

- 8** The Federation and the Board of Rabbis will host an interactive discussion on the Passover seder; Ronnie Fein offers a recipe.
- 13** The community will commemorate Yom Hashoah with several programs.
- 16** Jewish Federations of North America, JDC and others respond to the crisis in Ukraine.

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GREATER STAMFORD, NEW CANAAN AND DARIEN

Shalom Rav, Farewell Rabbi Joe

BY SHEILA L. ROMANOWITZ

The passing of Rabbi Joseph H. Ehrenkranz z”l, on February 23 marks the end of an era and the celebration of a legendary life.

He marched on Washington in 1968, with both Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and fellow Stamfordite Jackie Robinson. He led a peace mission to Egypt in 1978 to meet with President Anwar Sadat. He conducted a seder for Jewish



Rabbi Joseph H. Ehrenkranz (Photo by Harold Shapiro)

refuseniks, including Anatoly Sharansky, in Moscow in 1976, and met with Pope John Paul II in 1990 to begin an ongoing dialog on Catholic-Jewish relations. And those are only the highlights.

Closer to home, “Rabbi Joe” dazzled his congregation with extraordinary sermons and mesmerizing storytelling. He engaged and encouraged all people to feel welcome and

See “Rabbi” on page 4

With Israeli Tech, Amiran Kenya Boosts Africa’s Farmers

BY BEN SALES

NAIROBI, Kenya (JTA) – Bags of seeds from the Israeli seed company Hazera Genetics line the shelves of one warehouse. Another houses rolls of plastic from StePac, an Israeli firm whose bags can keep vegetables fresher for longer. In a third warehouse are rows of coiled hoses, each pricked with holes engineered by Netafim, the Israeli company that pioneered drip irrigation.

The warehouses containing the latest in Israeli agricultural technology are located not on a farm in the Jewish state, but 3,500 miles away on an expansive campus outside Nairobi, the booming capital of

Kenya. From there they will be shipped to farmers across East Africa.

The conduit between Israeli labs and African fields is Amiran Kenya, an Israeli-founded company (now a subsidiary of the British multinational Balton CP) that brings Israeli agricultural know-how to East African farms. Established in 1963, the year Kenya gained independence, Amiran provides supplies to farmers from planting to harvest with an eye toward supporting small growers across the region.

“We linked the farms with Israeli experts to build the industry,” said Yariv

See “Farmers” on page 18

Retelling the Story Community Yom Hashoah Seder to Commemorate Holocaust

BY PETER LILIENTHAL

This year’s Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) Commemoration will be held at Temple Sinai on Sunday, April 27, at 7 pm. The program is open to the entire community under the auspices of United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien. The Yom Hashoah Committee is being chaired by Peter Lilienthal.

The ability to “tell the story” has contributed to the Jewish people’s survival

as these stories are passed down from generation to generation, as is done, for example, in a Passover seder. This year, the community will commemorate the Shoah at a communitywide Yom Hashoah seder. Unlike a Passover seder, there will be no meal, but Holocaust appropriate symbols will be placed on everyone’s seder plates and the story of the Shoah will be told by survivors, the second generation and beyond.

See “Story” on page 13

PJ Library Goes to School Joint Program for Three Local Federation Communities

BY DANIELLE ALEXANDER

“PJ Goes to School” has come to the Greater Stamford, Westport-Weston-Wilton-Norwalk and Eastern Fairfield communities. “PJ Goes to School” brings together preschool educators from seven preschools across three Fairfield County Federations. “It is a wonderful opportunity for us to learn together and work collaboratively,” said Beverly Stein, director of Nitzan Nursery School of Congregation Beth El of Norwalk and volunteer coordinator of “PJ Goes to School.”

The PJ Library was originally

conceived as a way to deliver free Jewish children’s books and music to families with young children each month. Three years ago, the program expanded into preschools. “PJ Goes to School” is a program dedicated to enhancing the Jewish content of the preschool classroom. It engages families, educators and children in conversations about Jewish values by using PJ Library books as a catalyst. Program participants enjoy a variety of benefits. The program challenges participating teachers to learn how

See “PJ” on page 2

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Local Teens Attend AIPAC Conference

Local teens from the “Speak Up for Israel” program, a partnership of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien and the Stamford Jewish Community Center, met up with teens from the Jewish High School of Connecticut and from Congregation Agudath Sholom at the Capitol Building in Washington, DC, during the AIPAC Policy Conference held March 2-4. See page 18 for the teens’ perspective on the conference.

President's Message

The Yin-Yang of Ankles and Community

BY SHOSHANA DWECK

Oh, it's good to be in April and finally out of our Yin-Yang winter. Snow made our environment beautiful and our children glow, while adults joyfully reminisced about childhood snowstorms (the Blizzard of '78 was the best birthday present *ever*). But, Yin-Yang, the storms turned schedules into stressful mincemeat, along with work/family balance, school curricula, JCC schedules and services. We celebrated the glory of athletic achievement and Russian excess at the Olympics, Yin-Yang, as dogs and other undesirables "disappeared" and opinions were suppressed while Ukraine blew up. Meanwhile, closer to home, we celebrated a very successful launch to our 2014 Better Together Annual Campaign with Superhero Super Sunday and strong involvement across the community, but Yin-Yang, said a sad good-bye to the talented Anat Chavkin, who has moved on to a new position in the firmament of Jewish philanthropy.



Shoshana Dweck, UJF president

and community. Ankles matter a lot to the Jewish people – we are the children of Israel, which is a name for "Jacob," and "Jacob" derives from the Hebrew word for ankle. But, I'm talking about real ankles and modern communities. In Greensboro, Israel, Stamford and Montreal, four people in my life suffered serious ankle injuries within a week, three needing surgery and becoming bedridden, wheel-chair ridden and housebound before finally getting back on their feet. Lives and livelihoods were disrupted in the blink of an eye. Treatments were complicated by storms, ice, Hadassah Hospital's bankruptcy, and long and painful trips home. In each case, these giving, caring people struggled to learn how to receive the support that poured in. Facebook spread "*Misheberach*" blessings across the globe, and four people who could not stand were held upright by community. From *challot* to meals to errands to sitting up all night in a hospital, I watched as simultaneously four Jewish communities activated their unique caring community support systems, living

the precept that "*kol Yisrael arevim zeh la zeh*" – all of Israel is responsible one for the other.

We never know when we will need our community. With Federation, we are always paying it forward even as we derive the benefit of the community built and sustained by the people who came before us. John Ruskay, the outgoing CEO of the New York Federation, famously said that we were there and effective on September 11 because we were there on September 10. We never know what will be the next need – personal ankles, communal future, or danger in Ukraine. I just sleep better at night knowing that our community is there, giving, building and sustaining, rescuing and reshaping, for the land of Israel and the Jewish people here and worldwide.

When the brokenness keeps me up at night, whether it is a broken ankle or spirit or country, it is you, the interconnecting web of community and support, that lets me sleep in peace. As Yin-Yang winter gives way to spring, thank you for acting and giving, so that together we can ensure the strength of our community and the continuity of the Jewish people.

PJ..... Continued from page 1

to use the books to incorporate Jewish values into every area of their classroom and daily routine, and to create family engagement experiences.

"This shared language of Jewish values never goes out of date, and supports a family's life-long learning of Jewish ideas," said Lisa Litman, director of PJGtS for PJ Library, a program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

On a monthly basis, the participating preschools receive PJ books, related resource guides and professional development. PJGtS is in approximately 400 classrooms in 14 PJ Library communities – and growing!

The first local PJGtS professional development session for preschool directors and teachers, held on February 25 at Temple Israel in Westport, was led by Lisa Litman. The participants studied Torah together and discussed the importance of incorporating Jew-

At right: Preschool teachers and directors from Greater Stamford, Westport-Weston-Wilton-Norwalk, and Eastern Fairfield Jewish preschools learned together at the first PJGtS training for the local community at Temple Israel, Westport.



ish values into their curriculum. The group read, discussed and brainstormed how they would use PJ Library Purim books in their classrooms focusing on

the Jewish values that the books elicited. "The room was filled with excitement as the educators shared their ideas and their personal teaching experiences," said Stein.

"This program could not have taken place in our area without the concerted effort of educators from all three communities that participated," noted UJF of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien CEO James Cohen. "This type of teamwork is a perfect example of the 'better together' ethos we are trying to build here in Stamford and throughout Fairfield County."

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COMMUNITY NEWS

BCDS Celebration Honors Inspirational Leaders

BY DORA SALM

The 2014 Bi-Cultural Day School Celebration Dinner will pay tribute to Founding Principal and Advisor Walter Shuchatowitz and Principal and Head of School Jacqueline Herman. Additionally, two longtime faculty members, Felicia Carriero and Frank Cronson, will be presented with the Jane Shoztic Memorial Award for Outstanding Teaching. The dinner will be held on Sunday, May 18, at the Stamford Hilton at 5 pm.



Felicia Carriero



Frank Cronson



Jaqueline Herman



Walter Shuchatowitz

Shuchatowitz, known as “Mr. S,” founded the school in 1956 and has remained a part of its leadership ever since. With more than 50 years of involvement, Shuchatowitz has ensured that BCDS

continues to realize his vision of providing a superior secular and Jewish educational experience. He has proven to be a pioneer in Jewish day school educa-

tion. One of his many accomplishments includes the long-standing tradition of the Eighth Grade Israel Experience, with the entire graduating eighth grade class traveling and studying in Israel for a month.

Herman, current principal and head of school, has led the school since 2011 and has proven to be a progressive leader in education, fostering an atmosphere of collaboration and community among parents, teachers and students. She has been instrumental in implementing the R2 program. (R2 refers to *ruach* and *rayut*, translated into spirit and friendship.) Developed exclusively at BCDS by the BCDS parent and faculty community, R2 is considered an innovative and dynamic approach that raises the standards of social behavior and can cultivate lifelong leadership skills in students.

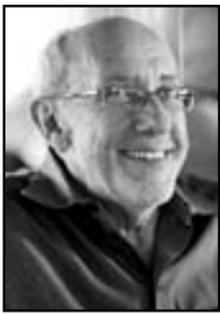
Herman has also been committed in the area of professional development for teachers in all grades and curricular areas, and has placed an emphasis on social responsibility within the classroom. She has helped to develop a *chesed* (kindness) program that reaches people and organizations in need.

See “Leaders” on page 4

Musical Shabbat Tribute to Dr. Harry “Hesh” Romanowitz

BY STEVE LANDER

On Friday, April 11, the community is invited to a musical *Kabbalat Shabbat* at Temple Beth El, held in tribute to Dr. Harry S. Romanowitz. The 7:30 pm service will be led by Cantor George Mordecai and Rabbi Joshua Hammerman. An *oneg* will follow the service.



Dr. Harry “Hesh” Romanowitz

“Affectionately called Hesh by friends and family, Dr. Romanowitz was a beloved pediatrician, trusted *mohel* and irreplaceable member of the community, who passed away quite suddenly on February 27, 2013,” said Rabbi Hammerman. “Hesh Romanowitz is sorely missed, yet recalling him so often brings a smile. Our Friday night service provides the perfect setting to recall his wit and wisdom, his love of music and wonder at the vast diversity of Jewish tradition.”

Romanowitz moved to Stamford in August 1976. After eight years in private practice, he was appointed the first full-time chair and pediatrician-in-chief at Stamford Hospital, a position he held for the next 20 years. Named one of Connecticut Magazine’s Top Physicians, Romanowitz served on the faculties of Yale University School of Medicine and Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Romanowitz also found time to be involved in the community. As a board member and then president of Student Health Services, he helped create Stamford’s first school-based health center at Stamford High School. He served for a decade as chair of Stamford’s Holocaust Memorial Committee and was a member of the Board of Directors of many local institutions, including the Early Childhood Learning Center, ARI, Jewish Family Service, ADL’s Fairfield County Civil Rights Committee and Fairfield County March of Dimes. He was on the Advisory Council to the state of Connecticut’s Office of the Child Advocate and was also chair of the Ferguson Library Board of Trustees. He received the Friends of the Ferguson’s Community Service Award in 2009.

“His love for Jewish culture and language leads the list of many diverse passions,” said Rabbi Hammerman. “Hesh thoroughly enjoyed telling jokes and stories,

listening to and collecting music, watching football and late-night TV, going to baseball games and movies, attending concerts, musical theater and innumerable cultural events. His extensive travel experiences included visiting family, friends, historic sites and diverse communities worldwide, and having what he would call ‘adventures.’ Most of all, he relished his role as a provider of care and counsel to all. Spending time with family and friends, near and far, was most precious.”

The service will also provide an opportunity to send off Stamford students who are going on Kulanu’s March of the Living trip to Poland and Israel, TBE teens Rachel Steinmetz and Jenna Plotzky. Romanowitz had considered the March one of his “prime passions.” Kulanu is a program of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.



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Remembering Rabbi Joe Ehrenkranz

Though the scope of his work was local, national and international, here are a few of the voices of those who knew him in Stamford, where he lived from 1948 until he made aliyah four years ago.

Betty Young vividly recalled the glorious march of Torahs up Strawberry Hill Avenue from the old JCC to the new Agudath Sholom building at the corner of Colonial Road on August 28, 1965. Working with the rabbi on the new building sealed a lifelong relationship between Betty and Sol Young and Rabbi Joe.

