



THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

A PUBLICATION OF UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION

Temple Sinai's Annual Cantor's Concert

(Courtesy of Temple Sinai) Temple Sinai invites the community to attend its annual Cantor's Concert, "L'Chaim: A Toast to the Jews of Broadway," on Saturday, January 31, 2026, featuring performances by Cantor Micah Morgovsky and friends. The concert, spanning 100 years of Jewish presence in the theater, highlights the significant impact Jewish artists have made on Broadway, from the influential days of Tin Pan Alley to the vibrant theatrical landscape of today. Their creative legacy continues to inspire and ensures that Jewish contributions remain at the heart of American theater.



Cantor Micah Morgovsky
(PHOTO CREDIT: BETH PETERS)

The evening will begin with a pre-concert reception at 5:30 pm, offering guests a chance to gather over light bites before the show. The concert will start promptly at 6:30 pm. As seating is limited for this

popular event, attendees are encouraged to purchase tickets in advance. Tickets can be secured online at [www.templestainstamford.org](http://www.templestain Stamford.org) or by reaching out to the Temple Sinai office at 203-322-1649.

The suggested donation for admission is \$36 per adult and \$18 per child under the age of 13. Sponsorship opportunities are available at levels of \$180, \$360, \$500, and \$1000 and above. Sponsors will receive exclusive benefits, including reserved seating and special recognition during the concert.

The event will take place at Temple Sinai, located at 458 Lakeside Drive in Stamford. All proceeds from the concert will directly support the synagogue's ongoing music and arts programming, enriching the community and fostering a vibrant cultural environment.

Federation Year-End Celebration

(Courtesy of UJF) United Jewish Federation (UJF) will host its "Year-End Celebration and Annual Meeting" on Wednesday, December 17 at 7:30 pm at Temple Sinai in Stamford, with guest speaker Lauren Steinberg. The Harvey A. Peltz Young Leadership Award will be given to Adam Rafalowicz. Volunteer of the Year Awards will be given to Dinah Miller Marlowe, the immediate past chair of UJF's Israel committee, and Monica Smyth Schlessinger, who serves as the current chair of UJF's Israel committee. Together, along with a wonderful committee, Dinah and Monica have worked with UJF's *shlichim* (Israeli emissaries) to enhance the local community's connection to Israel.



Adam Rafalowicz



Lauren Steinberg

The Annual Meeting, including ratification of UJF's new board members, will be followed by a dessert reception. It is open to the entire community at no cost.

The keynote speaker for the evening will be Lauren Steinberg, who serves as Managing Director, Campus and K-12

Engagement and Strategic Initiatives for the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA). In this role she works to combat antisemitism and support Jewish students, teachers and families in education and to support Federations' broader community relations strategies and Jewish community empowerment. Lauren also engages with students directly at Yale University, where she and her husband have served as the Jewish Learning Initiative on Campus (JLIC) rabbinic couple since 2018. She previously directed the Jewish Community Relations

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Women's Philanthropy Embraces Joy



Participants proudly display their vibrant creations with guest artist Sara Joy (front row, standing) at the Women's Philanthropy Salon at Serendipity Labs in Stamford. (See page 9 for article and more photos.)



From UJF's Chief Executive Officer When The Tears Come

BY DIANE SLOYER

I have always been an emotional person and have been known to cry over commercials, TV shows and movies. It never took much. On October 7, I found myself crying for many days - unsurprisingly so. Then, unexpectedly, the tears stopped. I didn't even realize it. I had



Diane Sloyer, UJF CEO

become somewhat numb over the past two years, perhaps a defense mechanism to carry on amidst ongoing challenges facing Israel and us here at home.

During a recent visit to Santorini, Greece, just before meeting with the UJF Heritage Mission, I experienced a bit of an emotional breakdown. While waiting at our hotel reception, an older gentleman suddenly began screaming violently at the staff. I can't remember hearing another human speak to another person this way. I was scared! Was he armed? Would he hurt them? Sadly, these thoughts have become our reality with all the violence going on in the world.

Feeling unsafe, I asked a staff member to call security. Once removed from the situation, I just broke down in tears. The staff was very kind and brought me tissues and water. I spent the day trying to pinpoint why I was so upset. I believe that his situation was just a trigger to release 2 plus years of pent-up emotion that I probably needed to suppress to carry on as our world just continued to get more and more complicated.

For so long, I had suppressed my feelings to stay focused on critical issues and the crises of the day: Israel, antisemitism, family health crises, and more. But that moment

taught me an important lesson - it is okay to cry and sometimes we need to cry. We are not alone in our struggles. There is strength in vulnerability and community support in times of hardship.

At Federation, we strive to lift each other up, to stand together through pain and triumph alike - to support

one another through these very difficult and challenging times. If anything, this experience reaffirms the power of our shared humanity and the healing that comes with allowing ourselves - and each other - to feel deeply.

Our struggles are far from over and we need each other more than ever. But a good cry, even brought on by a strange situation, has left me feeling like a weight has been lifted from my shoulders, leaving me not just functioning but more optimistic about our collective purpose.

It was this need for connecting and community that led UJF to invest in bringing the community together. I hope you will join us on Saturday, December 13, when we will all be together As One to celebrate our wonderful and diverse Jewish community with a big blowout event - "One Shabbat, One CommUNITY." Community members have been working for months on this get together so please join us. There will be something for everyone, and you can learn more at www.ujf.org/oneshabbat.

As we light the Chanukah candles later in December, we will be reminded of the miracles and of course the resilience of the Jewish People. We are a people of miracles and our faith and commitment to one another will help us write our next chapter!

UJF President's Message Chanukah and the Power of Light

BY BEVERLY STEIN

As we enter the month of December and prepare to celebrate Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, we are reminded of the profound symbolism that light holds in Jewish tradition. Chanukah is more than a commemoration of a miracle—it is a timeless call to illuminate the darkness with hope, resilience, and unity.



Beverly Stein, UJF President

The light of Chanukah is not just physical. It represents the enduring spirit of the Jewish people, who have faced adversity throughout history and responded not with despair, but with determination and faith. It is a light that calls us to action—to stand up against injustice, to support one another, and to build a future rooted in compassion and strength.

This year, our community has faced many challenges. Our resolve has been tested by rising antisemitism, global unrest, and the ongoing need to support those affected by conflict and hardship. Yet, like the Maccabees, we have responded with courage. Through the work of the United Jewish Federation, we have mobilized resources, supported Israel, strengthened Jewish education, and provided aid to those in need—locally and globally.

We are especially grateful this Chanukah for the return of living hostages who were held in unimaginable circumstances. Their safe return is a miracle in its own right—a testament to perseverance and the unyielding commitment to protect

and reunite our people. As we light the candles this year, we do so with renewed gratitude for their lives, and with prayers for healing, peace, and the return of the bodies to their loved ones who are still waiting for them.

Each candle on the menorah reminds us that light grows when shared.

Every act of kindness, every donation, every moment of solidarity adds to the collective brightness of our community. Whether it's mentoring a young leader, volunteering, or simply showing up for one another, we each have the power to be a source of light.

As we gather with loved ones to celebrate Chanukah, let us reflect on the values that unite us: *tzedakah* (charity), *chesed* (kindness), and *tikkun olam* (repairing the world). Let us also reaffirm our collective responsibility to confront hatred and intolerance wherever they appear. Let us rededicate ourselves to these principles and carry the light of Chanukah into the new year.

From all of us at United Jewish Federation, we wish you a joyful Chanukah filled with warmth, meaning, and purpose. May the lights of the menorah inspire us to shine brighter together, and may our shared commitment to Jewish life—and to one another—continue to illuminate the path forward.

Federation Year-End Celebration

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Council at the United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien, and worked for the Anti-Defamation League in its Center on Extremism and its New York Regional Office. She holds bachelor's and master's degrees in political science from Columbia University. Lauren, with close ties to Stamford, will be sharing the role JFNA continues to play in combating antisemitism and supporting Jewish students.

UJF President Beverly Stein will share remarks on the state of the Federation and the strategic priorities for the year ahead

with the community, and the 4th night of Chanukah will be celebrated with a menorah lighting ceremony.

The evening will also single out this year's Harvey A. Peltz Award winner, Adam Rafalowicz, who has served as UJF's treasurer for the past three years and has served on UJF's board for a total of four years. Adam is back in school studying social work, and he and his wife Molly are founding members of UJF's NextGen and the Ben Gurion Society.

Please register at www.ujf.org/annualmeeting25.

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

December 5.....	4:08 pm
December 12.....	4:08 pm
December 19.....	4:10 pm
December 26.....	4:14 pm
January 2.....	4:19 pm
January 9.....	4:26 pm
January 16.....	4:34 pm
January 23.....	4:42 pm
January 30.....	4:51 pm

UPCOMING DEADLINE

February 2026 Edition

Deadline: Monday, January 5, 2026

Email submissions to sandy@ujf.org

You should receive notification that your submission was received!



**DON'T FORGET TO USE THE
COMMUNITY CALENDAR.**

THE CALENDAR CONTINUES TO BE IMPORTANT
TO AVOID CONFLICTS

www.ujf.org/calendar

Questions? Email Lara at lara@ujf.org

Chabad of New Canaan to Celebrate 15 Years

(Courtesy of Chabad of New Canaan) Chabad of New Canaan will celebrate 15 years of Jewish life, learning, and community with a Gala Dinner on Thursday, January 8, 2026, at 5:30 pm at Serafresca at the Italian Center in Stamford.

The event will bring the community together to honor the growth of Jewish life, recognize outstanding leaders, and look ahead to a vibrant future. Everyone is welcome to join in the celebration of connection, learning, and community.

Since opening in 2010 under the leadership of Rabbi Levi and Michal Mendelow, Chabad has grown from serving a handful of families into a center of Jewish life. Over the past 15 years, the area's Jewish community has flourished, reflecting both the vitality and growth of local Jewish life and the welcoming

environment that Chabad has nurtured.

Chabad's programs include the New Canaan Hebrew School, the Weinman Jewish Academy for Adult Learning, regular synagogue services, and a wide range of youth, holiday, and family programming—strengthening Jewish identity and fostering belonging for families throughout the area.

The Gala will honor the impact of the Weinman Jewish Academy and the memory of Roberta Weinman. Established through the generosity and vision of the Weinman family, the Academy carries forward her legacy of building community and fostering personal connections, bringing people together through learning, friendship, and shared purpose.

This program has become a cornerstone of Chabad of New Canaan, and inspired personal growth, strengthened Jewish

identity, and fostered a vibrant community of lifelong learners. Students come from across Westchester and Fairfield counties for the classes and programs with many people connecting online from all over the USA.

