Fixed and Immutable?** The recent film, *Three Identical Strangers*, implies that much of WHO we are is hard-wired. How much impact can you really have on your character and your fate? Look at research and Jewish teaching and decide for yourself. Are you the best version of yourself? Presented by, Dr. Betsy Stone.

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SESSION ONE:

1st Choice _____

2nd Choice _____

SESSION TWO:

1st Choice _____

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SESSION TWO:

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Email Address: _____ Cell Number: _____

- \$25 Tapestry Pre-Registration (\$36 after November 8th and at the door).
- \$54 Tapestry Patron (admission for one and reserved seat at dessert reception)
- \$180 Tapestry Gold Patron (admission for two, guaranteed first choice at sessions and reserved seating at dessert reception)

To register online please go to www.ujf.org/tapestry2018

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Pre-Registration closes Thursday, November 8th at 5:00 p.m. Registration after November 8th and at the door will be \$36 per person for Tapestry. Classes will fill on a first-come, first-serve basis. For more information, contact Diane Sloyer at 203-321-1373 ext. 105 or Dianesloyer@ujf.org. Return registration to: United Jewish Federation 1035 Newfield Avenue, Suite 200, Stamford, CT 06905