Senator Joseph Lieberman reflected: "Alongside my parents, my rabbi - Joe Ehrenkranz - taught me what it should mean to be a religiously observant Jew. He was a charismatic teacher, a learned scholar, and a compelling advocate for a Judaism that reached out, based on values, and aimed to make the world a better place. Rabbi Joe's Orthodox Judaism was not insular or parochial. It was proud and worldly. After he retired from the pulpit at Congregation Agudath Sholom in Stamford, he began a new chapter at the Center for Christian-Jewish Understanding at Sacred Heart University where he played a very important part in one of the greatest developments of our time - the reconciliation of Roman Catholics and Jews. And, on top of all that, Rabbi Joe was a lot of fun to be with. He enjoyed life and helped others do the same. In my case, I not only remember the lessons from Torah he taught me, but the lessons from baseball he taught me when he would take a group of us kids to New York to see his beloved Yankees. May our memories of Rabbi Joe Ehrenkranz be not just a blessing but a lesson."

Reverend Dr. Robert W. Perry, Senior Pastor, Union Baptist Church remembered: "As I reflect upon Rabbi Ehrenkranz, I have to conclude that he was uniquely personable and genuine. He proved to be a man of lofty principles and true to the faith he loved and represented. Joe and Bob, as we affectionately called each other and held mutual respect for each other. Our wives were tied to the same relationship. Rabbi Joe was a true scholar and a global citizen that always sought a better world for all mankind, where human rights were honored and the dignity of man prevailed. Joe was my friend."

Pam Ehrenkranz commented: "My uncle Joe has taught me many things, too numerous and nuanced to recount now. At the top of the list, is: The minority opinion counts, and that Jewish Law cannot be separated from ethics, morality and kindness. That Judaism should lead you to a life of personal fulfillment, courage, integrity, commitment to community, lifelong learning, and adherence to Jewish values and inclusiveness at the same time. I guess he taught me that being an observant Jew in some ways is walking a tightrope, in other ways, a walk in the park."

Saul Cohen, who came to Stamford in 1976 to serve as Executive Director of the JCC, remembered: "Rabbi Joe was a very special person and I miss the leadership that he provided for our community. I loved that he was a 'mekarev' who helped bring together people of disparate ideas and opinions, and, in doing so, helped strengthen our community in ways that many were not aware. I warmly remember, for example, the important role which he played in helping me and the then Center leadership to develop the concept and build the new JCC. He will be remembered for not only building his shul but also for building our community. Rabbi Joe was a wonderful teacher, and I regret not making the time to study with and learn more from him."

Mimi Cohen recalled: "There is a word in Hebrew, 'mekarev,' which means to bring close or to draw in. That was Rabbi Ehrenkranz. He spread a wide net leaving room for everyone to find their place within Judaism; he found Halakchic ways to allow for compromise."

Cherri Sherman remarked, "It was not just what he taught but also how he modeled that continues to inspire me, guide my actions and strengthen my resolve to live a life of hesed, tzedakah and mitzvot. He will always be a constant in my life, my joys, and in my heart. We would have followed him anywhere. He led me to embrace Judaism over 42 years ago, named our five daughters, toured Egypt and Israel together, including an audience with President Sadat and a luncheon with Golda Meir. He was there for Bat Mitzvahs and weddings and sadly, officiated at Bill's funeral. It was the unofficial times he showed up in our lives to comfort a sick child, the handwritten notes complimenting one of us on our actions, or to play silly games with grandkids or just to visit and spend a few hours that portray the incredibly kind, generous and thoughtful man we were so privileged to have as our rabbi, friend and leader. We are grateful and blessed."

Larry Rezak recalled: "When we first moved to Stamford, Joe was the first person we introduced ourselves to. I have only fond memories which date back to 1972...These include not only numerous family simchot but personal trips and relationships. He introduced me and urged me, at the time, to contribute funds to Jewish institutions and private people in need and for this I am grateful. I especially looked forward to attending services where Joe was masterful as the rabbi who could deliver a sermon or a vignette - reflecting on the content of the weekly parsha and yet weaving into it some meaning based on current world developments, which he was not shy to share with his congregation. I also appreciated his role as the community leader and founder, sponsoring so many good causes, helping so many individuals and raising funds when necessary."

Jessica Rezak Schwab posted: "Just attended the funeral of a truly inspirational man, my rabbi and teacher from childhood, Rabbi Joe Ehrenkranz. It was one of the most inspirational funerals I've ever attended. I hope to do my part in carrying on his legacy of kindness, passion for Judaism and learning, building bridges between all of humanity, and optimism and a zest for life. May his memory be for a blessing."

Cantor Arik Wollheim, who served as Cantor of Agudath Sholom until 2013, reflected: "Rabbi Ehrenkranz was my mentor and taught me the role of clergy. He was constantly curious and thirsty for knowledge. Very often on Shabbat he'd ask me what I thought about the meaning of a word or a verse, even though he'd seen it a million times before, he always looked at text with new perspective. He was my mentor not only in my professional life but also showing me how life should be lived. He had a rare ability to always look at the big picture and adapt to new realities which kept him young forever. He was in the business of serving and caring for people and making this world a better place."

Ellen Borker remembered: "Lucky us to be the 4th generation at Agudath Sholom. My dad, Alex Goldblum, was one of Rabbi Joe's first bar mitzvahs, when he was just a young man himself. To Rabbi Ehrenkranz my dad was "Allie," a name only used by family and intimate friends. He then went on to marry my dad to his high school sweetheart, Ann Wiesel. Rabbi Joe presided over our family baby namings and continued to celebrate at Bar and Bat mitzvahs. He stayed for our parties so he could join our family horas, making sure to get in the middle with my little grandma. He loved to dance. Though he was out of town for my wedding, he married my brother Jeff and Risa Bauman and my sister Karen to Jon Malkin. My grandmother affectionately "Grandma Fanny" was the matriarch of the Goldblum clan. She was a Shabbat regular, walking to Shul into her 90s. Rabbi Ehrenkranz personally welcomed her weekly and made her feel that having her there mattered. Thankfully Grandma Fanny did not require hospital visits until her 90s. Rabbi Ehrenkranz visited regularly. Together they prayed, laughed, took journeys down memory lane and sometimes had a shot of Manischewitz with a cookie. They had a special kinship. When it was time for her to be buried, Rabbi Ehrenkranz broke down and cried with us. Tears of joy came as naturally to him as his tears during our grief as he buried all four of my grandparents. He wasn't ashamed to share his full spectrum of emotion in our family."

I don't know many people that are blessed to have had a rabbi who felt like family and a shul that felt like home and a rabbi who made you feel proud to be Jewish in your community. He was an Orthodox rabbi known to the community at large to be inclusive and progressive. Whether facilitating the closing of public school for Rosh Hashanah, or lobbying for social causes, his vision was to unite, care and act. He wanted everyone to understand our collective responsibility to make our world a better place."

► Brandeis University Committee

Upcoming Program

Magistrate Judge James Orenstein will be the guest speaker at the Lunch and Learn meeting of the Brandeis University Committee at the Community Room of the Peoples Bank, 350 Bedford St., on Wednesday, April 23, at 10:30 am. Reservations must be made by contacting Judy Altmann at 203-323-1798. Orenstein is the magistrate judge of the Second District of Brooklyn, NY. He will speak on his experiences in prosecuting John Gotti and Timothy McVey.

► Friendship Circle Evening of Appreciation

The community is invited to attend The Friendship Circle of Fairfield County's Evening of Appreciation, which will take place on Sunday, June 1, at the Stamford Hilton Hotel. The end-of-year event will honor those who have dedicated themselves to the organization and enhanced the lives of children with special needs. The dessert reception will begin at 7 pm, followed by the program at 8 pm. The cost is \$36 per person.

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

► Stamford BBYO Recognized for Excellence

BBYO recently held its 2014 International Convention in Dallas, TX, from February 13-17. Nearly 2,000 teens from 20 countries around the world were in attendance, and took part in a weekend of celebration, community service and Jewish education.

Out of more than 300 chapters in the organization, the boys' and girls' Stamford BBYO chapters received international awards. Leviticus AZA and Tikvah BBG were both recognized with the Henry Monsky Award and Miriam Albert Award of Chapter Excellence, respectively. The awards go to the chapters that best demonstrate growing membership; have outstanding programming; and show constant contribution to their chapter, region and the international order. The chapters also must show organization and exemplify the ideals of BBYO.

"Winning this award is an honor. It reflects the hard work and commitment that all of our members have consistently given to Tikvah BBG and toward bettering our local Jewish community," said Rachel Katz, president of Tikvah BBG.

Rabbi Continued from page 1

comfortable in the congregation he built; Congregation Agudath Sholom, a Modern Orthodox synagogue. Because of Rabbi Joe's charisma, warmth and wisdom, Orthodox and non-Orthodox alike joined his flock.

His interfaith and community relations work are illustrious. He brought people together and promoted peace between faiths and nations. Rabbi Joe possessed great political savvy and advised many. For years, when anyone wanted to contact the Stamford Jewish community, his was the only phone number that was called. A fabulous fund-raiser, when he felt committed to a cause, he simply presented the need in his captivating way and the donors opened their hearts, and their wallets. Indeed, he served as national chair of the UJA Rabbinic Advisory Board.

Rest in peace, Rabbi Joe, and so many thanks.

See sidebar at left for community members' reflections on "Rabbi Joe."

Leaders Continued from page 3

Carriero, a master teacher, has been teaching students the intricacies of mathematics for many years. She has been successful in preparing her many middle-school students for the high school math experience.

For decades, Cronson, a science teacher, has taught students in the younger grades using high-level science experiments and demonstrations, including color-changing and skyrocketing science experiments. He has helped to foster an appreciation of science in his students.

Eve Nachman, BCDS director of development and one of the organizers of the event, explained that the overall theme for the event is "honoring our past while celebrating our future." Nachman continued, "Mr. S has had a profound effect on generations of students and the larger Jewish community. In partnership with Mr. S, Jackie has quickly earned our utmost confidence and respect. As we experience her leadership, we know that the future of BCDS is bright and exciting. She is committed to academic excellence and encourages teachers to take time to get to know each and every student. The Bi-Cultural Day School community is truly blessed to have the opportunity to honor and celebrate them both in one inspiring and meaningful evening."

Stella Cohen and Tara Shapiro are this year's event chairs. For further information, contact Nachman at 203-329-2186, ext 1341, or enachman@bcds.org.

Super Sunday Incentive Awards



Bi-Cultural Day School received an \$1,800 award. L-r: Rebekah Raz, UJF associate VP; Jackie Herman, BCDS principal and head of school; Eve Nachman, BCDS director of development; James Cohen, UJF CEO; Shoshana Dweck, UJF president; and Anat Chavkin, UJF associate VP.

United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien again challenged the recipient agencies to bring out the most volunteers to Super Sunday. The Jewish Community Center was filled with the many volunteers who came to make the day a success. Bi-Cul-

tural Day School won the award for the largest number of volunteers, Carmel Academy was rewarded for the greatest percentage increase in volunteers from last Super Sunday and Jewish Senior Services took home the prize for winning the random agency drawing.



Jewish Senior Services received a \$360 prize. L-r: Rebekah Raz; Andrew Banoff, Jewish Senior Services president and CEO; James Cohen; Shoshana Dweck; and Anat Chavkin.

Cocktails and Comedy

To Support JCC's Tzahal Shalom Program

BY LUISA VILADAS

An evening of fun and laughter is on tap for Saturday, May 10, when Israeli comedian Modi Rosenfeld, known professionally as Modi, will appear at the Stamford Jewish Community Center for an evening of Cocktails and Comedy.

Voted one of the top ten comedians in New York City by the "Hollywood Reporter" and "BackStage," Modi is considered one of the comedy circuit's most sought-after performers. Featured on HBO, CBS, NBC, ABC Comedy Central, Howard Stern and E! Entertainment, he has received "rave reviews" in *The New York Times*, *Time Out NY* and the *New York Post*.

The occasion of Modi's appearance in Stamford is a fund-raiser for the JCC Tzahal Shalom Program. Now in its 36th year in Stamford, Tzahal Shalom, organized by the Jewish Community Center in cooperation with the Friends of the Israeli Defense Forces, brings active-duty



Israeli comedian Modi will appear at the Stamford JCC on Saturday, May 10, for an evening of Cocktails and Comedy to raise funds for the JCC's Tzahal Shalom program.

Israeli officers to Stamford each year for a cross-cultural encounter with the community. The primary goal of the program is to deepen mutual understanding and strengthen the unity of the Jewish people. Americans and Israelis are given opportunities to learn about each other and their societies, person-to-person, while building lasting relationships and a sense of extended family.

Last year alone, the officers who participated in the program made connections with well over 1,000 adults and children, and organizers expect to reach an even greater audience with this year's program, which is

funded entirely through the generosity of individuals in the community.

"Cocktails and Comedy was created to give the broader community an opportunity to experience a powerful and important connection with Israel," noted JCC CEO Eric Koehler.

See "Comedy" on page 6



Carmel Academy received a \$720 award. L-r: Shoshana Dweck; Nora Anderson, Carmel Academy head of school; James Cohen; and Seth Young, Carmel Academy director of development.

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BITS AND PIECES

BY SANDY GOLOVE

To submit information to Bits and Pieces, call 321-1373, ext. 107, or e-mail me at sandy@ujf.org. MAZEL TOV TO NEW FAMILIES:



Gabrielle Birkner and Jeremy Siefer on the birth of a son, Henry "Hank" Siefer; grandparents are **Roni and Allan Lang**.

Nicole Paseltiner Marino and Mike Marino on the birth of a son, William James Marino; grandparents are **Kathy and Jeff Paseltiner**.

Jennie and Josh Speter on the birth of a son; grandparents are **Sandy and Moshe Speter**.

Shoshana and Gavi Weiner on the birth of a daughter; grandparents are **Rivka and Rabbi David Walk**.

MAZEL TOV TO:

Stanley Block, Philip Steinmetz and Yishai Walk, who are being honored at the WHHS Dinner on March 20.

Barbi and Hillel Disraelly on the engagement of their son, **Ari Disraelly**, to **Elaine Steinbok**.