This year's Gala will honor outstanding community members. The Young Leadership Award will go to Yan and Valerie Klats, whose dedication to Jewish life, community involvement, and Israel exemplifies the next generation of leaders. Yan has been active in RAJE (Russian American Jewish Experience) and Hillel at Baruch College. Dr. Valerie Klats, known for her compassion and dedication to her patients, brings that same commitment to family and community. With their warmth and kindness, and commitment to Judaism, Yan and Valerie have had a big impact on the growth of a new, younger generation of families

in New Canaan.

The Teen Volunteer Award will honor Aria Babayev, a graduate of the New Canaan Hebrew School who continues to volunteer weekly, assisting with classes and programs. Now a sophomore at New Canaan High School, Aria's enthusiasm, reliability, and sense of responsibility make her a role model for peers and an inspiration to the community.

As Chabad of New Canaan celebrates its 15th anniversary, the Gala will highlight the community's remarkable journey and its shared vision for the future: expanding learning opportunities, deepening Jewish connection, and fostering unity across New Canaan and beyond.

More information can be found at www.newcanaanjewish.org.

Chabad of Stamford to Host Annual Gala

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Chabad of Stamford will host its Annual Gala Dinner on Sunday, January 25, 2026, at 5:30 pm at the Armon Hotel. Themed "Connected by Tradition - Empowered to Grow" and inspired by the timeless verse *Etz Chayim Hi Lamachazikim Bah* - It is a Tree of Life to those who hold fast to it - the evening promises to be a warm, uplifting celebration of unity, Jewish pride, and community spirit.

This year's celebration will honor Robert

and Neda Yaghoubian with the Lamplighter Award, recognizing their longstanding friendship, generous support, and dedicated involvement in the Stamford Jewish community. Karen Karniol-Tambour will receive the Gan Yeladim Early Childhood Leadership Award in recognition of her vision, dedication, and leadership in Jewish education. In addition, a CTeen Volunteer Award will be presented to a remarkable teen whose commitment to giving back and living

with purpose embodies the values of Chabad's youth programs.

The evening will feature special guest Congresswoman Elise Stefanik. Congresswoman Stefanik, though not Jewish herself, has emerged as a strong ally of the Jewish community, speaking out against antisemitism on college campuses and calling for accountability from academic institutions.

Known for its inspiration, warmth, and joyous atmosphere, the Chabad Gala Dinner

has become a highlight of the year for the Stamford Jewish community. It brings together friends, families, and supporters to reflect on shared values and celebrate the continued growth of Chabad's programs, which nurture Jewish learning, connection, and pride for all ages.

This year's event, chaired by Jason and Robin Fischel, Josh and Ali Hurwitz, and Ron and Bonnie Nyman, promises to be an evening of gratitude, connection, and celebration.

Schoke JFS Feeds Families in Crisis

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) Thousands of families in Connecticut face increasing uncertainty about putting food on the table. Rising costs and economic pressures have only intensified the challenge, leaving many households unsure how to meet their daily nutritional needs.

Schoke Jewish Family Service (SJFS) is at the forefront of the local food insecurity crisis. Through the Freedberg Family Kosher Food Pantry in Stamford and the Mobile Food Pantry, which distributes food throughout Fairfield County, Schoke JFS reaches thousands of individuals across 15 towns, ensuring access to nutritious, kosher

food for children, adults, and seniors alike. These programs provide a lifeline to families struggling to stretch their resources during difficult times.

In October alone, nearly 1,000 people relied on SJFS pantries, and that was a "slow" month. With SNAP benefits in jeopardy, demand has been growing rapidly. The average cost to feed a family for a week is \$120. While food donations are appreciated, financial contributions allow us to purchase the food needed to keep shelves stocked and hope alive.

You can make a tangible difference today by donating at www.ctjfs.org/donate.

Even small contributions have a meaningful impact, allowing the Freedberg Family Kosher Food Pantry and Mobile Food Pantry to continue distributing fresh produce, pantry staples, and culturally appropriate kosher items to those who need them most.

Volunteering is another way to help.

From assisting in the food pantry to helping organize pantry supplies, community members play an essential role in supporting neighbors facing food insecurity. Collective effort ensures that no family has to worry about where their next meal will come from. Go to www.ctjfs.org/volunteer to see all volunteer opportunities.



Schoke JFS Freedberg Food Pantry in need of restocking

Happy Chanukah

May the Festival of Lights spread joy and peace over you, your loved ones and the Jewish community here and around the globe.

Happy Chanukah,

The Board and Staff of United Jewish Federation

Beverly Stein, President Diane Sloyer, Chief Executive Officer

United Jewish Federation
of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien
Serving Greater Fairfield County



The Stamford JCC Presents: *The Land of Sweets*

(Courtesy of JCC) Are you ready to embark on a whimsical and enchanting journey to *The Land of Sweets*? Mark your calendars for a heartwarming family-friendly event that promises to transport you to a world of magic, dance, and sweet delights! *The Land of Sweets*, a children's musical production inspired by *The*

Nutcracker, is set to captivate audiences of all ages on Sunday, December 14 at 12:00 pm at Westhill High School Auditorium.

Presented by The Stamford JCC's Performing Arts Department, this spectacular event is designed to take you on an adventure through a mystical kingdom inhabited by

delectable dance sweets. But that's not all! As the citizens of CandyTown guide you through this enchanting realm, you'll be treated to an exquisite showcase of dance and music featuring compositions by Tchaikovsky, Duke Ellington, and more.

The Land of Sweets tickets are \$25 per

adult, \$10 for children (ages 4-17) and free for children 3 and under and can be purchased online at www.stamfordjcc.org. All ticket sales benefit The Stamford JCC's Performing Arts Department.

For more information, contact performingarts@stamfordjcc.org.

Bringing Joy to Hospitalized Children

(Courtesy of UJF) United Jewish Federation's Women's Philanthropy will hold its annual David's Treasure Chest toy closet collection beginning December 5 through

December 15. David's Treasure Chest first opened in November of 2003, and honors David Bennett Kanarek, who lost his battle with leukemia in 2000 at the age of 15.

Chaired by Alix Field Eben and Marlene Gatz, collections will take place at Bi-Cultural Hebrew

Academy and Gan Yeladim Pre-School as well as UJF offices, 2009 Summer Street.

On December 16, middle school students and staff from the Chesed Club of Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy will deliver the toys and have the opportunity to hear David's parents, Robin and Joseph Kanarek,

who will tell his story and how receiving a toy while in the hospital brought him joy during his illness.

For more information about David's Treasure Chest toy closet or UJF's Women's Philanthropy, contact Jillian Moore at jillian@ujf.org.

THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

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Rosh Chodesh Society

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Chabad of Stamford is excited to introduce the Rosh Chodesh Society for Women, a monthly gathering designed to uplift, inspire, and nourish mind, body, and spirit. For Leah Shemtov, co-director of Chabad, "Rosh Chodesh has long been celebrated as a special time for women, a moment to pause, connect, and renew."

This year, women from across the community are invited to join seven monthly sessions at Leah's home. Each evening features a light dinner, an insightful class, and engaging discussion on topics that touch everyday life. These include harnessing the secrets of sleep, mindful eating, living with joy, strengthening faith in our divine relationships, working wonders with words and unlocking personal potential. The Rosh Chodesh Society offers an opportunity to celebrate the new month together, connect with others, and nurture personal growth in a warm, inspiring environment. For more information or to sign up, email programs@stamfordchabad.org or call 203-3CHABAD.

Winter Camp

(Courtesy of Friendship Circle) Friendship Circle Winter Camp, now in its 18th year, will be in session once again for Fairfield County children with special needs up to the age of 21. This year's camp will take place the week of Monday, December 29, 2025 through Friday, January 2, 2026 at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy (BCHA). Camp lasts from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, and every day will include a special destination trip for the participants.

Destinations where campers, along with volunteers and therapists, will take daily trips include Chelsea Piers, Nutmeg Bowl, Maritime Aquarium and Sky Zone. Along with these activities, attendees also will participate in circle time and lunch at BCHA. Winter Camp also serves as a reunion for many volunteers who are at college during the year and are able to participate in camp during their vacation. Counselors are able to spend time together with their special friends whom they had volunteered with throughout high school.

To learn more, please contact Director Malya Shmotkin at malya@friendshipct.com.

Community Service Activities for MLK Jr. Day

(Courtesy of JCC) The Stamford JCC will host a community service event in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, January 19, 2026, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. Participants of all ages are invited to prepare lasagnas and sandwiches for local food programs, pack hygiene tote bags for UJF's Dignity Grows initiative, and craft thank-you cards

for local first responders.

The JCC will also collect new and gently used coats to benefit local homeless shelters.

The event is open to all and registration is encouraged.

To get involved, contact Lisa Rosenstein, Volunteer Coordinator, at lrosenstein@stamfordjcc.org.

Board Games & Brunch for Adults

(Courtesy of JCC) The Stamford JCC will hold a Board Games & Brunch event on Sunday, December 14 at 12:00 pm for adults ages 21 and over. Guests can enjoy brunch, a mimosa bar, and a variety of board games, whether bringing a favorite from home or trying something new. Attendees are welcome to come solo

or with friends for a morning of friendly competition.

Admission is included for JCC members and \$30 per person for the community. To register visit www.stamfordjcc.org.

For more information, contact Catherine Cimballo at ccimballo@stamfordjcc.org.

Your UJF Israel Committee At Work

**BY MONICA SMYTH SCHLESSINGER,
ISRAEL COMMITTEE CHAIR**

It is a privilege to chair the Israel Committee which works to advance our community's strong connection to Israel. The Committee is made up of a diverse group of people from local synagogues as well as the unaffiliated community. We have a simple mission: to bring Israel to the communities of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien.

The Committee works hand in hand with our Community *Shlichah* (Israeli Emissary), Eden Refaelovich, who together

with her predecessor, Yoav Yaron, mark four consecutive years of UJF participation in the Jewish Agency Schlichim program. Eden's role and that of the Committee is to deepen real, personal (not political) connections to Israel.

Eden has had a huge impact in her first year, working tirelessly with many local Jewish programs, especially with those who are already connected with Israel. With our direction and support, Eden is now turning to broader outreach, including the non-Jewish community. While Eden cannot singlehandedly stem the rising tide

of antisemitism, we hope that she can help to humanize Israel for those who only know the half-truths and libels so prevalent on social media.

Having been brought up in Haifa, one of Israel's most diverse cities with a long history of cordial relations between Arabs and Jews, Eden is well positioned for outreach. Eden is beginning her outreach this fall and winter in two Stamford public high schools and one middle school. Visits to several elementary schools will occur in spring 2026, when elementary schools are hosting their multi-cultural programs.

In addition to public schools, the Committee and Eden are aiming to reach out to churches, particularly those who are members of Southwest Connecticut Interfaith Council and the Stamford Mayor's Multi-Cultural Committee. Through existing channels, Eden will be introduced to both groups, and through workshops and/or receptions, she will share information about herself and her love for her home, Israel.

If you would like to learn more about UJF's Israel Committee, please contact Eden Refaelovich at eden@ujf.org.

CHANUKAH HIGHLIGHTS

Celebrate Chanukah with Chabad of Stamford

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Chabad of Stamford is once again lighting up the city with a full week of Chanukah celebrations that promise to bring joy, unity, and Jewish pride to the entire community. This year's lineup features a wide range of fun programs, from giant menorah lightings and family gatherings to creative culinary competitions and intergenerational events.

The festivities will begin on Tuesday, December 2, with the grand opening of Chabad's Chanukah Pop-Up Shop at Chabad of Stamford, offering a variety of holiday essentials including menorahs, candles, dreidels, gelt, and decorations. The shop invites community members to prepare their homes and hearts for the Festival of Lights.

On Sunday, December 14, the community will gather at Latham Park at 4:00 pm for Fairfield County's largest menorah lighting. The event will feature hot apple cider, crispy latkes, and chocolate gelt for children, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere for all. Local leaders and dignitaries are expected to attend, joining together to celebrate the spirit of the season beneath the glow of the giant menorah.

The celebrations continue on Monday, December 15, when Jewish Women Connected (JWC) hosts its annual

"Package Party" at 7:15 pm. The evening will combine camaraderie and charitable giving, as participants bring wrapped gifts to be auctioned off in a lively fundraiser that blends fun, food, and philanthropy.

On Wednesday, December 17, Stamford CTeen teens will face off in the popular "Latke War" at 6:00 pm, a friendly competition inspired by the cooking show *Chopped*. Contestants will test their creativity and culinary skills to see who can make the best latkes in town.

The following day, Thursday, December 18, Chabad will host the Betsy's Buddies Chanukah Lunch, one of the program's most beloved traditions. Seniors and young families will come together for an uplifting afternoon of food, song, and connection, celebrating the joy of Chanukah across generations. The lunch will feature singing and entertainment provided by the children of Gan Yeladim Early Childhood Center.

The festivities will conclude on Saturday, December 20, with the highly anticipated Menorah Car Parade at 6:00 pm. Beginning at Chabad of Stamford (770 High Ridge Road), cars adorned with rooftop menorahs will travel through the streets, spreading light and holiday cheer throughout the city. The parade will culminate at Latham Park with another public menorah lighting, along with

latkes, hot apple cider, and donuts for all participants. For the second year, they will also provide fun swag gifts for the first 88 people who sign up for this event.

All events are open to the public, and the

community is warmly invited to participate in the celebrations. For more information, registration, or volunteer opportunities, email programs@stamfordchabad.org or call 203-2CHABAD.



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mozaicconciergeliving.org

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Mozaic Concierge Living is a Life Plan Community by Mozaic Senior Life, a trusted senior care provider for over 50 years.



A Bubbling Chanukah Celebration

(Courtesy of JCC) The Stamford JCC will present *A Bubbling Chanukah Celebration* on Sunday, December 7, from 9:45 am to 11:00 am. Families with children ages birth to 5 are invited to enjoy a playful holiday morning featuring a performance by a bubble artist

with giant, long-lasting bubbles and interactive fun.

The event is free for JCC members and \$25 for community participants. To register, visit www.stamfordjcc.org or contact Danielle Mittleman at dmittleman@stamfordjcc.org or 203-487-0976.

Kugels for Chanukah



BY RONNIE FEIN

It all started because of a life-changing episode many years ago. A little background: in my family, kugel is a salty, savory dish made with skinny-noodles and loaded with sauteed mushrooms and gloriously golden onions. How I adored that dish when I was a kid! And still do! We usually ate it with roasted chicken, but it's the kind of food that goes with just about anything, especially because it can be made parve or not.

But back in the day, all the other kids I knew talked about a different kind of kugel – one that was sweet and included things like sour cream and cheese and sometimes canned fruit (including those beloved maraschino cherries that appeal to all children). When I asked my Mom what sweet dairy kugel tasted like, she dismissed the idea and assured me I wasn't missing a thing.

Move forward a few decades, when I was a married woman with a house and kids, we went to my friend Susan's house for dinner and she served one. It was an OMG moment. That kugel was so delicious that when I woke up the next morning, before I even poured my coffee, I called my mother to yell at her!

What was she thinking?! Sweet dairy kugel is really, really, really good.

As I said: a life changer. For years after that, I tested and tasted more kugels than you could possibly imagine (including those hard, dried up things they sell in some supermarkets) always trying to renew that moment of culinary discovery. I was even a judge once in a kugel contest, where I tasted about 35 samples.

I have made some wonderful kugels (both savory and sweet) over the years. Some have cheese, others don't. Sometimes I add sour cream and sometimes yogurt. Some of my kugels are plain, some have fruit (fresh or dried but never maraschino cherries). Some have a crunchy crust made with browned, buttery cereal. I've used skinny noodles, medium noodles and wide ones.

Here is the recipe for one of my favorite sweet kugels: it's made with medium egg noodles, cottage cheese, dried cranberries

and winter squash. It's a festive-looking, colorful dish that is a year-round treat, but in our house it's a must for Chanukah, when we have a dairy meal.

I've also included my family recipe: Grandma Hoffman's Mushroom and Onion Kugel. If you want Susan's kugel recipe, you can find it on my website at www.ronniefein.com.

Happy Chanukah.

Almond Crusted Cranberry and Winter Squash Kugel

- 5 tablespoons butter, melted
- one pound medium egg noodles
- 3 cups diced winter squash (such as butternut or acorn)
- 1 cup dried cranberries
- 2 cups cottage cheese (nonfat is fine)
- 1-1/2 cups nonfat Greek style plain yogurt (or use dairy sour cream)
- 6 large eggs, beaten
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 3/4 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup chopped almonds
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Lightly grease a 9"x13" baking dish using some of the melted butter. Cook the noodles according to package directions, drain and place in a large bowl. Add the squash, cranberries, cottage cheese, yogurt and remaining melted butter and toss the ingredients to distribute them evenly. Beat the eggs, sugar, cinnamon and salt together with a hand mixer at medium speed for about 3 minutes or until thickened. Fold into the noodle mixture. Place in the prepared baking dish. In a small bowl, mix the almonds and brown sugar. Sprinkle on top of the kugel. Bake for 35-40 minutes or until the top is crispy and brown.

Makes 10 servings.

Grandma Hoffman's Mushroom and Onion Kugel

- 10 ounces skinny egg noodles
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil or schmaltz
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 10-12 ounces fresh mushrooms, any

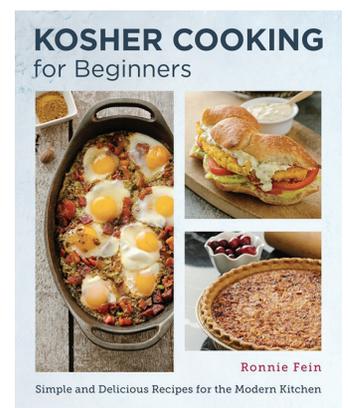
variety, sliced

- 2 large eggs
- salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
- paprika

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Add the noodles and cook according to package directions, drain and place in a large bowl. While the noodles are cooking, heat the vegetable oil in a large saute pan over medium heat. Add the onion and cook, stirring occasionally, for about 2 minutes. Add the mushrooms and cook, stirring occasionally, for 10-12 minutes or until the vegetables are soft. Add the vegetables to the noodles, including any accumulated juices, and stir the ingredients to distribute them evenly. Add the eggs and some salt and pepper to taste and mix them in. Place the mixture inside a baking dish. Sprinkle the top with paprika. Bake for about 25 minutes. Raise the heat to 400 degrees and cook for another 10 minutes or until the top is crispy and browned.

Makes 8 servings.

Ronnie Fein is a cookbook author, food writer and cooking teacher in Stamford. She is the author of *Kosher Cooking for Beginners*, *The Modern Kosher Kitchen* and *Hip Kosher*. Visit her food blog, *Kitchen Vignettes*, at www.ronniefein.com, friend on Facebook at [RonnieVailFein](https://www.facebook.com/RonnieVailFein), Twitter at [@RonnieVFein](https://twitter.com/RonnieVFein), Instagram at [@RonnieVFein](https://www.instagram.com/RonnieVFein).



CHABAD OF STAMFORD

CHANUKAH

Join Chabad of Stamford for a Chanukah full of light, joy, & unity!

B"H

12.14
SUNDAY 4PM

GIANT MENORAH LIGHTING
LATHAM PARK

12.15
MONDAY 7:15 PM

JWC
CHANUKAH PACKAGE PARTY

12.17
WEDNESDAY 6 PM

CTEEN "CHOPPED" LATKE

12.18
THURSDAY 12 PM

"GRANDFRIENDS" CHANUKAH LUNCH

CHANUKAH POP UP SHOPPE
OPENS DEC 2 - 9-6 (FRI 9-3)

12.20
SATURDAY 6 PM
(AFTER SHABBOS)

MENORAH CAR PARADE

Swag for the first 88 attendees

DeTails, RsVps & MoRe

www.stamfordchabad.org/chanukah

Chanukah Menorah Lighting with Mayor Simmons

(Courtesy of UJF) United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien (UJF), together with Temple Beth El and Stamford Mayor Caroline Simmons, invites the entire community to gather for the City of Stamford's annual menorah lighting on Tuesday, December 16 at 4:45 pm.

The menorah lighting brings together families, friends, and neighbors to celebrate Chanukah in a joyful and inclusive setting.

Attendees will join in the lighting of the Chanukah candles, lift their voices in festive holiday songs, and enjoy Chanukah treats.

This year's celebration will once again take place at the Stamford Government Center, located at 888 Washington Blvd. Organizers encourage people of all ages and backgrounds to come out and share in the warmth, light, and community spirit that define the Festival of Lights.

Families in Need Face Holiday Challenges

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) As Chanukah approaches, many families in our community are facing impossible choices. Parents who are already stretched thin to put food on the table now also worry about how to provide gifts for their children during the holiday season.

This is where Schoke Jewish Family Service's annual Matanot Lev Gift Drive comes in. *Matanot Lev*, meaning "Gifts of the Heart," ensures that families, seniors, and Holocaust survivors who are facing financial hardships can still celebrate the joy and light of Chanukah with dignity.