Richard S. Fisher has been elected chair of the Stamford Senior Center Inc.

Shani Soloff and Michael Weinberger on their engagement.

MAZEL TOV TO B'NAI MITZVAH:

Andrew Kassin, son of **Lisa Levine Kassin and Myles Kassin**; grandparents are **Judy and Stanley Levine**.

CONDOLENCES TO:

Cantor Rafael Bokow of Congregation Agudath Sholom on the loss of his grandmother, **Rebbetzin Alta Malka Volpov**.

Sandy Ehrenkranz on the loss of her husband; **Doris Friedenber**, **Laura Ehrenkranz**, **Bart Ehrenkranz** and **Bina Fendel** on the loss of their father; **Pam Ehrenkranz** on the loss of her uncle; **Allison, Gaby and Ilana Zur** on the loss of their great-uncle; **Rachel and Danielle Wolfe** on the loss of their grandfather; and **Michelle Wolfe, Allan Glanzman and Howard Glanzman** on the loss of their stepfather, Rabbi Joseph Ehrenkranz.

Eli Freedberg (Julia Klein) on the loss of his grandmother, Mary Muszel.

Kirsten Hohmann (Amiel Goldberg) on the loss of her mother; and **Emma and Zoe Goldberg** on the loss of their grandmother, Elaine Hohmann.

Olga Kagan on the loss of her mother, Rivka Vaiman.

Marcia Kahan on the loss of her husband, and **Miriam Pell** on the loss of her father, Dr. Ely Kahan.

Nancy Kapchan on the loss of her mother, Maxine Kapchan.

Masato Koga on the loss of his father; and **Harrison Koga** on the loss of his grandfather, Sadae (Michael) Kadish.

Heather Mazarakos and Michele Taylor on the loss of their father; and **Helena and Daniel Mazarakos, and Sean and Evan Taylor** on the loss of their grandfather, Steven Schorr.

Marilyn Rodwin on the loss of her husband, Robert Rodwin.

Joe Rothman (Linda) on the loss of his mother, Doris Rothman.

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.

Richard Sabreen (Susan Sabreen) on the loss of his father, Bernie Sabreen.

Hank Silverstein (Meryl Silverstein) on the loss of his brother, Steven Silverstein.

Leon Weisburgh on the loss of his wife; and **Mitchell, Susan, Judy and Betsy Weisburgh** on the loss of their mother, Frankie Weisburgh.

FROM A THERAPIST'S PERSPECTIVE JFS Offers Support for Unemployed

BY REBEKAH KANEFSKY

"Sharon" showed up for the Jewish Family Service Life Transitions group and sat quietly through the group with a pleasant smile and a genteel disposition. An attractive woman just on the cusp of 50 years old, she presented an impressive and extensive portfolio within the IT profession. Like all the other adults surrounding her that day, Sharon was unemployed and feeling bereft due to her increasingly difficult experience. Bills mounting, an increasing pile of rejection letters – or even worse, no response whatsoever from her application submissions, declining positivity and spirit – Sharon was characteristic of the current plight of unemployed adults.

According to the Connecticut Department of Labor, Connecticut's unemployment rate is estimated at 7.4 percent for February 2014. Connecticut ranks 39th in the nation and is still 0.7 percent above the national average of 6.7 percent. Of unemployed individuals, 39 percent are ages 50 years and older.

How do these statistics impact our community? For an agency such as JFS, it means even more adults coming through our doors seeking resources to help them through their struggles, i.e. financial, emotional and professional, to name a few. Like Sharon, our Life Transitions participants frequently bring more skills and experience to the table than prospective employers are looking for – or are willing to pay for. Sharon discussed a recent job interview that resulted in her being told she is "over-qualified" and, therefore, "too senior" for the position – an experience that left her angry, bitter and depressed. Suddenly confronted

with the realities of her age and its impact upon her employment search, Sharon was feeling lost in her process.

A collaborative effort of the JFS Counseling and Employment and Training departments, the Life Transitions support group for unemployed adults was born out of this demonstrated community need. In addition to providing employment resources, our clients cried out for emotional support to get through their challenging unemployment experience. Already one year later, the group remains one of the strongest for the agency due to the ongoing nature of the process and flow of clients through our doors. Every week, participants receive genuine, empathetic and compassionate support from peers that allows for the therapeutic process to work its wonders, say goodbye to those newly hired and welcome newly unemployed into waiting, supportive arms.

Today, Sharon is still unemployed and her job search saga continues. However, thankfully for one hour each week, Sharon can vent in a safe and supportive environment, can laugh and cry knowingly with her contemporaries, and she can know that she is not alone. On this day she knows that, for at least one hour, everything will be OK.

Are you unemployed and would like to join us? Know someone who is unemployed and might benefit from the group? The Life Transitions support group meets every Wednesday at 11:30 am. Everyone is welcome. For details, e-mail rkanefsky@ctjfs.org or call 203-921-4161.

Rebekah Kanefsky is a psychotherapist and serves as a development associate for JFS.

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

Comedy. Continued from page 5

Co-chairing this year's Tzahal Shalom visitare Risa Goldblum, Wendy Handler and Jeannie Kriftcher. Debbie Lee, Susie Gold and a committee of volunteers are organizing the Cocktails and Comedy event.

Tickets to Cocktails and Comedy are \$50 per person before Tuesday, May 6, or \$60 at the door. Reserve a table for 10 for \$500, or a premium table for 10

for \$750. Register online at stamfordjcc.org, in person at the JCC welcome desk, or by calling 203-322-7900. For more information, contact Nancy Schiffman at 203-487-0941 or nschiffman@stamfordjcc.org, or visit stamfordjcc.org.

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

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

	March 21	6:49 pm
	March 28	6:56 pm
	April 4	7:04 pm
	April 11	7:11 pm
	April 14	7:14 pm
	April 15 after	8:16 pm
	April 18	7:19 pm
	April 20	7:21 pm
	April 21 after	8:22 pm
	April 25	7:26 pm
	May 2	7:34 pm
	May 9	7:41 pm
	May 16	7:48 pm

United Jewish Federation
OF GREATER STAMFORD, NEW CANAAN AND DARIEN
BETTER TOGETHER

Women's Philanthropy Spring Dinner

Thursday, May 15, 2014
Temple Beth El
6:30 p.m.
featuring
Dr. Ruth Westheimer

Dinner Chairs: Jill Kaplan & Janet Welkovich

For further information, please contact Rebekah Raz,
rebekah@ujf.org or 203.321.1373 x102

United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien **Congratulate the Stamford Chapters of BBYO**

Tikvah BBG

on receiving

the Miriam Albert Award of Chapter Excellence

Leviticus AZA

on receiving

the Henry Monsky Award of Chapter Excellence

These awards go to the chapters that best demonstrate growing membership; have outstanding programming, show constant contribution to their chapter, region and the International order. The chapters also must show organization and exemplify the ideals of BBYO.

JFS Kosher Food Pantry Fights Hunger

Matching Challenge Helps Increase Donations

BY LYNN SALTZ

For the second year in a row, Jewish Family Service of Stamford, New Canaan, Darien, Westport, Weston, Wilton and Norwalk will partner with Alan Shawn Feinstein Foundation to help fight hunger using a \$1 million matching challenge to help raise funds and donations for the Kosher Food Pantry from March 1-April 30. During the 2013 campaign, the money provided from the Feinstein Challenge enabled JFS to provide food for 20 families.

During the challenge period, the more donations JFS receives, the greater the share of the \$1 million Feinstein challenge money JFS will be awarded. Many non-profit agencies in past years have increased their donations two or three times their usual returns at this time of the year by using this challenge.

The JFS Kosher Food Pantry serves more than 200 families in the Stamford area, and is in need of grocery cards, gas cards and pharmacy cards. A donation helps ensure that Kosher Food Pantry recipients receive the sustenance, i.e. fresh foods, medications, etc. that they otherwise would not be unable to afford.

The JFS Kosher Food Pantry will also accept specifically kosher for Passover food donations. Every kosher item is welcome, but the most requested items for Passover are matzah, gefilte fish, horseradish, macaroons, grape juice and fruit juices, soup mixes and canned and jarred food items (fruits, vegetables, soups).

JFS will accept donations at the Stam-



L-r: Risa Raich, Karen Malkin and Kim Schweber stopped to admire their donation to the JFS Kosher Food Pantry.

ford office Monday to Friday from 9am-4pm by appointment. To make arrangements to bring donations to JFS Kosher Food Pantry, contact Rita Halpert and/or Rebekah Kanefsky at 203-921-4161 or See "Pantry" on page 10

UJF Sponsors Grant-Writing Workshops

BY REBEKAH RAZ

As part of efforts to help prepare its partner agencies for the eventual shift to an allocations system with a grant-making component, and to fulfill a promise to provide more expertise to the community, United Jewish Federation is launching a series of grant-writing workshops. Rick Lund, a member of the Stamford community, development expert and partner in the firm Tavrow-Lund, will lead the sessions.

The first installments, titled "Getting to Yes" will take place on Thursday, April 3, and Monday, April 7. Senior lay and professional leaders will learn about the art of writing a grant, as well as how to conduct research on potential funders.

UJF CEO James Cohen noted, "I am

thrilled that we are able to offer this service to the community. One of the commitments I made at the last annual meeting was to start providing this kind of assistance to our partners. We are delighted to do so."

Designated UJF staff will also participate so that they, too, will be able to tackle grant-writing with greater skill. Reading Partners Director Marlyn Agatstein is particularly looking forward to attending the workshop. "There are many foundations out there, currently just beyond our grasp, that might be interested in supporting the Reading Partners program. I can't wait to learn more about how to approach them," she said.

Future sessions will be announced in due course.

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— Jewish Learning by Design: The Case of Carmel Academy, Dr. Jack Wertheimer and Rabbi Josh Elkin

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Sunday, April 27th
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Temple Sinai

As this is a Holocaust Commemoration, no dinner will be served at this event.

For more information please contact Rabbi Molly Karp at Rabbikarp@ujf.org or 203-321-1373

United Jewish Federation OF GREATER STAMFORD, NEW CANAAN AND DARIEN
GETTING TOGETHER

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Shop Rite *

(203) 978-0464 • 1990 Main St. (Commerce Park)
Dairy Only - Cakes and Pastries

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*Our best wishes for a
Happy Passover!*

The Stamford Kosher Activists Committee

* Supervised or Endorsed By Vaad HaKashrut of
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Plagued by Seder Anxiety? Let it Passover!

Plagued by seder anxiety? Join the Stamford Board of Rabbis on Thursday, April 10, at 7:30 pm, at Temple Beth El, for a conversation on how to bring more spark and meaning to this year's seders. There will be an interactive panel discussion with Rabbi Daniel Cohen of Congregation Agudath Sholom, Rabbi Joshua Hammerman of Temple Beth El, Rabbi Elly Krinsky

of Young Israel of Stamford, Rabbi Jay TelRav of Temple Sinai and Rabbi Nicole Wilson-Spiro of Selah. The event is co-sponsored by United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien and the Stamford Board of Rabbis.

For questions or to RSVP, contact Rabbi Molly Karp, UJF's adult education coordinator, at rabbikarp@ujf.org.

Whose Tradition?

BY RONNIE FEIN

Everyone expects "traditional" food on the holidays, but I have always wondered about what that actually means.

Whose tradition?

We can make grandma's special brisket recipe for Passover, but then newcomers join the family and their grandma's traditional Passover entrée may have been roasted veal or turkey. Their traditional isn't your traditional. Modern times bring other complications. Family members may have become vegetarians. Or they are on gluten-free diets. Or they can't tolerate dairy, fish, nuts and so on.

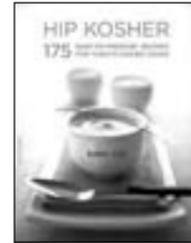
Menus change with changing times, growing families and health and nutrition issues. That leaves the meaning of traditional up in the air.

At the Fein household, we have our own traditions. Sort of. They have changed gradually over many years. I still make roasted turkey, the way my grandma did, for the first seder. And I couldn't think of having a seder without serving her chremslich with honey (that recipe appeared in this column last year). But our charoset is an Iranian-style version rather than my family's familiar Ashkenazic apples-walnut combo. And, unlike grandma, I make lots of vegetable dishes because they lighten what used to be an ultra-heavy meal and they fill up the several vegetarians who join us.

Grandma serve gefilte fish, but my daughter is allergic to fish, so our traditional fish course has been replaced with a salad.

Matzo ball soup? Of course. Grandma is smiling.

But she wouldn't recognize dessert. We do serve traditional macaroons and every once in a while I bake my Aunt Roz's special Orange Sponge Cake. But Passover dessert is more likely to be something very untraditional. Like Orange and Peppered



The cover of "Hip Kosher."

Strawberries with Zabaglione.

Whatever your traditions are, enjoy them and have a Happy Passover.

ORANGE AND PEPPERED
STRAWBERRIES WITH PASSOVER
ZABAGLIONE

2 lbs. fresh strawberries (one quart)
2 Tbsp. sugar
2 Tbsp. orange juice

½ tsp. freshly ground black pepper
8 large egg yolks
¾ cup sugar
2 Tbsp. finely grated fresh orange rind

½ cup sweet white Passover wine
Fresh mint leaves as garnish

Rinse the berries, remove the hull and cut them into chunks into a bowl. Add the 2 tablespoons sugar, orange juice and pepper. Toss gently and let macerate while you prepare the zabaglione.

Place the egg yolks, ¾ cup sugar and the orange rind in the top part of a double boiler over barely simmering water. Beat with a handheld mixer on medium until the mixture has thickened slightly and is pale in color (about 3 minutes). While continuing to beat constantly, gradually going from medium to high speed, gradually add the wine. Beat for 8-10 minutes or until the mixture is thick and fluffy.

Place the berries in individual serving dishes. Pour equal amounts of the zabaglione over the berries. Mix gently. Garnish each with a mint leaf.

Makes 8 servings.

Note: You can use the zabaglione warm, from the pan, or let it cool to room temperature or serve it chilled. To chill, place the bowl of zabaglione in a larger bowl filled with ice and stir until the sauce is cold. It will hold for up to one hour.

Ronnie Fein is a cookbook author and cooking teacher in Stamford. Her latest book is "Hip Kosher." Visit her food blog, Kitchen Vignettes, at www.ronniefein.com and follow her on Twitter at @RonnieVFein.

Community Seders and Programs

CHABAD (Orthodox)

770 High Ridge Rd. • 203-3-CHABAD (203-324-2223)
www.chabadstamford.org

Chabad House Family Seder

FIRST SEDER Monday Night April 14, 8:00pm
SECOND SEDER Tuesday Night April 15, 8:15pm
\$36 per person; children 2-12 \$18; \$180 Sponsor • Open to All - All are welcome! Elegant, thought provoking, warm, interactive, delightful company and the food is great!

CONGREGATION

AGUDATH SHOLOM (Orthodox)

301 Strawberry Hill Ave. • 203-358-2200
www.agudathsholom.org

Community Second Seder, Tuesday, April 15
Please contact Saul Skolnick at CAS at 203-358-2200 for further information.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

Nechama@FriendshipCT.com

Pre-Passover Holiday Program for children with special needs and their families

Sunday, April 6, 10am-12pm at the Friendship Circle Center, 770 High Ridge Rd., Stamford, CT. The program will include refreshments, Matzah making, fun Passover activities, and a Puppet Show by the Small Wonder Puppet Theater. RSVP with Nechama@FriendshipCT.com

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

Nechama@FriendshipCT.com

"NEW" for this year! PASSOVER SEDER FOR FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

April 14, 7pm, Free at the Shmotkin Home, 15 Francis Ave, Stamford. Join the Shmotkin family for an educational, delicious, and exciting Seder catered towards children with special needs and their families. RSVP with Nechama@FriendshipCT.com

TEMPLE SINAI

458 Lakeside Dr. • 203-322-1649
www.templestamford.org

Community Second Seder - April 15, 5pm

Pesach is about creating new memories and sustaining old ones. At Sinai's seder, you'll experience the Exodus of our people and you'll never forget the way in which we do it! This family seder will be engaging for all ages. Don't forget to bring your appetite, don't forget to bring your loved ones and don't forget to bring your Cell Phone! That's right, during this interactive experience you'll want to have your phone handy so make sure it's charged up. \$36 for Adults (13 years and up), \$18 for children, (under 4 years old, Free) Open to the community. Please call the Temple Office to reserve your space today - excitement is high! (203) 322-1649

TEMPLE BETH EL (Conservative Egalitarian)

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Temple Beth El Kids Tot Kabbalat Shabbat Passover

Friday, April 11 (Pre-Passover Tot Shabbat) 5:30 pm, led by Cantor George Mordecai and Rabbi Joshua Hammerman. Geared toward children 5 years old and younger accompanied by an adult. Older siblings welcome.

Bringing Art to Life at Carmel Academy

“Curious George” Illustrator and 3-D Animator Visit School

BY JULIE LAPIN

As part of Carmel Academy’s year-long Celebration of the Arts, the school welcomed two guests whose talents enable them to bring their imaginations to life through animation and illustration.

Computer animator and Stamford resident Michael Swartz spent a day at the school conducting small workshops for all students, teaching them about the process that goes into turning traditional drawings into fully animated 3D characters.

Professional book illustrator Mary Young visited Carmel’s third-graders and spoke with the students about her career, primarily as the illustrator of the new series of “Curious George” books, originally created by Margret and H.A. Rey.

As part of the school’s exploration of the arts, guest speakers have visited the school throughout the year to share their enthusiasm, artistic abilities and expertise for their individual artistic endeavors.

Swartz is the father to two Carmel students and is currently finishing his master’s degree in computer arts and animation. He showed Carmel’s students how he created the characters 3D animation for his short

film ‘Clara’ that he is creating for his master’s thesis. He explained that he has spent more than a year and a half animating the six-minute movie, and discussed how he came up with the story idea, developed a narrative arc, developed and created hundreds of designs of the characters, and even composed his own music for the film.

He showed the students how he sculpted the characters, painted them and then rigged them with virtual bones and muscles to bring them to life. The highlight for the students was when Swartz showed them the final product – his fully animated characters on screen.

Young has been the illustrator of the “Curious George” series since 2005. She read the third-graders her newest book, “Sweet Dreams with Curious George,” and told the class that H.A. Rey had also illustrated a book of astronomy, so she modeled some of her drawings after those in his book.

She then drew several sketches in front of the students, who offered suggestions about what activity George should be doing. Students said they enjoyed watching Curious George come to “life” in different illustrations – eating an ice cream cone,



“Curious George” book illustrator Mary Young visited Carmel Academy’s third-graders as part of the school’s year-long Celebration of the Arts.

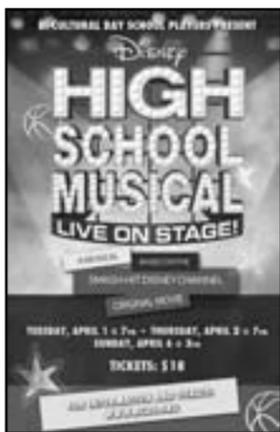
juggling and making a pizza.

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

Bi-Cultural Players Getting Ready for Spring Musical

BY DORA SALM

The BCDS Players will be “getting their head in the game,” “bopping to the top” and “breaking free” as they prepare for the spring musical production of Disney’s “High School Musical,” a modern musical comedy adaptation of the 2006 Disney television movie about two teens from different worlds who discover friendship through their mutual love of music. Performances will take place at Bi-Cultural Day School on Tuesday, April 1, at



BCDS Players will present “High School Musical.”

7 pm; Thursday, April 3, at 7 pm; and Sunday, April 6, at 3 pm.

Staging the show takes a cast and stage crew of more than 40 students (including two students who will be demonstrating their gymnastics skills under the direction of BCDS alumna and choreographer Alexandra Cahr). The production is led by Jonathan Cahr, BCDS’s director of performing arts, and Director Janice Steinberg.

“This show is all about the importance of being true to yourself,” said Steinberg, describing the theme of the play. “There’s a song in the show called ‘Stick to the Status Quo,’ and, unfortunately, it seems that that’s what is expected too often in schools these days. If you’re a



Jonathan Cahr



Janice Steinberg

theater kid, stay a theater kid. If you’re a jock, stay a jock. If you’re a brainiac, stay a brainiac. But what we learn through ‘High School Musical’ is that it’s better to break free of your mold and try new things, especially things you love.

“Theater is powerful for children – seeing it and, especially, being a part of it,” Steinberg explained. “Being part of a cast is similar to being part of an athletic team; everyone works together toward one common goal, and everyone supports and encourages the other. It becomes an extremely tight-knit group that really cares about each person’s welfare. The bonds we create across grades and genders are especially remarkable.

See “Musical” on page 10



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Let it Snow... E-Days at Carmel Academy

BY JULIE LAPIN

It's snowing and schools across the region are closed, yet for the students at Carmel Academy the falling snow means a change in learning venue – their homes. With the rough winter and the need to close campus for more than the school's three built-in snow days, the concept of E-Days was born.

"Carmel Academy's E-Days are days of remote learning and teaching," said Carmel Head of School Nora Anderson. "The purpose of an E-Day is to provide our students with learning experiences at home that further the curriculum and enrich their learning experience when the weather does not allow for learning on campus. We have no control over Mother Nature and this winter has been tough on our calendar. Yet, the feeling is that academic goals can be pushed forward with E-Days.

"While nothing can replace the learning environments our teachers create in the classroom, our faculty has worked closely with our curriculum directors to create activities that are thoughtful, creative and build upon current units of study," Anderson said.

On the morning of a snow day, students and their parents log into a secure website portal to access the E-Day assignments for that day. The assignments span across all subject areas a student would have had that day, if in fact school were in session.

Dr. Cindy Mann and Dr. Tali Aldouby-Schuck, Carmel Academy's directors of curriculum development, define E-Days as "not more homework," but rather opportunities for exploration and extensions of classroom learning. Teachers are given parameters surrounding E-Day assignments: The work should be relevant, timely and engaging, should not feel like

work merely to pass time, and students should be able to work independently. The assignments should also have time limits so students can enjoy some of the traditions of a snow day.

Whether writing their own *midrash* (explanatory story), exploring the science of snowflakes, experiencing the artistry of snowman building, or reading in an arm chair, assignments are meant to take advantage of the home environment while staying connected to school.

"Our community of thinkers stretches beyond our teachers and students, and we asked for parent feedback after the first E-Day to help us refine the experience," Mann said.

"Implementing E-Days is one more example of Carmel's commitment to academic excellence," said Carmel Academy parent and Stamford resident Dana Roth. "It can be nice to have a snow day off from school in the middle of winter, but this year has been an exception with school closing multiple times because of weather. Carmel made sure the learning continued to stay on schedule.

"Each assignment was well thought out, creative and some even pertained to the weather outside," Roth said. One of the many reasons why my husband and



Carmel Academy students and Stamford residents Evan and Micayla Roth worked on their E-Day assignments on a recent snowy morning.

I chose Carmel for our children was for the forward thinking of the leadership team and faculty, as well as the innovative approaches to learning, even when we're at home on a snow day."

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

Bi-Cultural Invention Convention Combines Science with Imagination



BCDS fifth-grader Zevi Mehl presented his invention during this year's Invention Convention, while Bernie Dickens and Norma Lemberger looked on.



From Thomas Edison to Steve Jobs, new inventions and technologies are just an idea away. In February, the fifth-graders at Bi-Cultural Day School transformed the school lunchroom into a technology expo as they presented their original, home-grown science inventions and showcased their work to parents, teachers and each other. BCDS fifth-grader Georgia Baer (at right) demonstrated her Skatowel at this year's BCDS Invention Convention.

JFS Bereavement Support Group Wednesdays, 11 am at JFS Stamford office.

Are you searching for a safe haven to explore your thoughts and feelings about grief? JFS can provide a protected environment that provides emotional, physical, and spiritual support. For info, contact Rosemarie Delia (facilitator): (203) 921-4161 or rdelia@ctjfs.org

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Pantry. Continued from page 7

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Anyone who would like to receive assistance from the Kosher Food Pantry, contact Halpert at 203-921-4161, ext. 118, to arrange for an appointment. All requests for services are kept strictly confidential.

Lynn Saltz is the marketing and communications coordinator at Jewish Family Service.

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

Musical. Continued from page 9

Suddenly, kids in fifth grade are hugging eighth-graders in the hallway. That makes school a much more enjoyable place to be."

Cast member Sydney Steinberg (daughter of director Steinberg), who plays the role of Kelsey in the show, explained that the friendships formed through the show, especially with students across the grades, is "a unique experience." Also, she noted, "having friends on stage helps when you have to face the demands of performing in front of a large audience."

"It's a lot of pressure," Sydney said, but well worth the effort to deliver songs like 'Stick to the Status Quo,' which she described as one of the show's major highlights. "It has a strong message and is a big turning point in the show. Plus, once you hear this song you'll never get it out of your head."

For more information about the upcoming performances, call 203-329-2186.

Bi-Cultural Day School is a recipient agency of United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.





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BETTER TOGETHER

“Building Bridges” Exhibit Opens in New Canaan

Arthur Szyk, Polish Jewish Artist in America

BY CAMILLE A. KRAMER

Lt. Colonel David M Kaplan, U.S.A., retired, will discuss Arthur Szyk, illustrator and illuminator, on Thursday April 10, as part of the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County's April featured program. It will be held at the New Canaan Library, 151 Main St., New Canaan, starting at 6:30 pm, with a light supper at 6 pm. The dinner and talk are free and open to the public. Prints of Szyk's works will be on display. The event is co-sponsored by the Polish American Cultural Society.

Szyk, graphic artist, book illustrator, stage designer and caricaturist, was born in 1894 in Czarist ruled Lodz, Poland. He lived in France and the United Kingdom before permanently settling in the United States. While studying in Paris at the Académie Julian, where he was exposed to modern art trends, he discovered his main interest to be traditional biblical themes with a particular fascination for the medieval art of illuminating manuscripts.

Szyk's lifelong political views – which included opposing antisemitism, the abuse of workers, political and social injustice of all kinds and German militarism – were largely influenced early on by his Krakow teacher Teodor Axentowicz, the Polish nationalist painter and illustrator. Szyk's popularity seemed to come from a series of caricatures of Hitler, starting in 1933. His “magnus opus” – his haggadah, illustrated in 48 separate drawings done from 1932-1938 – recounts the Israelites' flight from ancient Egypt, a story read each year during the Passover seder. Elements of the political turmoil in Nazi Germany at the time wove their way into the work. The haggadah is a holding of the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County.

Eleanor Roosevelt praised his World War II war propaganda, saying, “This is a personal war of Szyk against Hitler, and I do not think that Mr. Szyk will



Arthur Szyk held his Declaration of Independence illumination in his New Canaan Home in 1950. (New Canaan Advertiser photo courtesy of the New Canaan Historical Society)

lose this war!” However, in 1951, while living in New Canaan, Szyk's political activities placed him under the scrutiny of Senator Joseph McCarthy. He died that same year, at age 57. Szyk's mastery is considered to live on in his works.