Families in need share their Chanukah wish lists with their dedicated case managers, and these wishes are then shared with the community through

the GiveSmart platform. Community members can choose and purchase gifts, which will be wrapped by both parents and volunteers.

Your help is needed in donating gifts. By participating in the Matanot Lev Gift Drive, you can make an immediate impact on the lives of those struggling this holiday season. Every gift brings light, joy, and a sense of hope to families who need it most.

This Chanukah, please help Schoke JFS remind the community that no one should face the holidays alone. Shop for a family in need today on the GiveSmart platform: www.ctjfs.org/matanotlev. Your generosity ensures that every child can experience the joy of the season, and every parent can give gifts with love and dignity.

Celebrate Chanukah with PJ Library

(Courtesy of UJF) PJ Library invites you to come together for two special Chanukah celebrations in the community. These gatherings are a wonderful way for families to connect, share in the joy of the season, and create meaningful memories together.

On Friday, December 19 at 5:00 pm, join Temple Sinai in celebrating the festival of lights during a special Shabbat for young families, Chanukah edition. Enjoy yummy holiday treats and a fun craft activity.

As Chanukah winds down, join

Congregation Agudath Sholom on Sunday, December 21 at 11:00 am for a puppet show, lunch, and *sufganiyot* (jelly donuts).

Each program will offer an opportunity to gather with friends old and new, celebrate the traditions of Chanukah, and enjoy the warmth of coming together as a community. PJ Library can't wait to celebrate and spread the light of the season!

Stay tuned for more details and mark your calendars for these festive PJ Library programs.

Chanukah Day of Learning at Agudath Sholom

(Courtesy of Agudath Sholom) Congregation Agudath Sholom invites the Stamford community to a *Chanukah Yom Iyyun* (Day of Learning) featuring Rabbi Kalman Laufer on Sunday, December 14. This morning of Torah learning will explore core ideas of Chanukah and their relevance to contemporary Jewish life.



Rabbi Kalman Laufer

legal question of lighting candles at home or while away during Chanukah.

Rabbi Kalman Laufer is the Director of the Master's Program in Medical Halacha at Yeshiva University, where he teaches the intersection of *Halacha* (Jewish law) and medical ethics to students worldwide. A *dayan* (judge) at the Beth Din of America, he is a respected authority

in both medical and business Halacha, delivering lectures and *shiurim* (study sessions) that bridge deep Torah scholarship with real world application.

This program is open and free to the entire community. RSVP at www.cas-stamford.org.

PJ Library Brings Storytime to the JCC

(Courtesy of UJF) In October, PJ Library, a program of United Jewish Federation (UJF) and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, brought the joy of storytime to classrooms at the Stamford Jewish Community Center (JCC), delighting children with engaging tales and lively readings. During visits to both the Sara Walker Nursery School and KinderPlace, students connected with beloved PJ Library stories and deepened their love of reading.

From rambunctious dogs and delicious challah to dinosaurs celebrating Shabbat, each story sparked imagination, laughter, and learning.

To receive free Jewish books from PJ Library monthly for children ages 6 months to 8 ½ years old, or obtain additional information about the upcoming events, contact Jillian Moore, UJF Director Programming and Engagement at jillian@ujf.org.

Chanukah Glow Carnival Comes to BCHA

(Courtesy of Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy) This year, Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy is lighting up the season with a Chanukah Glow Carnival, a dazzling blacklight celebration filled with fun, creativity, and festive spirit. The event is free and will take place on Sunday, December 14 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm and is open to the community. Guests will

enjoy glow-in-the-dark crafts, games, and hands-on activity stations that bring the joy of Chanukah to life in vibrant color. Don't forget to wear white so you can shine under the blacklights and celebrate together. For more information, call BCHA at 203-329-2186. RSVP: <https://forms.gle/hfTPc1247fMfGg897>

Chanukah Magic on Ice
 December 18th
 7pm - 9pm

Join us for menorah lighting with unlimited hot chocolate and treats, followed by ice skating.

Location will provide upon registration

\$18
 All included

WWW.UJF.ORG/CHANUKAH

Logos for United Jewish Federation, Jewish twenties and thirties, and TBE are also present.

A Big Day In Jewish History

BY GARY JONES,
UJF JEWISH COMMUNITY
RELATIONS COUNCIL DIRECTOR

As our JCRC members and those of you who read this monthly JCRC message know, one of our two newly formed subcommittees is focused specifically on developing and maintaining mutually supportive relationships with members of the interfaith and other racial and ethnic communities.

Today, I am writing to acknowledge and rejoice in the 60th anniversary of perhaps the most important action undertaken by any faith group in history to turn away from a very troubling past, recognize the importance of the Jewish community to that faith and even mandate meaningful and respectful dialogue with us.

On October 28, 1965, the Catholic Church, under the leadership of Pope Paul VI, issued *Nostra aetate* during the Second Vatican Council. *Nostra aetate* (Latin for "In our time") was intended to provide a basis for respectful relationships with

non-Christian faiths, but it is especially important and even revolutionary in its mandate to reform its relationship with the Jewish community.

In brief summary, *Nostra aetate*:

a) repudiated the deicide charge (which placed collective responsibility for the death of Christ on all Jews no matter when or where they lived),

b) acknowledged that Church teachings contributed to antisemitism and the Holocaust,

c) recognized the Jewish role in the creation of Christianity, and

d) rejected the notion that Jews had been abandoned by G-d for rejecting Christ.

For nearly 2000 years, Jews bore the religiously motivated hatred of the religion that first dominated Europe and later the Americas and other parts of the world. The notion of collective responsibility for the death of Christ painted Jews as an evil



Gary Jones,
JCRC Director

conspiratorial collective mass that had no protection in G-d's eyes and therefore deserved no protection from other people. It further gave credence to the notion that all Jews are equally responsible for the bad (real or perceived) actions of any Jew, including those events that had nothing to do with the deicide charge.

Church doctrine, therefore, paved the way for so many of the conspiracy theories that have haunted Jews for centuries, including the blood libel, the widely held belief that Jews were responsible for plagues and other catastrophes that affected Europe, and the Czarist forgery *The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion*. These conspiracies led to centuries of murder, forced expulsions, pogroms and fueled the Holocaust.

Even today, hateful Islamist nations and terrorist groups parrot these European conspiracy theories as partial justification for their commitment to destroy Israel and

murder Jews everywhere. The Protocols is literally part of the Hamas Charter. Other Jew haters, including those on the right and left also adopt various, often inconsistent, conspiracy theories about Jewish control and evil intentions. The pattern that began 2000 years ago is not over.

However, we can and should be grateful that the Catholic Church has formally renounced its longstanding dangerous perspectives and has set an example for fostering respect and understanding. Here's hoping that others follow the path that the Catholic church established on October 28, 1965.

In the meantime, it is our job as a Jewish community to continue to reach out to our neighbors and friends of all faiths to promote respect and understanding. As noted above, that is what we do at the JCRC. We could use your help. We need more volunteers to help build these relationships. Please be in touch if you are interested in helping us with this important and uplifting work.

When Southbury Said NO to the Nazis

(Courtesy of UJF) United Jewish Federation's Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) Director Gary Jones participated in a panel discussion regarding the documentary film, *When Southbury Said NO to the Nazis*. The film documents the successful effort of the Town of Southbury, CT in 1937 to prevent the German-American Bund, a Nazi organization, from building a large training camp by creating a zoning law that prohibited military training or drilling, except by the U.S. military. The Bund had several such training camps in the United States at that time, and Southbury is the only town known to have said no to the Bund.

In addition to describing the heroic actions of the town in standing up to hate when others failed to do so, the panel reminded the audience of the need to use this true story as a role model for how all of us need to continue to take action to confront hate today.



(L-R) Gary Jones, JCRC Director; Carrie Chiapetta, Associate Superintendent of Region 15 Public Schools; Rabbi Eric Polokoff, spiritual leader of B'nai Israel Southbury; (on the screen) Arnie Bernstein, author and historian; Ed Edelson, retired corporate executive and former Southbury First Selectman; and Chris Gardner, journalist.

Strengthening our Partnership

(Courtesy of UJF) In early November, United Jewish Federation's JCRC Director Gary Jones and UJF CEO Diane Sloyer met with Darien First Selectman Jon Zagrodsky. Honored in September at UJF's community heroes event, First Selectman Zagrodsky works closely with UJF to strengthen our community.



CALLING NEXT GENERATION PHILANTHROPISTS

Join young Jewish adults in meaningful philanthropy as part of UJF's Ben Gurion Society

Contribute \$1,000 or more to the United Jewish Federation Annual Campaign, and support the local and global Jewish community while enjoying exclusive events, networking opportunities, and meaningful ways to engage.

The Society empowers young adults to shape the future of Jewish life through philanthropy, leadership, and community building.

Save the Date
December 6th, 7:30pm for UJF's inaugural
Ben Gurion Society event!

Please reach out to Jillian Moore at Jillian@ujf.org for more information.

Jewish-Themed Pumpkin Carving Brings Community Together

(Courtesy of UJF) “Before coming to Stamford, I had never carved a pumpkin in my life. In fact, I don’t think I had ever even touched one,” shared Eden Refaelovich, United Jewish Federation’s (UJF’s) community *Shlichah* (Israeli emissary). “But as part of my *shlichut* here, I’m learning many new things and enjoying the culture and atmosphere of fall. That’s how the idea of a Jewish-themed pumpkin carving night was born - a way for young Jewish people to enjoy this activity while celebrating our creativity and our love for Judaism,” she continued.



Lit pumpkins shine in a window.

Prior to the event, Eden and friends visited a pumpkin farm and selected the best pumpkins for the event. Trader Joe’s pumpkin flavored snacks added to the theme. Budding artists carved pumpkins with a chai, the Star of David, a hamsa, and

the Tree of Life creating beautiful, creative pumpkins that celebrated their Jewish pride.

UJF partners with Mem Global to create engaging and welcoming programs for young adults. To learn more, contact Eden Refaelovich at eden@ujf.org.



Attendees show off their carved pumpkin designs. (Seated l-r) Ashley Mail, Greg Weil, Nellie Cole, and Emily Kaplan. (Standing l-r) Liel Levi, Bernie Vagnini, Jennie Fishman, and Community Shlichah Eden Refaelovich.

Women’s Philanthropy Embraces Joy

(Courtesy of UJF) Following the success of the first Women’s Philanthropy Salon in August, a diverse group of women gathered in October to embrace their creative spirit and celebrate “Jewish Joy.”

Guest artist Sara Joy shared her passion for self-expression through art, showcasing how her vibrant use of color serves as a pathway to cultivating more joy in the world. Based in New York, Joy began her creative journey in fashion, transitioning from dressing bodies to dressing spaces, and has more recently discovered her true artistic calling in Judaica art.

Participants created their own hamsa art as Sara led them through a process that invited playfulness, creativity, and personal reflection. Each woman had the opportunity to design a piece that expressed her individuality through color, pattern, and symbols.

As the room filled with conversation and laughter, participants connected through the shared experience of creating together. The activity offered a meaningful pause, an opportunity to slow down, reflect, and

find inspiration in one another. By the end of the evening, each hamsa became a beautiful expression of joy and connection, a reminder of the power of community and creativity.

The meaningful Women’s Philanthropy salon-style programs, giving women the chance to open their minds, share their stories, and come together for genuine connection and inspiration, will continue



Artist Sara Joy (right) joins Robin Fischel as she presents her artwork.



Participants pour their creativity into beautifully decorating their hamsas.

throughout the year.

To learn more about Women’s Philanthropy and to help shape future

events, contact Jillian Moore, UJF Director of Programming and Engagement at Jillian@ujf.org.

SPREAD JOY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Please bring a new unwrapped toy or gift card to the One Shabbat, One Community event on Saturday, December 13th

Donations will be distributed to Davids Treasure Chest at Stamford Hospital and to Schoke JFS.

Gifts can also be dropped off at the UJF Offices, 2009 Summer St., Suite 302



Lost – A Way of Life and So Much More

(Courtesy of Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County) During Stamford's Urban Redevelopment era, entire neighborhoods that once pulsed with immigrant life and small-business energy were condemned and demolished. Among those lost were beloved landmarks such as Karp Bros. Bakery, Wise's Paint Store, and Sarner's Department Store, along with hundreds of other enterprises that had anchored the downtown district. In total, more than 800 stores, tenements, and residences were torn down in the



Wise's Paint Store



Atlantic Street showing the Palace Theater and the Ferguson Public Library

redevelopment zone—stretching through the central business district and the Pacific Street area, once the vibrant heart of Stamford's immigrant community. Over a ten-year period, more than 1,100 families were forced to relocate, as redevelopment transformed the city's landscape and its social fabric.

In a 1984 address to Congregation Agudath Sholom, Irwin J. Miller, the first president of what was then the Jewish Historical Society of Stamford (today the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County), reflected on the loss: "1969 virtually saw the final demolishing of the stores and tenements of Pacific Street, and today, in the year 1984, it is only a memory, obliterated and buried under the new pristine Stamford Town Mall shopping center."

Urban renewal is not a modern idea. The Greek philosopher Socrates once said, "By far the greatest and most admirable form of wisdom is that needed to plan and beautify cities and human communities." Yet the tension between progress and preservation is as old as cities themselves.

The Stamford Urban Redevelopment Commission, whose members included Edith Sherman—a Society member who later chaired the commission from 1974 to 1984—outlined lofty goals. One stated purpose was "to provide the physical environment which will attract investment of private capital to the central business district so that the social and economic potential of the city may be realized." The plan sought to "create diversity in downtown Stamford by encouraging varied development: offices, shopping, manufacturing, cultural and entertainment centers, small parks, housing, hotels, and restaurants."

To justify clearance, official reports described the targeted neighborhoods as "substandard residential and commercial structures, incompatible land uses, narrow streets, inadequate public facilities and

parking, crime, fire hazards, periodic flooding, and declining property values."

But these were our communities. They were the bakeries where families gathered before Shabbat, the paint stores that supplied the businesses of new immigrants, the apartments where generations grew up. They were not just buildings—they were lives.

Though not a Stamford resident, musician and urban observer David Byrne of the American rock band Talking Heads captured the broader experience of redevelopment across America:

"We've gone through the urban renewal cycle in the '60s and '70s that really did a lot of damage to the fabric of urban life—neighborhoods bulldozed, highways pushed through, and all kinds of stuff that really destroyed the social underpinning and the mom-and-pop stores that make a community viable."

The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County (JHSFC) later produced the documentary *Remembering the Family Store: Downtown Stamford 1940-1965*, chronicling the hundreds of small, often family-run businesses that once animated downtown Stamford. Through oral histories, archival photos, and film, the Society keeps alive the voices and memories of those who built the city's civic and cultural identity—long after their storefronts disappeared.

Urban redevelopment gave Stamford its gleaming skyline and modern infrastructure, but it exacted a profound price. What was gained in concrete and commerce was too often lost in memory, belonging, and the soul of a city. Today, as we walk the polished streets of the new downtown, it is worth remembering the old one—and the people who made it home.

The trailer to JHSFC's documentary can be seen at <https://youtu.be/O-kj-i2eabs>.

For more information, visit www.jhsfc-ct.org or contact the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County at 203-359-2196 or info@jhsfc-ct.org. To request a local screening, email info@jhsfc-ct.org.



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One offer per family.

Annual Norma and Milton Mann Lecture

(Courtesy of JHSFC) In October, the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County (JHSFC) drew an audience of more than 100 community members for its Norma and Milton Mann Annual Lecture, *The White Rose Resistance and Its Lessons for Today*, at Temple Beth El in Stamford.

Dr. Jud Newborn — a two-time Emmy Award recipient, author, and filmmaker — delivered a powerful presentation on the *White Rose* resistance movement in Nazi Germany. Dr. Newborn is the co-author of *Sophie Scholl and the White Rose*. His talk highlighted the extraordinary moral courage of Hans and Sophie Scholl, whose bravery and sacrifice continue to inspire generations around the world.

In 2017, JHSFC established the Annual Norma and Milton Mann Lecture Series to bring educational speakers to the Stamford community. The series is underwritten by the Mann Family Foundation to honor their parents, Norma and Milton Mann, and is chaired by Eva Weller, Past President of the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County.



(l-r) Eva Weller, past JHSFC president and lecture chair for the Norma and Milton Mann Lecture, guest speaker Dr. Jud Newborn, and current JHSFC president Larry Ginsberg.



(l-r) Attendees David Kaplan, Elissa Kaplan, Richard Schwartz, Barbara Rosenberg and Sima Broza with Dr. Jud Newborn (seated).

Celebrating Our Community's Newest Members

(Courtesy of UJF) This month was brightened by new babies and new arrivals. UJF Director of Programming and Engagement, Jillian Moore, delivered a Shalom Stamford Bag to Jordana and Andy Lazar, warmly welcoming them to our community.

UJF's Shalom Baby program offers a heartfelt welcome to every new Jewish baby born in our community, while Shalom Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien bags greet Jewish families who have recently moved to the area.

If you know someone who has recently had a baby or moved to town, please contact Jillian Moore at Jillian@UJF.org to share the news.



Jordana and Andy Lazar pose with their son Teddy.

Across the Generations

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) "My name is Jacob too!" Two Jacobs met across the generations as Chabad of Stamford warmly hosted Schoke Jewish Family Service's Anachnu seniors for a joyful intergenerational gathering. The event featured a delicious brunch, a *Dvar Torah* from Leah Shemtov, and special entertainment from the Gan Yeladim

Preschool children. Chabad of Stamford proudly runs several programs that connect generations, including Betsy's Buddies, Grandfriends, and Savta Sheli, fostering friendships between the young and the young at heart. Together, these initiatives embody Chabad's mission to celebrate the power of connection and shared Jewish experience across all ages.



United Jewish Federation
of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien
Serving Greater Fairfield County

MemGlobal
Jewish community, wherever you are.

Warm Hearts, Warm Hands

This winter, UJF young professionals will be packing Winter Care Bags for children in need filled with cozy essentials like hats, gloves, toys, candy, and more.

Can you help?

Your contribution helps us purchase warm winter items and fill more bags.

Every \$10 sponsors one complete Winter Bag!

www.ujf.org/WarmHearts



For any questions, please contact UJF community shlichah at eden@ujf.org



As One

We Light the Way



In the heart of every Jewish community burns a flame of resilience, hope, and unity. Passed down through generations, this eternal light reminds us that even in the darkest times, our spirit will always shine.

This Chanukah, your generosity empowers United Jewish Federation to carry the torch of our sacred traditions, guiding us to a vibrant and secure Jewish future. Just as the shamash lights each of the menorah's candles, your generosity illuminates the path forward for our local and global Jewish community.

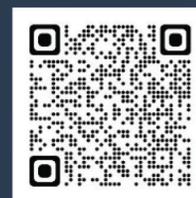
Each night of Chanukah, we will kindle a new flame to celebrate the essential work your contributions make possible and highlight the core values that encompass thriving Jewish communities.

www.ujf.org



United Jewish Federation

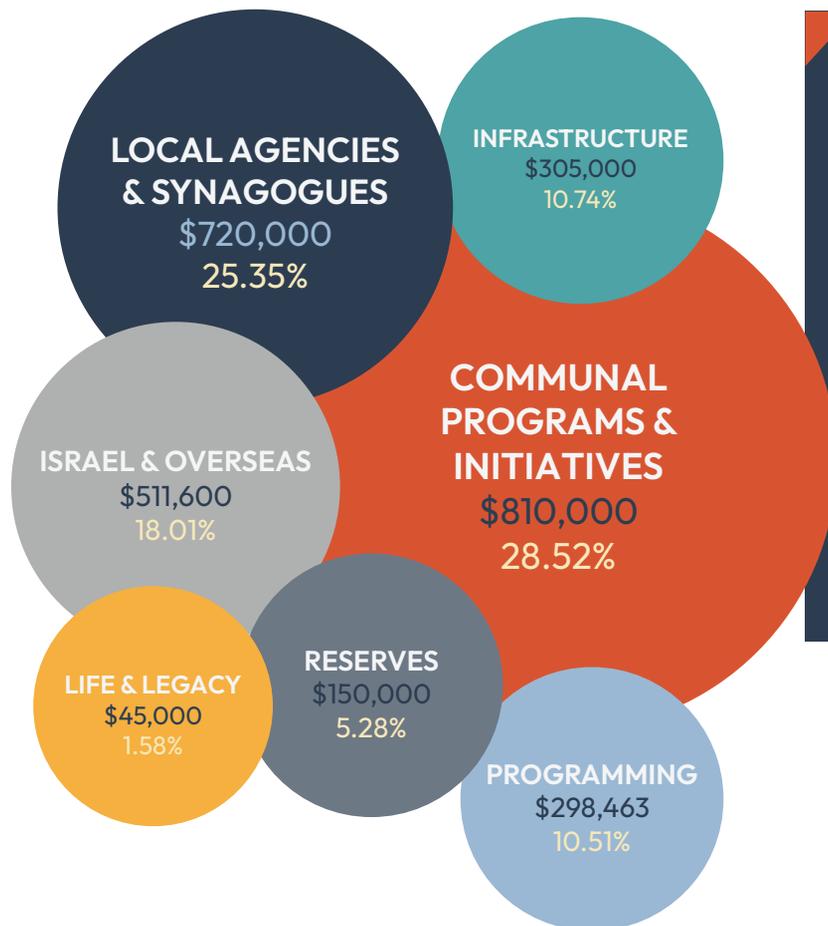
of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien
Serving Greater Fairfield County



United Jewish Federation
of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien
**2025 Annual Campaign
for CommUNITY Impact**

As One We Inspire Jewish Connection • We Stand United Against Hate • We Rebuild Israel

Your 2024 Donations At Work!