According to Eva Weller, JHSFC's president, “The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County is most pleased to co-sponsor with the Polish American Cultural Society the unique shared heritage of New Canaan artist, illustrator and activist, Arthur Szyk. Through its vice president, Al Koproski, PACS has brought the Kosciuszko Foundation's exhibit of 20 reproductions of Szyk's artwork to our area. The exhibit is titled ‘Building Bridges: The Legacy of Polish-Jewish Artist Arthur Szyk’ and, through his

work, we continue to build bridges.”

“Arthur Szyk was proud of his Polish heritage as indicated by his paintings,” said Al Koproski.

Susan La Perla, director of programming at New Canaan Library, stated that “the library is thrilled and proud to host the Arthur Szyk Exhibit and Program. Szyk has contributed much to New Canaan, the United States and the world.”

Optional registration is available online at <https://jhsfcaprfeaturedprogram.eventbrite.com/> by clicking on “sign up with e-mail.” Anyone with a question about the program should contact Marcie Schoenfeld at 203-359-9148 or elissa@de-kaplan.com, or check JHSFC's website at <http://jhsfc-ct.org/programs.html>.

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

Jewish Camp Trend-spotting Ten Ways a Summer Ritual is Changing

BY JULIE WIENER

NEW YORK (JTA) – Nostalgia about summer traditions notwithstanding, Jewish camps have changed dramatically from a generation ago. Camp's value for Jewish education and identity-building is now a major focus of communal attention. Major Jewish foundations, Federations and organizations are investing heavily in the sector.

Many camps have become more intentional about incorporating Jewish learning, Shabbat and Israel into their programming. They've also evolved to meet families' changing expectations and demands: offering a wider range of choices of all kinds (from food to activity to session length); providing more frequent updates and communications to parents; accommodating numerous medical requirements and allergies; and placing greater emphasis on safety and security.

At the same time, the Jewish camping field is becoming more professionalized. The job of camp director has been shifting from a seasonal gig to year-round career, and counselors are receiving more intensive training.

With all this change in the Jewish camp world, here are 10 specific trends that have been noticed:

1. Shorter sessions: Once upon a time, summer camp meant the entire summer, with the majority of campers attending for seven, eight or even 10 weeks. Now it is the rare child or teen who spends the full summer at camp (or at one camp), and most programs offer multiple sessions, ranging in length from just six days to seven weeks. “Our three-week session has always sold out more quickly than the four-week, and our new two-week session has been a quick hit as well,” said Vivian Stadlin, co-director of Eden Village Camp in Putnam Valley, NY.

2. Specialized programs: Whether a child's passion is sports, the environment, outdoor adventure or science and technology, there's a Jewish camp for that. An incubator under the auspices of the Foundation for Jewish Camp spurred the creation of five specialty camps in 2010 (including Eden Village, which is focused on the environment) and another four that will open this summer. The idea is to attract kids who might not otherwise consider a Jewish camp and to show them they can combine

See “Camp” on page 14

Join us for the
36th Annual Connecticut Holocaust Commemoration Day

Confronting the Holocaust: American Responses

Friday, April 25, 2014 - 11:00 a.m.

Senate Chambers

Connecticut State Capitol
210 Capitol Avenue, Hartford

Keynote Address

Al Linder, Holocaust Survivor

Presiding

Senate President Donald Williams, Jr.

Host Community

Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien

Statewide Holocaust Commemoration Planning Committee Chair

Ricky Arbron

Luncheon following program in Old Appropriations (Room 310)
for Holocaust Survivors, program participants and
elected officials.

Kosher dietary laws observed

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Kathy at Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut (JFACT)
860-727-5771 or jfact@memgmt.com

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Confronting the Holocaust: American Responses

Stamford Federation Co-Sponsors Statewide Holocaust Commemoration

Connecticut's 36th Annual Holocaust Remembrance ceremony will be held on Friday, April 25, at 11 am, at the State Capitol in Hartford in the Senate Chambers on the third floor of the State Capitol, 210 Capitol Ave., Hartford. The event is called a time for state officials, survivors and people of all faiths and backgrounds to commemorate the worst act of genocide in modern history: the six million Jews murdered by Hitler's Nazi regime. The theme of this year's event is "Confronting the Holocaust: American Responses."



Al Linder

"The United States' response to the widespread persecution and mass murder of the Jews of Europe must be considered when remembering the Holocaust," said Danielle Alexander, director of community engagement and outreach. "What can we learn today from American action and inaction? What are the warning signs we should look for to help prevent future genocides? What is our responsibility as a nation or as individuals when confronted with such crimes? Today, the study of the Holocaust encourages reflections on contemporary cases of genocide, particularly as we mark the 20th anniversary of the Rwandan Genocide this year. As long as genocide remains a threat, we must continue

to ask ourselves about the consequences of action – and of inaction. That is how we strive to fulfill the promise of 'never again.'"

The keynote speaker will be Al Linder, who will share his story of surviving the Holocaust. Born in Chernowitz, Romania in 1936, Linder spent his childhood, from 1941-1944, in concentration camps in the disputed border region of Transnistria. Linder experienced many tragedies, including the murder of his grandparents and the death of his 18-month-old sister. In 1944, after three years in the Bershad camp, the Russians liberated

the Jews; only about 30 percent of the inmates had survived, including Linder and his parents. When they returned to what had been their home in Chernowitz, all their belongings were gone, taken by the German officer who had been living there.

In 1945, the 9-year-old Linder and his parents, along with 2,600 other Holocaust survivors, were relocated to displaced persons camps in Italy where they lived for the next four years. In 1949, they were allowed to immigrate to the United States, where Linder had aunts and uncles who had come to America in the 1920s. These were his parents' only surviving siblings.

Linder and his wife, Sheila, have two daughters, Liz and Joan, both artists, and two grandchildren. In the 1990s, Joan encouraged her father to travel back to Romania. He says that this trip back to visit his past was a liberating experience; only since then has he been able to talk about his life during the war.

The 36th Annual Statewide Holocaust Commemoration is sponsored by the Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut in collaboration with the United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien. Co-sponsors of the ceremony are Voices of Hope, Federations of Eastern Connecticut, Greater Danbury, Greater Hartford, Greater New Haven, Western Connecticut, Greenwich and Westport-Weston-Wilton-Norwalk, in coordination with the Anti-Defamation League, Christian Conference of Connecticut, State of Connecticut, State of Israel Bonds and the United States Holocaust Memorial Council.

The public is invited to attend. There will be a luncheon following the program in the Old Judiciary Room for Holocaust survivors, program participants and elected officials. Kosher dietary laws will be observed. To RSVP for the luncheon, contact Kathy Fishman, at the Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut, at 860-727-5771 or jfact@mcmgmt.com.

"Between Dignity and Despair"

Yom Hashoah Address at UConn-Stamford

BY REBECCA ISENSTEIN

The Center for Judaic and Middle Eastern Studies at UConn-Stamford will co-host a spring event featuring Dr. Marion Kaplan, the Skirball Professor of Modern Jewish History at New York University. Kaplan will address UConn students and the local community on the topic "Between Dignity and Despair: Jewish Women and Families in Nazi Germany." The program will take place on Tuesday, April 8, at 7 pm, at the UConn-Stamford Campus in the Multi-Purpose Room (Room 1.08). The Yom Hashoah event is also co-sponsored by the Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Center at UConn-Stamford and the UConn-Stamford Program Committee.



Professor Marion Kaplan, Skirball Professor of Modern Jewish History at NYU and three-time National Jewish Book Award winner

Kaplan received her Ph.D. in modern European history from Columbia University. She has taught at both the City University of New York and New York University in the areas of modern European and modern European-Jewish history; European women's and Jewish women's history; and 19th and 20th century German history. Her research has concentrated on Jewish women's history and Jewish daily life history in Germany. She is a three-time National Jewish Book Award winner for "The Making of the Jewish Middle Class: Women, Family and Identity in Imperial Germany" (1991), "Between Dignity and Despair: Jewish Life in Nazi Germany" (1998) and "Gender and Jewish History" (with Deborah Dash Moore, 2011), as well as a finalist for "Dominican Haven: The Jewish Refugee Settlement in Sosua" (2008).

The event is free to the community, but advance registration is requested. To register, call 203-251-9525 or e-mail stamfordjudaicstudies@uconn.edu.

The Center for Judaic and Middle Eastern Studies is a recipient agency of the United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.

Story Continued from page 1

Reflecting on this year's commemoration, Ricky Arbon, UJF's vice president of education, notes that "since we have fewer and fewer survivors to tell the story, it is important that we have a mechanism to tell the story so that our children can tell it, too. We don't want it to just become a piece of history – rather, like at Passover, we want to create a way to feel that the Shoah happened to us all and, just as we feel each year at Passover that we are liberated, we need to feel each year that we have an obligation to work towards a world without genocide."

Input to the commemoration has come from a variety of sources in Fairfield County, included those involved in programming for the second generation and beyond. These include Jewish Family Service's Jewish Twenties and Thirties group and the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County. In addition, the committee has been working with the local rabbis.

Eva Weller, president of the Jewish Historical Society and a member of the second generation, comments, "In sharing in the spirit of communal gratitude that the Jewish people not only survived, but thrived after the Nazis' threat to our people's very existence. We are privileged to hear survivors' testimonies since most were children during the Holocaust and are the last of their generation. Each survivor's story is unique and adds to our shared history and heritage, and will become part of our collective memory of triumph and survival. It is our responsibility to honor the past and learn from it."

The event will continue the tradition of lighting memorial candles and the participation of local rabbis.

Annual Yom Hashoah Commemorations were begun in 1953 by Israeli Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, who proposed the original date to be the 14th of Nissan, the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising (April 19, 1943). But since the 14th of Nissan is the day immediately before Passover, the date was moved to the 27th of Nissan, which is eight days before Yom Ha'atzma'ut, or Israeli Independence Day.

Transportation from the Jewish Community Center to Temple Sinai will be provided beginning at 6:15 pm. Parking at Temple Sinai is limited.

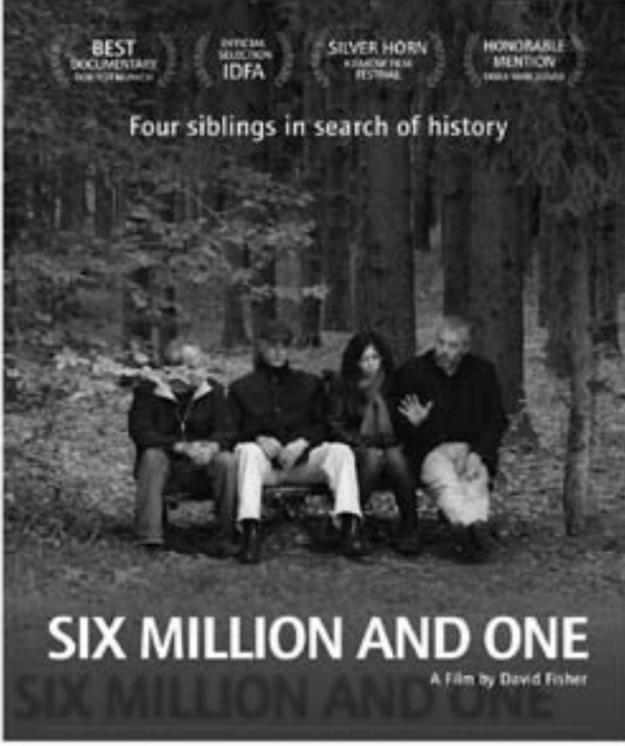
"Kaddish: Women's Voices" Award

Barbara Ashkenas and Michal Smart received a National Jewish Book Award on March 5 at the Center for Jewish History in New York for their book, "Kaddish: Women's Voices."

The book, edited by Ashkenas and Smart, won the Myra H. Kraft Memorial Award in the category of Contemporary Jewish Life and Practice. Stamford essayists included in the book are Vivi Deren, Meryl Gordon, Rachel Jubas, Aviva Maller, Shelley Senker and Sandi Waldstreicher.



L-r: Michal Smart and Barbara Ashkenas



SIX MILLION AND ONE
A Film by David Fisher

Six Million and One
Film Director to Speak in Stamford

The Stamford community will continue to commemorate Yom Hashoah on the following day, Monday, April 28 at 7pm at the State Cinema, with a recently released documentary, *Six Million and One*. The film follows the remarkable journey of director, David Fisher, and his siblings, as they retrace the footsteps of their late father — a Holocaust survivor who was interned in Gusen and Gunskirchen, Austria and reminds us that history and memory require active discussion among the later generations.

The film is brought to the community in partnership by The Jewish Arts & Film Festival of Fairfield County and AJC Westchester.

The film's director, David Fisher, will speak following the film. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased on line at www.ajc.org/westchester/sixmillion or at the State Cinema. For more information, contact Nancy Schiffman at nschiffman@stamfordjcc.org or 203-487-0941 or Vicki Kline at klinev@ajc.org or 914-948-5585.

JFS Home Companions Celebrate Graduation

After almost two months of training, the graduates of the Winter 2013 Jewish Family Service Elayne and James Schoke Home Companion Training Program celebrated their accomplishment with JFS staff at the JFS offices.

Taught by Isrella Knopf, M.S.W., participants eligible to attend must pass a criminal background check and a medical physical to enroll in the program. The content of the program covers issues such as nutrition and *kashrut*, socialization and medical situations confronted by the home companion. Classes include guest lecturers addressing specific situations, such as hearing and visual impairments or the challenges of Parkinson's and

Alzheimer's disease. Potential aides must perform successfully on tests administered throughout the seven-week period. Completion of the course work and testing will result in a trainee joining the JFS registry and eligibility for placement as a home companion. JFS is one of the few services that requires successful completion of this training program for all the aides placed with clients.

Those in need of a home companion for a family member or themselves should contact Knopf at Jewish Family Service at 203-921-4161 or isrellak@ctjfs.org.

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



The graduates of the Winter 2013 Jewish Family Service Elayne and James Schoke Home Companion Training Program celebrated their accomplishment with JFS staff members.

Camp Continued from page 12

their passion with Judaism. Increasingly, established general-interest Jewish camps are adding specialty tracks and electives. For example, the New Jersey Y camps offer a science program and various sports programs, while Ramah in the Poconos has run basketball clinics and a tennis academy.

3. Healthier food: Serving healthy, locally sourced food is a part of the mission of some specialty camps, like the new health-and-wellness-focused Camp Zeke, and was a component of Ramah Outdoor Adventure from its beginnings in 2010. In addition, many established Jewish camps have been redoing their menus to make them more nutritious and environmentally friendly: adding salad bars, replacing "bug juice" with water, offering more vegetarian fare and even planting their own organic vegetable gardens.

4. More affordable options: The Foundation for Jewish Camp recently introduced a new program called BunkConnect that enables first-time campers from middle- and lower-income families to search for a variety of discounted Jewish summer camp options. While BunkConnect is currently only available in the Northeast, New England and Mid-Atlantic regions of the United States, the foundation hopes to expand it in future years. In addition, most Jew-

ish overnight camps offer financial aid and the One Happy Camper Program, initiated in 2006, offers grants for all first-time campers regardless of need. So far 50,000 children have received One Happy Camper grants.

5. Broadening definition of camp: While rural settings and rustic accommodations are still the norm, two specialty camps – the Union for Reform Judaism's Six Points Sports Academy and Six Points Science and Technology – are located on boarding school campuses, and another, the 92nd Street Y's Passport NYC, is in the middle of Manhattan. Passport NYC, in which participants choose among tracks in culinary arts, film, fashion, musical theater and music industry, and live in air-conditioned dorms, and Six Points Science blur the boundary between "camp" and "summer program," while programs like USY on Wheels and Adamah Adventures, which operate under the Foundation for Jewish Camp's umbrella, blur the boundary between "camp" and "teen travel."

6. Day camps brought into the tent: While the Conservative movement's Camp Ramah has long operated both day and overnight camps, Jewish day camps generally haven't interacted much with overnight camps, nor have they received the same

level of attention from Jewish communal leaders or philanthropists as their sleep-away counterparts. That is changing as this year, for the first time, leaders of Jewish day camps are being included in the bi-annual Leaders Assembly of the Foundation for Jewish Camp. The foundation is finalizing plans with UJA-Federation of New York to establish an incubator developing six specialty day camps in the region. In addition, the Union for Reform Judaism is opening its first day camp this summer. Meanwhile, the philanthropic group Areivim is funding Hebrew-immersion day camps throughout the United States.

7. Inclusion of children with disabilities: An estimated 13 percent of children have some sort of disability, but only 2 percent of Jewish campers do, according to research conducted last year by the Foundation for Jewish Camp. The Jewish camping world is looking to make the camping experience accessible to more children with disabilities, including them at regular camps wherever possible, rather than segregating them at separate facilities. The foundation is currently working to raise \$31 million for a multi-pronged effort to serve more such children by offering relevant staff training, revamping physical facilities to make them accessible, and creating vocational education and life-skills training programs at multiple camps.

8. Year-round programming: Growing numbers of camps are offering educational programming during the school year through partnerships with institutions like synagogues and day schools. Such partnerships often involve sharing staff members, under the auspices of new programs like Ramah Service Corps and the Foundation for Jewish Camp's Nadiv initiative. In addition, camps within easy commuting distance of major metropolitan areas and ones in temperate regions or with winterized facilities are increasingly hosting a range of family/community programs in the off seasons: Eden Village, just 50 miles north of Manhattan, runs a home-school program and weekend family/community programs throughout the year, while nearby Surprise Lake Camp, in Cold Spring, NY, even runs High Holiday services and Passover seders. Camp Ramah Darom in Georgia runs a week-long Passover retreat.

9. Family camp: Family camps have been around for decades, but now virtually every Jewish overnight camp offers at least one family-camp session, usually a three-day weekend, each year. A number of camps "got into the business just trying to use the facility more, but it wound up being a great recruiting tool," said Foundation for Jewish Camp CEO Jeremy Fingerman. Several camps also host sessions specifically for families of children with disabilities. While traditionally marketed to camp-age kids and their parents, Rabbi Mitchell Cohen, national director of the Conservative movement's Camp Ramah network, said several Ramah camps are considering adding sessions for Ramah alumni with younger children. "It's a relatively inexpensive family vacation," he noted.

10. Pew-fueled camp enthusiasm: In response to last year's much-discussed Pew Research Center survey of American Jews, a wide range of Jewish communal leaders have offered their prescriptions for engaging more youth. While these leaders may differ on many issues, almost all have cited Jewish summer camp as something that "works" and is a worthy investment. Jewish camps are already popular with funders, but all the pro-camp buzz will likely generate even more dollars for the field.

ADVERTISEMENT: Think Jewish Summer Camp is Out of Reach? Think Again. BunkConnect.org – the newest way to find camp experiences at introductory rates. We match 1st time campers with available sessions at over 35 camps, at 40-80% off.

Recognizing Innovative Local Educators



The Harold Grinspoon Foundation is pleased to launch the nomination process for the 2014 Grinspoon Award for Excellence in Jewish Education.

The award includes \$2,000 to be used for a Jewish educational programs. This annual Award is given to an outstanding Jewish Educator in the greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien area whose current primary role is classroom teaching in Judaic subject matter.

REQUIREMENTS:

- 1) Please limit your nomination to one outstanding educator.
- 2) The Grinspoon Awards will provide a \$500 honorarium to each local winner.
- 3) All Grinspoon Awards Winners, local and North American, will be honored at CAJE 5, Los Angeles, CA
- 4) A prestigious North American Selection Panel will review all local winners.
- 5) The North American winners will be eligible for a grant of \$3,600 and mentorship to develop a path for professional development and/or implementation of program enrichment within their teaching environment.
- 6) All Grinspoon Awardees will have an opportunity to submit articles for publication in the new E-Journal - Best Engaging Practice in Jewish Education.
- 7) Local and North American Awardees will be offered support to attend CAJE 5, Los Angeles, CA
- 8) Winners will join an active community of practice.

Nomination forms may be found <http://hgf.org/What-We-Do/Programs-and-Resources/Recognition/GrinspoonSteinhardt-National-Awards/2014-Application-Kit.aspx>

For further information, contact Danielle Alexander at Danielle@ujf.org or 203.321.1373 x104.

FAMILY CENTRAL

For April & May 2014

Everyone (members and non members) is warmly invited to all events listed.

KIDS GRADES pre K to 8

JCC
 • **JCC Vacation Day Programs. Monday Apr 14 – Friday Apr 18, 8 am to 6 pm.** Grades K – 6. Arts and crafts, nut-free/kosher snacks, free swim, games and activities everyday. Bring your own lunch. Cost per day \$80/ \$65 JCC members. [Extra \$10 on Monday]. Monday: Build-A-Bear (extra \$10); Tuesday: Pool Party; Wednesday: Crazy Hat and Hair Day; Thursday: Mad Science; Friday: Friday Fun Day! Register early. Drop-ins welcome if space allows - additional \$10 fee. For info, contact Galit Roloff groloff@stamfordjcc.org or (203) 487-0974

CHABAD
 • **P.O.G.S. OPEN HOUSE** Grades K - 2. Weekly science & cooking club. Wednesday, May 28, 4-5 pm. At Chabad. Open to all Kids (Nursery through 1st grade, who are eligible for next year) to come and TRY OUT what everyone is raving about at the weekly Science & Cooking Club with a Parsha twist! FREE. • **Chai Five Mitzvah Club.** Grades 3 – 6. Get involved in community needs and projects. Wednesday, May 14, 5:30 - 7 pm. Fee: \$20 p/session includes dinner. • **Bat Mitzvah Clubs & BMC Beyond.** Sunday, May 4, 6-7:30 pm for girls in grades 6-8. \$20 p/session. • **P.O.G.S. - OPEN HOUSE Science & Cooking Club** (For Kids K-2nd Grades) Wednesday, May 28, 4-5 pm. At Chabad. Open to all Kids (Nursery through 1st grade, who are eligible for next year) to come and TRY OUT what everyone is raving about at the weekly Science & Cooking Club with a Parsha twist! FREE.

TEMPLE BETH EL
 • **Adat (Community) Shabbat.** Saturday Apr 5 & May 17, 11 am. Drop off program for grades K - 2. Sights and sounds of Shabbat with Darice Bailer. Prayers plus fun engaging songs, stories, and dancing.. Free.
 • **Junior Congregation.** Saturday Apr 5 & May 3, 17, 10:30 am. A participatory program involving prayers, stories, songs and activities designed especially to serve as a meaningful worship experience for children 3-6 grades.

TEMPLE SINAI
 Shevet Achim (Guys getting together). Sundays Apr 6, 12:20 – 2:20 pm. For boys Grade 7. Addresses confidence, greed, materialism, body image and healthy relationships. With Rabbi Jay TelRav. Free.

YOUNG KIDS WITH PARENT/CAREGIVER

TEMPLE BETH EL
 • **Tot Kabbalat Shabbat Passover.** Saturday, Apr. 11. Age 5 & under and accompanied by an adult. Older siblings welcome. Music, stories and song led by Cantor George Mordecai and Rabbi Joshua Hammerman. Free.

CHABAD
 • **Tiny Treasures.** Birth to 30 months. Warm Jewish atmosphere. Connect with other moms. Fee: \$15 per class. First class free. Wednesdays, Apr. 30; May 7, 14, 21, 28 9:15-10:15 am.
 • **Tiny Treasures Got Shabbat.** Fridays, May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 • 10-10:45 am
 • **Tiny Treasures Shabbat Lunch.** Saturday, May 3 1:00-2:30 pm at the Shemtov home. Bring the entire family - moms, dads, big brothers and sisters.

TEMPLE SINAI
 Tot Shabbat. Birth to age 7. Friday, April 11 at 5pm and Saturday May 10, 9 am. Dancing, singing, praying and playing. With Rabbi TelRav and Cantor Morgovsky. Learn about Shabbat and holidays. Free.

BI-CULTURAL DAY SCHOOL
Mommy, Daddy, Music and Me. For toddlers. With Jonathan Cahr and Rachel Bahar. Wednesdays, Apr 2 & 30; May 7, 21. Music, movement, nursery rhymes, Jewish songs and story telling. Free.

FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

BI-CULTURAL DAY SCHOOL SPRING MUSICAL
 Tuesday, Apr. 1, 7:00 pm; Thursday, Apr. 3, 7:00 pm; and Sunday, Apr. 6, 3:00 pm. Bi-Cultural Players will present "High School Musical." For more information, call (203) 329-2186.

CHABAD - The Loft Café
 Tuesdays 9:00am-12:00pm at Chabad, 770 High Ridge Road (Open to All) Pop in, stop by, sit and sip, or take to go! Each week the café features gourmet coffees, sweet treats and healthy delights.

CHABAD HOUSE FAMILY SEDER (All are welcome and Open to All)
FIRST SEDER: Monday Night, Apr. 14 at 8:00 pm
SECOND SEDER: Tuesday Night, Apr. 15 at 8:15 pm
 at Chabad, 770 High Ridge Road. Fee: \$36 per person \$180 Sponsor. Elegant, thought provoking, warm, interactive, delightful company and the food is great.

To RSVP or for more information on these events and groups, contact...

Agudath Sholom: 301 Strawberry Hill Ave, Stamford • (203) 358-2200 • www.agudathsholom.org
 BBYO: BBYO Regional Office (203) 389-2127 • CVR@bbyo.org • www.cvrbyo.net
 Chabad: 770 High Ridge Road, Stamford • (203) 3-CHABAD #418 • morahleah@chabadstamford.org • www.chabadhousestamford.org
 Friendship Circle: 770 High Ridge Road, Stamford • Malya Shmotkin • (203) 329-0015 #414 • Malya@friendshipct.com • www.friendshipct.com
 JCC: Jewish Community Center, 1035 Newfield Ave, Stamford • (203) 322-7900 • www.stamfordjcc.org
 JFS: Jewish Family Service, (203) 921-4161 • 733 Summer Street, Suite 602, Stamford • www.ctjfs.org • Claire Friendlander (203) 921-4161#109 • cdfriedlan@aol.com
 Jewish Student Connection – Rebecca Shapiro • rebecca@myjsc.org • (914) 481-5505.
 Kulanu: Danielle Alexander (203) 321-1373 #104 • Danielle@ujf.org • www.KulanuStamford.org
 Temple Beth El: 350 Roxbury Road, Stamford • (203) 322-6901 • www.tbe.org
 Temple Sinai: 458 Lakeside Drive, Stamford • (203) 322-1649 • www.templestamford.org • Melissa Cohavi • educator@templestamford.org

TEENS GRADES 8+

KULANU
 Classes meet Wednesdays 7 - 9 pm at JCC (no class Apr. 17). Fun diverse opportunities to connect to Judaism. Fee: \$36 /month. Contact Danielle@ujf.org or (203) 321-1373 x104

SPEAK UP FOR ISRAEL
 Grades 11-12. For info, contact JCC Israeli Shaliach (203) 487-0961. A program of JCC and UJF. Meets monthly Sundays, 5 – 7 pm. At the JCC.

KURIANSKY TEEN TZEDAKAH CORPS
 Grade 10. Learn about philanthropy and how to make grants to non-profits. Sundays, Apr 6, May 4. Contact Danielle@ujf.org or (203) 321-1373 x104

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE. For volunteers in Grades 9-12
 • **At Home:** Every week, pairs of teen volunteers visit special needs children in their homes offering friendship and unconditional support.
 • **Children's/Teen Circle:** 15 Sundays through the year. Work with special needs children on activities like art, music, cooking and sports.
 At Chabad. For info, contact Malya Shmotkin Malya@friendshipct.com or (203) 329-0015 x414.