TOTAL \$2,840,063

- ISRAEL & OVERSEAS \$511,600
- COMMUNAL PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES \$810,000
- LOCAL AGENCIES & SYNAGOGUES \$720,000
- INFRASTRUCTURE \$305,000
- RESERVES \$150,000
- PROGRAMMING \$298,463
- LIFE & LEGACY: ENDOWMENT \$45,000

*includes \$200,000+ directed by donors to Israel
**Includes tribute gifts, employee matches

As the communal convener and the glue that binds our Jewish community, Federation invests in the collective Jewish community with initiatives like Life & Legacy, communal security, PJ Library, and more. Grants and distribution of funds strengthen and grow our local and Jewish community.



With your support, UJF will be able to continue holding engaging and meaningful community programs, supporting our local Jewish agencies and synagogues, sending PJ Library books to children, and helping Jews in need in Israel and around the world. The 2025 Campaign for CommUNITY Impact ends at midnight on December 31, 2025. Make your gift today!

**As One...
support the Annual Campaign
by donating to www.ujf.org/give**



Bits & Pieces



BY SANDY GOLOVE
To submit information to Bits and Pieces, call (203) 912-9945 or email sandy@ujf.org.

MAZEL TOV TO GROWING FAMILIES:

Sandy Golove
Carol & Ed Abrams on the birth of their grandson, Bennett Cillian Miles.

Aly & Brett Ackerman on the birth of a daughter, Scarlett June Ackerman; and to grandparents, **Nancy & Jerry Kapchan**.

Pamela & André Aflalo on the birth of their grandson, Elias Aflalo Kloppers.

Stephanie & Nathan Allen on the birth of a son.

Lexi Boxer & Rabbi David Galpert on the birth of a son; and to grandparents, **Jodi & Richard Boxer** and **Valery & Yaakov Galpert**.

Lili Ezapour & Ian Stowe on the birth of a son.

Adar & Zev Feller on the birth of a daughter, and to grandparents **Sharon & Mark Feller** and to great-grandmother **Lila Feller**.

Michelle Nadboy & Gavid Beinart Smollan on the birth of a daughter; and to grandparents, **Charlene Beinart & Ray Smollan** and **Chani & Arie Nadboy**.

Tamar & Feivel Segelov on the birth of a daughter; and to grandparents, **Diane & Rabbi Daniel Cohen**.

Maddie & Mitchell Shapiro on the birth of a daughter, Sophie Warren Shapiro; and to grandparents, **Susan & Carl Shapiro**.

Nancy & Brad Spaulding on the birth of their grandson, Addison David Spaulding.

Miriam & Josh Sperber on the birth of a daughter.

Elana & Meir Weinberg on the birth of a son.

MAZEL TOV ON MARRIAGES/ ENGAGEMENTS:

Tricia & Robert Hoff on the engagement of their son, **Benji Hoff** to **Reina Amar**, daughter of **Ahrona & Alain Amar**.

MAZEL TOV TO B'NEI MITZVAH:

Madison Greenberg; daughter of **Mandy Greenberg & Samuel Goichman**.

Vivian Kaplan; daughter of **Cantor Katie & Eric Kaplan**.

Jenna Napach; daughter of **Leslie & David Napach**.

WE MOURN THE LOSS OF:

Bertha Bodenheimer; mother of **Michael Allen, Don Allen, David Allen, Cindy Allen, Andrew Bodenheimer, Brenda Zlatin** and **Carol Alberts**.

Lee Fanwick; mother of **Leslie Liss** and **Eric Fanwick**.

Harry Lazarus; husband of **Rachel**

Lazarus and father of **Ian Lazarus, Sharon Hack, Stephen Lazarus** and **Mandy Rothstein**.

Alan Rich; husband of **Sonya (Sunny) Rich** and father of **Michelle Moskowitz** and **Norm Rich**.

Zalman Segal; father of **Sharon Feldstein**.

Daniel Shameer; son of **Marge Shameer** and brother of **Sherry Cohen**.

Flora Smithline; mother of **Shep Smithline, Howard Smithline, Freddie Smithline** and **Leslie Smithline**.

Gary Teitelman; brother of **Dana Weinberg**.

Judy Tannenbaum; wife of **Stanley Tannenbaum**; and mother of **Alex Tannenbaum** and stepmother of **Ari Tannenbaum, Jared Tannenbaum** and **Joelle Boedecker**.

MAZEL TOV

Do you know someone who just had a baby, a birthday, a bar/bat mitzvah, a wedding or special celebration?

Send them a greeting by scanning the QR code below, visit www.ujf.org/tribute, or call 203-321-1373





Thinking of You...

Send your sympathies to someone who fell ill or to the family of someone who recently passed by scanning the QR code below, visit www.ujf.org/tribute, or call 203-321-1373





A Message from UJF's Community Shlichah Visiting Stamford High's Jewish Heritage Club

BY EDEN REFAELOVICH

Together with Jennie Fishman, a United Jewish Federation Israel Committee member, I visited Stamford High School and met with students of the Jewish Heritage Club.

During the visit, we discussed Jewish identity, the impact of current events, antisemitism, and how students feel as Jews in today's world.

I shared with them some of my thoughts regarding October 7 and how it affected not only Israelis but Jews all around the world, especially students and teenagers in the age of social media. As a community shlichah, my goal is to be present throughout the community. I understand how important it is



Eden Refaelovich

for me to be present in public schools, where Jewish students can benefit from extra support and a stronger connection to community, ensuring that every Jewish student - and every person - feels safe and proud of their identity in their environment. This visit was very meaningful; the students were amazing and shared so openly. I hope to have many more opportunities like this.

Jennie said, "Seeing how the world responded on October 8, 2023, really made me rethink my Jewish identity and how important it is to feel connected and supported, which led me to get so involved in my local Jewish community. Visiting the Jewish Heritage

Club at Stamford High School was a glorious reminder of how important these spaces are. It's a place where Jewish students can find community, and with Eden there, gives them

another way to feel connected and supported."

Special thanks to **Monica Smyth Schlessinger**, Chair of the Israel Committee, for making this possible.



UJF Community Shlichah Eden with Stamford High School members of the Jewish Heritage Club

Raising the Next Generation of Mitzvah Makers

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Chabad of Stamford's JScouts Mitzvah Club has grown by leaps and bounds since its creation last year. The brainchild of Shternie Shemtov, this immersive mitzvah club now boasts nearly 70 children and continues to inspire a new generation of Jewish leaders. JScouts empowers kids in grades three through seven to make a positive impact through community service, acts of kindness, and hands-on team-building experiences that strengthen leadership and communication skills. Meeting monthly on a Tuesday afternoon, they gather for team-building exercises, dinner and then mitzvahs.

At their most recent meeting, JScouts gathered for the mission of caring for the

sick. The troop transformed their space into a Build-a-Bear Factory, where each child designed and decorated a stuffed animal and attached a heartfelt note for someone they know who is in the hospital.

Every JScouts meeting concludes with the announcement of the "Monthly Mitzvah Mission" for each member. This includes a daily checklist of good deeds that encourages members to live their values and make kindness a habit.

Within an hour of the meeting's conclusion, the first bears were delivered to Stamford Hospital, bringing joy and comfort to patients. One adult recipient smiled and said, "Let me hold it, it's so soft." Whether gifted to a teacher, a relative, or a



(l-r) Grace Angel, Leah Segal, and Suri Nayini prepare letters and toys for hospital patients.



Oren Jacobovitz and Gavriel Ulmer (center) join other JScouts in creating soft, love-filled toys for those who are ill.

friend in need, these handmade creations are spreading warmth and light throughout our community.

For more information about Chabad of Stamford's youth programs, please email programs@stamfordchabad.org.

You Spoke and We Are Listening!

(Courtesy of UJF) The New Jewish Voice (NJV), a publication of United Jewish Federation (UJF) of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien, is the Jewish community's newspaper, dedicated to keeping readers informed about people, organizations, and synagogues in the local community. Over 6,000 households receive the New Jewish Voice, as a gift courtesy of UJF, nine times a year.

The mission statement of the New Jewish Voice is:

- To engage, connect and inform about our Jewish community
- To promote a positive image of UJF, our local Jewish community organizations and Israel
- To provide a vehicle for local agencies, synagogues, and organizations to reach the broader Jewish community

Earlier this year, UJF conducted a community survey to help guide the future of the NJV. The goal of the survey was to obtain feedback regarding the current relevance of the newspaper, its usefulness to the community and obtain any recommendations regarding

changes to improve it. The feedback received from the respondents was very valuable. Several suggestions were made including adding a community calendar so that events taking place 2 to 3 months in the future could be well communicated to readers. Suggestions also included that the NJV be used to show the impact of programs that Federation funds. Some of the suggestions made have since been implemented.

The New Jewish Voice provides local Jewish agencies and synagogues in the community opportunities to share articles relating to happenings in their organizations and future events. Every local Jewish organization is able to access equal coverage in the paper, should they choose to participate. The publishing process—from article submission to printing and mailing—takes almost a full month. This makes it challenging to cover international news in real time, but ensures the NJV remains a reliable record of local stories, celebrations, and community life.

A diverse committee of community volunteers works with UJF staff to assemble

each issue. Prior to being mailed to homes, an outsourced publisher lays out each issue, it is reviewed and edited by the committee and then sent to print. The costs are covered by United Jewish Federation.

The New Jewish Voice belongs to the community it serves, and all agencies

and organizations are encouraged to take full advantage of the opportunity to share their voices and strengthen the collective Jewish story.

Any comments or ideas for articles for the NJV, can be shared with Aaron Gaberman, UJF Associate Director at aaron@ujf.org.



JBS JEWISH BROADCASTING SERVICE
Expanding Jewish Understanding

- Daily News Directly From Israel and the JBS News Desk
- *Defending Israel* with David Harris
- *Being Jewish* with Jonah Platt
- *Jewish Insights* with Justin Pines
- *In the Spotlight* with Abigail Pogrebin
- Conferences of major Jewish organizations
- Movies, Music, Authors, Travel, Comedy, Cuisine
- Interviews of Major Jewish Leaders
- Jewish Studies
- Shabbat Services from Central and Hampton Synagogues

JBS can be watched 24/7 on Optimum CH 138, DIRECTV CH 388, ROKU, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV (Amazon Prime) ZipWave TV CH 29 and www.jbstv.org



From The Shlichah's Kitchen

Moroccan Harira soup

★★★★★

Ingredients:

- 1 onion
- 2 tomatoes
- olive oil
- ½ package of lentils
- 1 can of chickpeas
- celery
- pepper, salt, turmeric
- 1 pack of egg noodles (you can add more)
- 2 tablespoons of chicken consomme powder (Osem)
- 2 tablespoons of flour
- optional: Beef stew meat.

TIP

As my mom always says "I add spices by eye, I don't use exact measurements. You can always taste and see what's missing or how much seasoning you want".

How to make:

1. Soak lentils in hot water for 45 minutes or boil and let sit for 5 minutes.
2. Dice an onion and fry in oil in a pot.
3. Chop the celery leaves and add it to the onion.
4. Add 2 diced tomatoes and cook a few minutes.
5. Add the lentils and the chickpeas.
6. Season with salt, pepper, chicken soup powder, and a bit of turmeric.
7. Add water till half of the pot and cook for 20 minutes on low heat, covered halfway.
8. after 20 minutes, add noodles (break the noodles into small pieces before adding them) to the soup and wait till they are soft and ready.
9. Mix 2 tablespoons flour with 1 cup hot water until smooth and thick, then pour into the soup and stir well.
10. Optional: if you want to add meat, Cook the meat in a separate pot of hot water until it's fully cooked. Then, break it into relatively small pieces and add it to the soup.



★ ★ ★

RECOMMENDED

★ ★ ★

BON APPÉTIT
בתיאבון



THAN

Thank YOU for being

As we reflect on the challenges filled with deep gratitude for your brave men and women

Your commitment, generosity, and lasting impact on the lives of thousands

Together, we have stood strong to stand for peace, security

AM YISRAEL CHAI

Iris Bartov

Associate Director, Connecticut

Anat Ch

Executive

Rebecca Grossman

Development Operations Manager

FIDF Westchester & C





FIDF THANK YOU

g Friends of the IDF!

s and triumphs of 2025, we are
our unwavering support of the
omen of the IDF.

nd encouragement have made a
those who protect and defend.

, and together, we will continue
ity, and a brighter future.

HAI FOREVER!

avkin
Director

Lisa Zach
Associate Director,
Westchester

Tomer Hoory
Senior Development Associate

Connecticut Chapter



A Jewish Heritage Mission to Greece



A visit to the Monastirioton Synagogue in Thessaloniki.

(Courtesy of UJF) In late October, seventeen community members journeyed to Greece on an eight-day United Jewish Federation (UJF) Mission led by UJF President Beverly Stein and UJF CEO Diane Sloyer. The mission began in Athens, where the group visited the Parthenon, which was free of scaffolding for the first time in 200 years. Visits in Athens included Beth Shalom

Synagogue, the Jewish Museum of Greece, and the Holocaust Monument, a broken Star of David made of marble.

Traveling north to Thessaloniki, the group enjoyed a meaningful Shabbat at the Yad Lezicaron Synagogue with the Jewish community and also paid tribute to the tremendous loss in World War II, visiting the train station from where approximately

90 percent of the Jewish population was sent to Auschwitz. Participants also visited the Monastirioton Synagogue, the only surviving pre-WWII synagogue in Thessaloniki, and had time to explore the beautiful city.

Traveling southwest, the group journeyed to Ioannina, one of the largest Romaniote Jewish communities in Greece, established 300 to 400 years after the destruction of the First Temple. The mission concluded back in Athens.

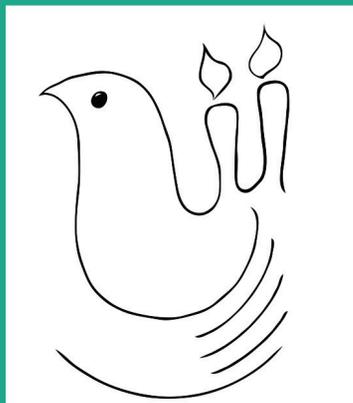
Mission participant Meryl Gordon shared, "This was an enlightening, yet heartbreaking journey. We were able to bear witness to the ancient Jewish communities that were decimated by the Holocaust, and to show the few remaining Jewish community members that they are not forgotten."



Yad Lezicaron Synagogue in Thessaloniki.



The beautiful and ancient Torah scrolls from the Kahal Kadosh Romaniot Synagogue in Ioannina, where the group received a briefing by community head Allegra Matsa.



Aaron's Place

A Kosher Comfort Room

Aaron's Place, on the ground floor of Stamford Hospital provides kosher snacks, drinks and meals, in a comfortable environment.

If you are caring for a hospitalized loved one or waiting for tests, this comfort room is a place to regroup and refresh.

Information is available at the hospital front desk. The code, in Hebrew letters, is on the door of the room.

For more information about Aaron's Place, visit www.ujf.org/aaronsplace

Aaron's place is a project supported by the United Jewish Federation, the Sichel Family, Stamford Hospital, and private donations.



UJF's overseas partner, the American Joint Distribution Committee, helps to support the Jewish community in Athens.



Participants at the Beth Shalom Synagogue in Athens.

The Stamford Board of Rabbis

(Courtesy of The Stamford Board of Rabbis) The Stamford Board of Rabbis - Rabbi Daniel Cohen of Congregation Agudath Sholom, Rabbi Michael Knopf of Temple Beth El, Rabbi Eli Kohl of Young Israel of Stamford, and Rabbi Jay TelRav of Temple Sinai - met recently at Ricotta, the new kosher dairy restaurant at the Armon Hotel.

Rabbi Cohen shared, "As colleagues, this was a great way to catch up after the High Holidays and plan collaborative and meaningful ideas for the year ahead!"



Rabbi Jay TelRav, Rabbi Daniel Cohen, Rabbi Eli Kohl, and Rabbi Michael Knopf

The Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy Players

(Courtesy of Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy) Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy's production of *Nick Tickle, Fairytale Detective* featured professional lighting and sound, music, superb sets and costumes, and theatrical magic! The school's fall play featured 4th through 12th grade students.



Community Calendar at a Glance

www.ujf.org/calendar

United Jewish Federation encourages all local organizations to use its online community calendar to schedule events and help prevent conflicts, emphasizing collaborative responsibility for maintaining a vibrant, well-coordinated communal calendar.

December

- December 2 - Temple Beth El - Board of Trustees Meeting
- December 5 - Chabad Young Jewish Professionals Shabbat Dinner
- December 7 - Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy - Alex Edelman Comedy Event
- December 7 - Chabad Bat Mitzvah Club
- December 9 - Chabad JScouts Mitzvah Club
- December 9 - CAS Executive Meeting
- December 9 - Chabad - Yud Tes Kislev Farbrenger
- December 10 - BCHA Board Meeting
- December 11 - JCC's Board Cocktail Party
- December 12 - Community-Wide Shabbat Celebrations
- December 13 - Community Havdalah Gathering and Celebration
- December 14 - Erev Chanukah
- December 14 - BCHA Glow Chanukah Festival
- December 14 - Chabad Chanukah Community Celebration and Giant Menorah Lighting
- December 15 - Chabad JWC Chanukah Package Party
- December 15 - Temple Sinai Board Meeting
- December 16 - Mayor's Chanukah Candle Lighting
- December 17 - Chabad CTeen Chanukah Chopped
- December 17 - UJF Annual Meeting
- December 18 - Chabad Grandfriends' Chanukah Lunch
- December 20 - Chabad Chanukah Menorah Car Parade
- December 21 - Young Israel of Stamford Gelt Drop
- December 25 - Chabad Family Day Brunch and Loaves of Love

January

- January 7 - Temple Beth El - Board of Trustees Meeting
- January 10 - Chabad Musical Havdalah in PJs
- January 11 - Chabad Bat Mitzvah Club
- January 14 - Chabad JWC Visit to the Ohel
- January 19 - JCC Annual MLK Jr. Day of Service
- January 19 - Temple Sinai Board Meeting
- January 21 - BCHA Board Meeting
- January 25 - Chabad Annual Gala
- January 28 - Chabad - Yud Shevat Farbrengen
- January 31 - Temple Sinai Annual Cantors Concert

Calendar Participation Encouraged

The UJF website hosts a public calendar intended for all community organizations to add their events. This shared resource aims to facilitate transparency and advance planning, enabling groups to schedule thoughtfully and avoid overlapping programs whenever possible.

Conflict Management Policy

While UJF will not formally monitor or resolve scheduling conflicts, it will proactively notify organizations of potential overlaps. The expectation is that organizations will communicate directly to ensure mutual respect and minimize competing events.

Vibrant Community Spirit

This approach reflects UJF's commitment to a dynamic and active community, placing trust in organizations to collaborate for maximum participation and impact. Everyone's involvement in timely calendar entries and communication is essential to sustaining a thriving communal environment.

If you have any questions regarding the community calendar, contact UJF Director, Office Operations Lara Agatstein at Lara@ujf.org

Two New Services Brighten Temple Sinai

(Courtesy of Temple Sinai) The Temple Sinai clergy has unveiled two new creative Shabbat services, both centered around music and open to the entire community: Avodat HaLev and Shabbat B'Shir. The services were developed by Rabbi Jay Tel Rav and Cantor Micah Morgovsky to help congregants explore different kinds of prayer and music and help them find a deeper meaning behind them. Each service will alternate monthly.

In true Sinai fashion, these services encourage participation. Links to the playlists are issued beforehand, so congregants can come prepared and ready to sing along. Both services are designed to be engaging, but each has a completely different feel.

Avodat HaLev, which literally means "Labor of the Heart," is an immersive, meditative experience that offers congregants a window into the rabbinical process. On the Wednesday beforehand, congregants are invited to join Rabbi Jay in learning, discussing, and understanding two new prayers. In this examination, the hope is that participants will walk away with an intimate connection to their meaning. Then, on Friday night, everyone will be able to see these prayers come to life. Much like the process, the service is contemplative and introspective in tone.

It's the perfect place to reflect on one's week.

The first Avodat HaLev service took place on Friday, October 10 and was warmly received. Congregants were especially engaged during the featured prayers, making the experience feel extra special to all those who attended. Both Rabbi Jay and Cantor Micah expressed excitement about this auspicious beginning and are very much looking forward to the next service.