BBYO
 Grades 8-12. Meets every 2nd Monday 7-9 pm at the JCC. Opportunities for leadership, athletic, social and community service.

JEWISH STUDENT CONNECTION
 Grades 9-12. Meets Tuesdays at 2 pm at Stamford High in room 925 & Thursdays at 2:05 pm at Westhill High in Mrs. Tobias' room.

TEMPLE SINAI
 Rosh Chodesh for Girls. Grades 6-12. Led by Erica Santiago. Sundays, Apr 6, 12:20 - 2:20pm. Builds self-esteem, leadership skills and Jewish identity..

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Pre-Passover Holiday Program for children with special needs and their families Sunday, April 6, 10am-12pm at the Friendship Circle Center, 770 High Ridge Rd., Stamford, CT. The program will include refreshments, Matzah making, fun Passover activities, and a Puppet Show by the Small Wonder Puppet Theater. RSVP with Nechama@FriendshipCT.com

"NEW" for this year! PASSOVER SEDER FOR FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS
 April 14 | 7:00 pm | Free | at the Shmotkin Home, 15 Francis Ave, Stamford. Join the Shmotkin family for an educational, delicious, and exciting Seder catered towards children with special needs and their families. RSVP with Nechama@FriendshipCT.com.

Friendship Circle: Teen friends and social and Judaic programs for children with special needs. Contact Malya Shmotkin (203) 329-0015 #414 or Malya@FriendshipCT.com

JCC
 • **Jump Start:** Therapeutic classes for ages 2 - 4. Language, social and motor skills encouraged. Safe, fun, accepting environment. Contact Sue McGraw (203) 487-0966.
 • **R&R (Relax & Recreate)** Social group for grades 6-8. Fun, structured, safe environment. Build social skills and relationships. Wednesdays, 3:30 pm; Sundays, 1:30 pm. March 5, 19, 23, 30. Fee: \$250 / \$200 JCC members for 10 sessions. Transportation from public schools available. Contact Dinushka De Silva at (203) 487-0946 or ddesilva@stamfordjcc.org.

Federation's Response to Ukraine

A Jewish Federation Update

BY JDC STAFF

Note: Although this information may be dated by the time this paper arrives, UJF staff felt it was important to let the community know about JDC's work during this crisis.

It started in November with peaceful protests against government actions to strengthen political ties with Russia instead of the European Union. It snowballed over the next few months into violent confrontations

between police and protesters, resulting in dozens dead, hundreds injured, a fugitive ex-president and scenes of destruction that have gripped the world. And it's not over.

Although the estimated 300,000 Jewish residents in the capital city of Kiev and throughout Ukraine are not outright targets of violence, it has touched them like everyone else. Some Jews in Kiev live close to Independence Square, the site of protest encamp-

ments and some of February's deadliest clashes, and are afraid to leave their houses. On February 23, the Giymat Rosa Synagogue in Zaporizhia, 250 miles southeast of Kiev, was firebombed. There are concerns about deepening divisions in the country and the rise of the radical right.

But Jewish Federations and their partner agencies, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, *See "Ukraine" on page 19*

What's On for Adults

April & May 2014

Everyone (members and non members) is warmly invited to all events listed. See contact info below for more info, to confirm programs and to register.

YOM HASHOAH PROGRAMS

YOM HASHOAH PROGRAMS

- **YOM HASHOAH ADDRESS AT UCONN-STAMFORD** Tuesday, Apr. 8, 7:00 pm at the UConn-Stamford Campus in the MPR (Room 1.08). "Between Dignity and Despair: Jewish Women and Families in Nazi Germany" with Dr. Marion Kaplan. Program is also co-sponsored by the Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies Center at UConn-Stamford and the UConn-Stamford Program Committee. Free to community but advance registration is requested by calling (203) 251-0525 or email stamfordjudaicstudies@uconn.edu.
- **YOM HASHOAH STATEWIDE HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION IN HARTFORD** (co-sponsored by UJF Stamford). Friday, Apr. 25, 11 am in the Senate Chambers on the third floor of the State Capitol, 210 Capitol Avenue, Hartford.
- **YOM HASHOAH COMMUNITY COMMEMORATION.** Sunday, Apr. 27, 7:00 pm at Temple Sinai. Parking is limited, but additional transportation from the JCC to Temple Sinai will be provided beginning at 6:15 pm.

SINGLES & YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

LOAVES OF LOVE COOKING MARATHON with Jewish Twenties & Thirties - PLUS Dinner (Open to 20s & 30s) Sunday, May 4. 3:30-5:30 pm. From kneading dough to peeling vegetables, to cooking and baking and packing it all up, this is your time to give to those who need it most; by baking Challah and making chicken soup for the 'Shabbat 2 Go' packages.

SELAH

FREEDOM FIGHTER LECTURE With Rachel Light. Sunday, Apr. 6, 10 am. Learn how Ms. Light who could not remarry under Jewish law was granted a Jewish divorce decree and other stories of people who have overcome modern oppression so that we can best fulfill the mitzvah in our haggadah. At the Bartlett Arboretum, Stamford. Brunch will be served. Register at www.selahfairfieldcounty.org.

SENIORS

JCC SOCIAL SENIOR PROGRAMS Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at the JCC

- **Tuesdays & Thursdays:** Chair Exercise: 10:15-11 am. Senior Life Enhancement Classes: 11 - 11:45 am through Apr 10. Topics cover local to international events, health and wellness, Jewish history, unique personal stories etc.
- **Fridays:** Morning Movie: 10 am through Apr 11. Discussions about Israel with Mat Kosher Lunch each day, 12-1 pm. Birthday luncheon: Apr?
- **Thursdays:** Fun and Games, 1-3 pm. Mah Jongg, Scrabble, Bridge, Pokeno etc. All welcome. Transportation available for Stamford residents. No prior sign up necessary except 2 day advance reservation required for lunch and transportation. Free except suggested donation for lunch (\$3) and transportation (\$1 each way). For info: Connie (203) 487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org

JCC RETIRED MEN'S CLUB

Meets **Mondays** at the JCC. 10 - 11 am: fellowship, humor, and vibrant discussions (members only) 11 am - 1 pm: speaker and kosher lunch (community welcome). Bridge game after lunch. Reserve lunch (soup & sandwich) 2 days before, \$3 suggested donation. Fee: \$50 p/year (members free). For info: Connie (203) 487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org

JEWISH SENIOR SERVICES

- **Men's Club Pour and Tour Event.** Friday, Apr. 4. 6:30-9:30 pm at Two Roads Brewing Company, 1700 Stratford Avenue, Stratford. Enjoy craft beer, tour of the brewery and appetizers. Fee: \$18 per person. Please contact Jillian Carroll at (203) 365-6407 or jcarroll@seniors.org for more information.
- **Women's Auxiliary Luncheon & Boutique.** Monday, May 5, 10:00 am-3:30 pm at The Waterview, 215 Roosevelt Drive, Monroe, CT. Boutique shopping, raffle and guest performer Mentalist and Magician Oz Pearlman. Reservations range from \$118-\$250. Call Dayna Hayden (203) 365-6409 or email dhayden@seniors.org for information.

OPEN EVENTS

CHABAD

- **AN EVENING OF WINE, CHEESE & ART** with Devorah Raichman. Thursday, May 8 7:30 pm at Chabad. Fee: In Advance: \$18 per person; At the door: \$25 at the door; Sponsor: \$180 Sponsor. Meet the artist as she gives us insight into her art inspired by Hebrew letters, words and passages
- **WOMEN'S SHABBAT. (Open to Women)** Friday, May 16 with Candle lighting and Oneg 7:00 pm; Dinner 7:45 pm at Chabad Stamford. Fee: Early Bird JWC \$36 Non Member \$45 (before April 30) Advance \$54 Sponsor \$180/\$360.

JCC

- **COCKTAILS & COMEDY to Support JCC's Tzahal Shalom Program.** Saturday, May 1. Fee: \$50 per person before May 6 or \$60 at the door. To reserve a table for 10 or a premium table or for more information, contact Nancy Schiffman at 203-487-0941 or nschiffman@stamfordjcc.org or visit stamfordjcc.org.
- **MAH JONGG LESSONS.** All levels. Thursdays, 1-3 p.m. Contact Connie (203) 487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org to schedule lessons. Fee: \$35/\$25 JCC member for 5 sessions.

TEMPLE BETH EL

- **SHAL-OHM YOGA.** Thursdays, 5:30 - 6:45 pm Gentle sequence led by Pamela Tinkham with chanting by Cantor Mordecai. All levels welcome/ chair yoga optional. Fee: \$12 p/session / \$10 Members
- **ISRAELI FOLK DANCING: Thursdays. Beginners:** 6:45 - 7:30 pm. **Open Session:** 7:30 - 10:00 pm. Fee: \$12/\$10 TBE Member. For info, contact Leng at (203) 912 4086 or leng@ctisraelidance.com

TEMPLE SINAI

MAH JONGG GAMES. Mondays 6:30-9 pm & Wednesdays 1-4 pm. No Fee. Bring your own card.

UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION

WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY SPRING DINNER with Dr. Ruth Westheimer. Thursday, May 15, beginning at 6:30 pm. Fee: \$100 per person if registration by May 1; \$118 after that date. Teenage women, ages 16-19, \$50.

ADULT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

UJF'S READING PARTNERS

Read one-on-one with Stamford public school children. One hour a week, either mornings or afternoons. At 11 elementary schools and 2 community centers. Training, literacy focused workshops and support network provided. Contact: Marlyn Agatstein (203) 321-1373 x 115 or Readingpartners@ujf.org.

JCC

• **KOSHER LUNCH PROGRAM FOR SENIORS.** Help set up and serve lunch on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Contact Connie: (203) 487-0983 or cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org

JFS DRIVERS NEEDED

Deliver food from Kosher Food Pantry to individuals. Contact Rebekah Kanefsky: (203) 921-4161 or rkanefsky@ctjfs.org

JHS (JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY)

- **Harry Rosenbaum Judaica Library.** At the JCC. Cover 2 hour slot (or more) once a week. Training provided. Call (203) 487-0957.
- **Help protect the pieces of our Jewish history:** Help Jewish organizations retain their history and documents / info about early settlers. Call (203) 359-2196.

HADASSAH TEA@2.

Every other Tuesday, 2 - 3 pm. In the family lounge, Oncology floor, Stamford Hospital. Volunteers bake desserts, 'schlep' and set up and/or serve tea to patients, family members and staff. For info, contact Connie: ccirillofreeman@gmail.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION / ADDRESSES:

UJF Jewish Education & Engagement Program: (203)321-1373 • www.ujf.org

Agudath Sholom: 301 Strawberry Hill Ave, Stamford (203)358-2200 • www.agudathsholom.org

Chabad: 770 High Ridge Road, Stamford • (203)3-CHABAD #418 • morahleah@chabadstamford.org • www.chabadhousestamford.org

JCC: Jewish Community Center, 1035 Newfield Ave, Stamford • (203)322-7900 • www.stamfordjcc.org

JFS: Jewish Family Service: (203)921-4161 • Stamford office: 733 Summer St., Suite 602 • Westport office: 431 Post Road East, Suite 11 • www.ctjfs.org

Jewish Historical Society: (203)321-1373 #150 • jhsifc@yahoo.com • www.stamfordhistory.org/jhsifc.htm

Temple Beth El: 350 Roxbury Road, Stamford • (203)322-6901 • www.tbe.org

Temple Sinai: 458 Lakeside Drive, Stamford • (203)322-1649 • www.templestamford.org



ADULT EDUCATION

APRIL & MAY 2014

Everyone (members and non members) is warmly invited to all events listed.
See contact info below for more info, to confirm programs and to register.

TEMPLE BETH EL

SACRED ENCOUNTERS

Tuesdays, 7:30 pm. Kabbalistic study using "The Lost Princess" by Rabbi Nachman of Breslov. With Cantor George Mordecai. Additional students welcomed. Free and open to the public. For info, (203) 322-6901 x 303 or cantormordecai@tbe.org.

UJF

BORN TOO LATE. JEWISH LITERATURE BETWEEN THE BIBLE AND THE MISHNA

Wednesdays through Apr. 2, 8-9 pm. With Rabbi Molly Karp. At the JCC. Explore works of Jewish literature (the Apocrypha) written 300 BCE to 70 AD and preserved in various Christian bibles. From the return of some Jews from the Babylonian exile through Alexander the Great, the Romans and Herod the Great and the Second Jewish Revolt. Fee \$120.

PLAGUED BY SEDER ANXIETY? LET IT PASSOVER! Thursday, Apr. 10, 7:30-9:00 pm at Temple Beth El. Join the Stamford Board of Rabbis in conversation on how to bring more spark and meaning to this year's Seders. An interactive panel discussion. Co-sponsored by UJF and the Stamford Board of Rabbis. With questions or to RSVP, contact rabbikarp@ujf.org.

CHABAD

LUNCH & LEARN

Kabbalistic insights on different topics that pertain to our lives today. Every **Wednesday**, 11:30 am-12:45 pm. \$5 per class includes lunch

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY - ARTHUR SZYK: POLISH JEWISH ARTIST IN AMERICA

Thursday, Apr. 10. 6:30 pm, light supper at 6:00 pm at the New Canaan Library, 151 Main Street, New Canaan. Speaker: LTC (Ret) David Kaplan. For info, Marcie Schoenfeld (203) 359-9148 or Elissa@De-Kaplan.com. Co-Sponsor: the Polish American Society. Free.

WONDER OF WONDERS: A CULTURAL HISTORY OF "FIDDLER ON THE ROOF"

Sunday, May 18. 4:00 pm at the New Canaan Library, 151 Main Street, New Canaan. Speaker: Author Alisa Solomon. For info, Marcie Schoenfeld (203) 359-9148 or Elissa@De-Kaplan.com. Free.

BOOK TALKS

Wednesdays at JCC. Free.

- **Apr. 9**, 10am Menachem Begin: A Life. By Avi Shilon. The story of Israel's 6th Prime Minister, a Zionist giant who helped shape Israel's destiny. Presenter: Bob Abrams. For info: Marcia (203) 359-9148.
- **May 21**, 2 pm The Storyteller. By Jodi Picoult. Against the background of the Holocaust, the author weaves the character's stories around the powerful issues of forgiveness, love, justice and redemption. Presenter: Sondra Melzer. For info: Elissa@de-kaplan.com. For NOTE LOCATION & TIME: TOR Harry Bennett Branch Ferguson Library at 2 pm.

SELAH

SECOND ANNUAL FREEDOM FIGHTER LECTURE

Wednesday, Apr. 6, 10:00 am at the Bartlett Arboretum in Stamford with Rachel Light. Light was an agunah (literally a "chained woman" who cannot remarry under Jewish law because her husband refuses to grant her a religious divorce). Through our pre-Passover Freedom Fighter Series, we learn more about people who have overcome modern oppression so that we can best fulfill the mitzvah in our haggadah. Brunch will be served. Register on our website: www.selahfairfieldcounty.org.

HADASSAH

BOOK CLUB

Wednesday Apr. 30, 7 pm. "Lady at the O.K. Corral: Josephine Marcus Earp" by Ann Kirschner. For location and more info, contact rhonda.greif@gmail.com or (203) 829-9341

JCC

Film: SIX MILLION AND ONE. Monday, April 28, 7 pm at the State Cinema. Newly released documentary, Six Million and One follows the remarkable journey of David Fisher and his siblings as they retrace the footsteps of their late father — a Holocaust survivor. **The film's director, David Fisher, will speak following the film.** Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased on line at www.ajc.org/westchester/sixmillion or at the State Cinema. For more information, contact Nancy Schiffman at nschiffman@stamfordjcc.org or 203-487-0941 or Vicki Kline at klinev@ajc.org or 914-948-5585.

SPOTLIGHT ON ISRAEL.

Lunch And Learn with Matan Samovsky, Israeli Shaliach. **Thursdays**, 12-1 pm at the JCC. **April 24**: Politics in Israel: The Right, The Left, Political Parties & the Last Election. With short videos and time for Q&A. Bring your lunch — dairy dessert provided. Free. To register or for info: (203)487-0961 or msamovsky@stamfordjcc.org.

UCONN JUDAIC STUDIES

SPRING LUNCH & LEARN SERIES

Thursdays, noon - 1:30 pm. In the MPR (Room 108). Cost: \$50 p/person, including lunch for the 4 lectures.

- **Apr. 3** — "Reflections On Roth And Nemesis, His Farewell To Writing" by Dr. Sondra Melzer
- **May 1** — "The Afterlife Of A Biblical Figure: King Saul In Hebraic and English Literary Traditions" by Dr. Nehama Aschkenasy

OTHER - FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY

"AGREEING TO DISAGREE: HOW JEWS AND CHRISTIANS READ SCRIPTURE?"

With Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, Vanderbilt University. **Thursday, April 10**, 7:30 pm. For information and directions, visit www.fairfield.edu.

IMAGES OF THE HOLOCAUST

With Dr. Barbara Zelizer, University of Pennsylvania. **Thursday, April 24**, 7:00 pm. "Life as a Child in Hiding: Grace and Struggle" - Fairfield University in the Dolan School of Business. For information and directions, visit www.fairfield.edu.

ANNUAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

With Dr. Ilse Lesser. **Monday, April 28**, 4:30 pm. "Life as a Child in Hiding: Grace and Struggle" - Fairfield University in the Dolan School of Business. For information and directions, visit www.fairfield.edu.

TEMPLE SINAI

BEGINNERS' TORAH STUDY

With Melissa Cohavi. **Every Friday**, noon - 1 pm. Basic discussions about the Torah, its laws, its stories, and the ancient people. Bring your lunch. Free.

AGUDATH SHOLOM

DVAR YOM B'YOMO

With Rabbi Walk. **Mondays** 12:20 pm at Bi-Cultural Day School. An in-depth look at one topical issue each week, either from the weekly portion or upcoming Jewish holiday.

PARSHA PERSPECTIVES AND PARADIGMS.

Tuesdays 12:20 - 1 pm at Bi-Cultural Day School with Rabbi Daniel Cohen. Glean relevant life messages from the weekly torah portion. Free.

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VOICES AND VIEWS

YOUNG VOICES

Teens Speak Up for Israel at AIPAC

BY NOAH MARLOWE AND ZIMI SLOYER

When we walked into a room with 14,000 advocates of the Jewish state, emotions were raging. Our first reaction was shock. We were overwhelmed and amazed. One by one, delegates from unique backgrounds were given the spotlight on the stage to reveal their background and their mutual support of AIPAC; the diversity was not at all limited. Delegates from all over the world, of all different faiths and ethnicities, stood up and said, "I am AIPAC."

Throughout the three days at AIPAC, we learned so much about Israel and America, and why a strong relationship between the two is beneficial to everyone. During the general sessions, we all heard important speeches from big name speakers such as John McCain, John Kerry and Bibi Netanyahu. We also heard many inspiring stories from people who are extremely involved in AIPAC or have participated in an AIPAC trip to Israel.

One of the most notable speakers of the conference was Pastor Chris Harris from the Bright Star Church in Chicago, IL. He spoke about his trip to Israel with AIPAC and told us about how he will apply what he learned in Israel to his own community back home. Then, the pastor broke out into song with his church choir. It was truly memorable, not just because the song was so catchy, but also because you could see how much the trip to Israel had impacted him.

In a different general session, we learned about Israeli innovation and technology. Everyone stared with their jaws dropped as Israeli inventors demonstrated on stage how their creations worked. There was a device used by police departments all over the world that can see through walls, glasses that allow a blind person to read and a new type of brain scanner that may help find a way to better deal with concussions and brain diseases. These amazing technologies made everyone in the room proud to be a supporter of Israel.

At the end of each jam packed day, all of the participants of Speak Up for Israel would meet up to debrief about the day. Each of us would talk about our favorite breakout sessions from that day, and what we were looking forward to. We also used the opportunity to connect the new things we were learning back to what we had already learned at our meetings in the months leading up to the AIPAC conference.

As high school juniors and seniors, attending AIPAC was especially important. We were all chosen to participate in Speak Up for Israel because we will soon be going to college, and we will be able to use the skills we have been learning in our meetings to defend Israel on college campuses. The conference itself taught us so much information that will be essential. Yes, we learned about Israel and, yes, we lobbied Congress. The goal of Speak Up for Israel was accomplished,



Members of the "Speak Up For Israel" class, sponsored through a partnership between United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford and the Stamford JCC, meet up with James A. Cohen, CEO of UJF, at a mural of Israel at the AIPAC Policy Conference. Standing, l-r: Claire Cohen, Keren Rubin, James A. Cohen, Jenna Plotzky, Zimi Sloyer, Jordan Rastegar, Matan Samovsky (JCC shaliach, facilitator of Speak Up For Israel), Sophie Handler and Amber Kitay. In front: Danielle Alexander (director of Community Engagement and Outreach and facilitator of Speak Up For Israel), Noah Marlowe and David Nachman.

though, when we came together and listened, learned, laughed, advocated and, most importantly, were inspired. That inspiration is what will stay with us, and allow us to keep speaking up

for Israel in the future.

Noah Marlowe and Zimi Sloyer, both 12th-graders at the Ramaz School in Manhattan, wrote this article on behalf of their "Speak Up for Israel" class.

THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

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Farmers..... Continued from page 1

Kedar, the head of Amiran's agriculture division. "If you have the irrigation, but not the seeds, you haven't solved the problem. If you haven't sprayed, you haven't solved the problem. It's a holistic approach."

Much of East Africa is a lush green landscape traversed by hills, forests and water sources like the Nile River and Lake Victoria. Unlike Israel, whose extensive deserts make it less than ideal for farming, the problem facing African farmers isn't a shortage of water, according to Kedar, but the continued reliance on traditional, inefficient farming methods.

Israeli technologies such as drip irrigation – a system in which water is emitted slowly from tiny holes in hoses, thereby avoiding water loss to evaporation – provide substantial benefits even in water-rich East Africa, enabling farmers to use less water by hydrating the soil more efficiently. The African sales of Netafim's hoses amount to \$100 million of the company's \$800 million in total sales, according to Yigal Mazor, the firm's managing director for Africa.

"Africa was always important, but in the past few years it's become one of the growth engines for Netafim," Mazor said. "When you look at drip irrigation worldwide, saving water is not the top priority. For the rest of the world, it gives many more advantages."

Israeli Ambassador to Kenya Gil Haskel says Amiran isn't the only Israeli company to see opportunity in East Africa. Several Israeli businesses, including the construction company Solel Boneh, have had a hand in developing Kenya's economy and infrastructure.

"We had excellent relations with most of the countries prior to independence because Israel had its own struggle for independence," Haskel said. "We feel very welcome."

But under Kedar, who arrived at Amiran seven years ago from the Israeli agri-chemical manufacturer Makteshim Agan, Amiran has begun to focus on small farmers who did not have access

to advanced farming technology. Amiran's signature offering is its Farmer's Kit, which provides small growers with everything they need, from seeds to greenhouses to fertilizer. The kits, which cost \$3,300, are suitable for an eighth of an acre. For an additional fee, Amiran offers farmers monthly checkups from a trained agronomist. The company has sold 7,500 kits since 2009 and, according to Kedar, about 75 percent of the buyers are successful, making back their investment or achieving the crop yields they want.

Kedar stresses that Amiran's main purpose is to make a profit, not to do charitable work. As a result, the company's focus has remained on conventional farming methods, including the use of non-organic fertilizer and chemical pesticides. Amiran offers its Organic Farmer's Kit at a slightly higher cost, but Kedar says organic is a tiny part of the company's overall sales.

De-emphasizing organic farming could hurt farmers in the long term, according to John Cheburet, who hosts radio programs produced by The Organic Farmer, a Kenyan organization promoting organic practices. Though he praised Amiran for bringing advanced technology to Africa, Cheburet worries that marketing campaigns from large agribusinesses create the impression that conventional methods are the only way to farm.

"Long-term use of the chemical inputs has had an impact on the soil structure," Cheburet said. "The marketing is done in such a way that it's either this or you are doomed. If you have salespeople, their interest is to make sales, not to teach farmers the bigger picture of what farming is."

Amiran's organic farming representa-



Chris Mutune, a greenhouse caretaker for Amiran Kenya, working in one of the company's sample greenhouses. (Photo by Ben Sales)

tive, Ami Ben-Israel, says the division is growing, but farmers lack knowledge about organic practices and there is a limited market outside Nairobi. Of the 1,000 Farmer's Kits sold by Amiran last year, only 40 were organic, though Ben-Israel expects an increase this year.

"In the West, people are very savvy to organic produce," said Ben-Israel, a Black Hebrew who has taught organic farming practices in Antigua and Ghana. "Here in Kenya it's relatively new. The consumers in the rural areas are not yet completely educated as far as the value of the organic produce, so they have been challenged selling within their region to get top dollar."

Even with his eye on the bottom line, Kedar says Amiran is helping Kenyan farmers attain a better life. In 2010, the United Nations awarded Amiran a prize for helping eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, one of the U.N.'s Millennium Development Goals for Africa.

"We're developing and training the small farmers to do an upgrade," Kedar said. "We want them to see that from a small area, they can produce a lot."

Ukraine.....Continued from page 16

the Jewish Agency for Israel, and World ORT, are there. Since they've supported Jewish life and organizations in Ukraine for decades, they were able to step up when the need for help intensified.

◆ JDC has activated its emergency response network to ensure continued home deliveries of food, medicine, heating and cooking fuel, and sustained life-saving care at home for the elderly. JDC has increased security at select Jewish communal institutions and Hesed social welfare centers. For updates, visit JDC's Ukraine page www.jdc.org/where-we-work/former-soviet-union/crisis-in-ukraine.html.

◆ The Jewish Agency has tapped its Emergency Assistance Fund, started in 2012, to bolster security at Ukraine's many Jewish institutions, including synagogues, yeshivas and community centers. For updates, visit the Jewish Agency's website at www.jewishagency.org.

◆ World ORT has launched a campaign to raise \$200,000 to fund increased secu-

rity at four of its schools in Ukraine. Each school has several hundred students, many of whom travel to class through now-dangerous areas; the father of a student at the Chernovtsy school was killed during clashes in Kiev on February 20. Plans include hiring additional security guards, and installing closed-circuit TV and alarm systems on school grounds. For more information on World ORT's Ukraine programs and needs, go to www.ort.org.

◆ Additionally, NCSJ is sending out frequent communication briefs informed by various governmental, non-governmental and Jewish communal sources. To receive updates, visit NCSJ's website at www.ncsj.org.

These efforts, and so many more, are being funded by Jewish Federation dollars. Donate to your local Federation's Annual Campaign now to ensure Federations and their partner agencies can continue to help Jews around the world during times of crisis.



Alena Druzhynina of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, pictured above in white helmet, entered the Independence Square area of Kiev on February 22 to bring a package of food to an 82-year-old pensioner who has been homebound since the worst of the violence began. (Photo by JDC)

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- Rockland Jewish Academy (West Nyack, NY)
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We taste bitter herbs. Others face grim hardships.

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