Shabbat B'Shir, which translates to "Shabbat In Song," features a group of congregants with a shared interest in singing and prayer. They lend their voices to explore all kinds of Jewish music. They select songs with a mixture of new and old, familiar and unfamiliar, and present them, accompanied by some of Sinai's own talented musicians. The mood during this service is a lively one. The first service took place on Friday, November 14.

The next Avodat HaLev service is scheduled for Friday, December 12, with a session with the Rabbi on Wednesday, December 10. The next Shabbat B'Shir service will take place on Friday, January 9.

For more information, check the Temple Sinai website templesinaistamford.org or contact the office at 203-322-1649.

Treasure Chests Filled with Traditions

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) At Chabad of Stamford's JUDA Hebrew School, students beam with pride as they hold up their mini treasure chests filled with *mitzvot*, values, and traditions they've joyfully discovered along their Jewish learning journey. This year, JUDA introduced two brand-new curricula designed to make

learning meaningful and fun. Younger students uncover the treasures of Judaism through art, drama, and cooking, while older students journey through Jewish history, from entering the land of Israel to building the Temple in Jerusalem, connecting deeply with their roots, pride, and love for their heritage.



Upper School Girls' Volleyball Finishes Strong



BCHA Upper School girls' volleyball team.

(Courtesy of Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy) BCHA's Upper School girls' volleyball team closed the book on another memorable fall season.

The BCHA Bobcats wrapped up the year with an 8-3 record, defeating several top opponents from around the state. Led by coach Camilla Nunez, the team came out strong, staying undefeated until the final stretch of the season.

Nunez praised the character and chemistry of this year's group, noting how far they've come in building confidence and trust in one another.

"This season, we really focused on the idea of playing for the team, understanding that when each player gives her best effort, it lifts the whole group," Nunez said. "It took time for everyone to find their rhythm, but by the end, you could see how much stronger the girls had become as a unit."

On the court, the Bobcats played with

heart and unity, led by freshmen standouts Hannah Haron and Hannah Bahar along with senior leader Tamar Links. Haron and Bahar, both newcomers, quickly found their footing and became key contributors on both sides of the ball. Haron led the team in digs, anchoring the defense while Bahar ran the offense and kept her teammates locked in.

Links capped off her senior year with a stellar season as the team's top hitter and a consistent offensive force. As captain, she also set the tone in practice, helping younger players elevate their games.

Looking back on the season, Nunez said she's most proud of the team's spirit and daily commitment.

"We always kept our energy high, smiled on the court and brought positivity to every game and practice," she said. "This team embraced those qualities fully, and it showed every time they stepped on the floor."

You Are Invited To

YOUNG ADULTS CELEBRATE ONE SHABBAT ONE COMMUNITY

Join us for a Shabbat dinner for 20s and 30s-
celebrating community together!

DECEMBER 12	6:30 PM	PRIVATE LOCATION
-------------	---------	------------------

SPACE IS LIMITED!

To RSVP or any question please email:
Eden@ujf.org




Life & Legacy Testimonial

Each edition of the New Jewish Voice features the testimonials of community members just like you who have declared their intent to leave a legacy gift to a Jewish organization in the Stamford, New Canaan and Darien Jewish community. This program is funded by United Jewish Federation and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

Learn why they look to secure our Jewish future and discover your reasons to join them. Together, we can all work to guarantee the future of the Stamford Jewish community we love. For more information, contact Eric Ross at (203) 321-1373 or at eric@ujf.org.

STU MADISON TESTIMONIAL

My entire life has revolved around Jewish associations, customers, traditions, and friends. Ever since I was a youngster at the age of five in Passaic, NJ, my family, headed by my grandfather Max Madison who emigrated here from Russia in the mid 1880's, found itself attached to our local Conservative synagogue with a very heavy leaning towards



Stu Madison

orthodoxy. I recall tagging along with Grandpa to services every Saturday morning and on the High Holidays in the fall, rain or shine. My grandma could always be seen cooking delicious kosher meals, and in the spring, koshering the pots and pans in preparation for a very festive Passover holiday with my extended family.

As a teenager, I belonged to the AZA fraternity sponsored by our local YMHA

where I participated in sports activities and parties, all of which served to build a sense of Jewish involvement and identity. My life at 21 developed significantly when I joined the B'nai B'rith sponsored ATID organization for young adults at the (Conservative) Fairlawn Jewish Center in Fairlawn, NJ. There, I became totally immersed in the group's organizational, social, and religious activities, where I learned more about what it means to be Jewish.

As time progressed, I married, had kids, married again, and moved to a few different locations as jobs and circumstances changed.

Wherever I found myself, my association and involvement with the local synagogue always became a significant part of my life. And so, when the Life & Legacy opportunity presented itself here at (Reform) Temple Sinai several years ago, I jumped at the prospect of giving back to my community after my time on earth is over. The decision to participate in the Life & Legacy program has given me a sense of belonging to a community where I not only have been an active and involved member, but I will also be able to contribute to my synagogue's success long into the future.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

US Public Safety Firm Buys Israel's AI Emergency Response Startup Carbyne

Carbyne's emergency communication management tech provides real-time information to 911 responders and police officers, using live video chat, incident mapping, and other AI tools.

BY SHARON WROBEL/
TIMESOFISRAEL.COM

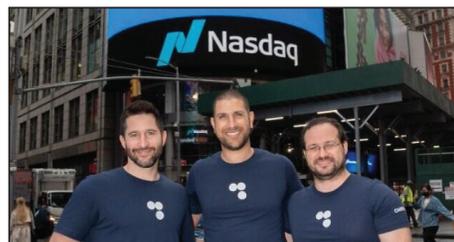
Israeli-founded startup Carbyne, the developer of an AI-based emergency communication response software system, is being snapped up by US public safety tech firm Axon in a deal worth \$625 million, Axon said in a statement late Tuesday.

Merging location services, live video chat, incident mapping, and AI-powered communication tools into a single dashboard, Carbyne's cloud-based platform feeds real-time information to law enforcement agencies and 911 call responders.

"Every year, more than 240 million 911 calls are made in the US, and in too many cases, vital information is lost between the call and the response," said Axon founder and CEO Rick Smith. "By uniting Axon's 30-year legacy of innovation with Carbyne's cloud-based call management platform, we're closing that gap, giving call takers and dispatchers instant visibility and connecting them directly to officers in the field."

Nasdaq-traded Axon, formerly known as Taser, has a market value of almost \$57 billion and is a major provider of police body cameras, sensors, and other public safety devices, including fixed and in-car cameras, drones, and robotics.

Carbyne was founded in 2015 by CEO Amir Elichai, CTO Alex Dizengoff, R&D manager Yony Yatsun, and shareholder Lital Leshem. The startup's cloud-native AI platform is used by emergency communications centers to receive, route, and manage incoming emergency calls, and connect responders with real-time data, live video, multilingual transcription and translation tools, to cut response times and ultimately save lives.



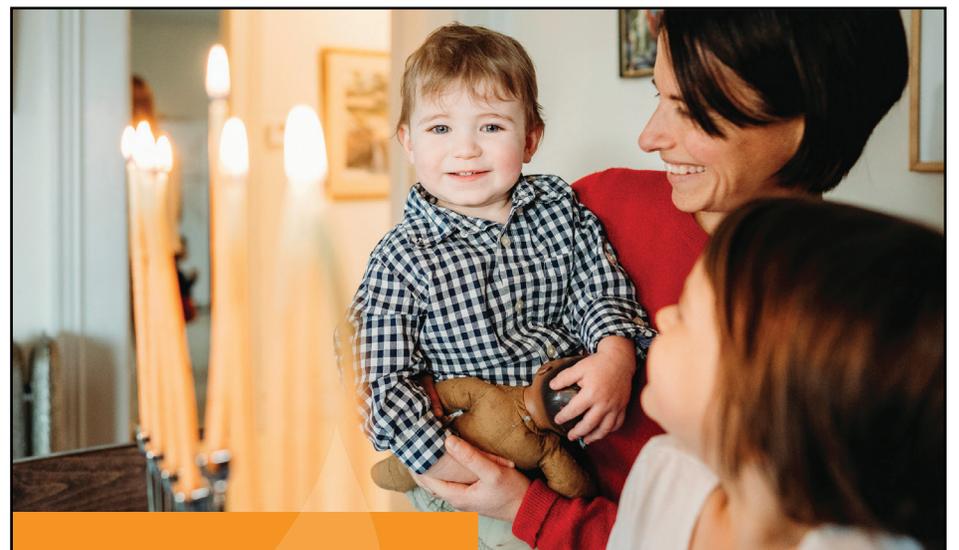
Founders of Israeli AI emergency response startup Carbyne (from left to right): Alex Dizengoff, Amir Elichai, Yony Yatsun.

"Carbyne was created to modernize how help arrives—by giving emergency professionals the clarity, resilience, and confidence they need in critical moments," said Elichai. "Joining Axon allows us to scale that mission globally and integrate more deeply into the broader public safety ecosystem. Together, we'll help agencies save time, reduce uncertainty, and improve outcomes for the people and communities they serve."

Carbyne said its life-saving emergency response solutions are deployed at almost 300 sites globally, serving law enforcement agencies in over 23 US states, and protecting more than 250 million people worldwide. The sites include emergency call centers, government agencies, and public safety operators across the US, Mexico, and Israel.

In February 2023, United Hatzalah of Israel emergency responders, who were sent to Turkey following a deadly earthquake, deployed Carbyne's platform to share real-time location data, video, and imagery with remote medical teams in Israel who helped advise rescuers on life-saving procedures.

Carbyne employs 230 workers globally, out of which 80 are based at its R&D center in Israel.



Join us in
Illuminating
the Future

As you celebrate the Festival of Lights, honor the spirit of Chanukah by making a legacy commitment and leave a lasting impact on generations to come.



of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien
Serving Greater Fairfield County



ASSURE JEWISH TOMORROWS

With a legacy gift, you ensure that the warmth of Chanukah continues to spread its glow for future generations.

It's easier than you think! Contact Eric Ross, UJF Deputy Director, eric@ujf.org; 203.321.1373 ext. 1004 to learn how to create your legacy.

Life & Legacy Honor Roll

United Jewish Federation is proud to partner with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation to bring the Stamford, New Canaan and Darien community the Harold Grinspoon Life & Legacy Program. Through communal efforts, the following individuals have made a commitment to one or more Jewish communal institutions to secure our Jewish future. The names in blue indicate that formal actions have been taken.

For more information, contact Lenore Fogel at Lenore@ujf.org, or Diane Sloyer at (203) 321-1373 or dianesloyer@ujf.org.

28 Anonymous
 29 Anonymous
 Adrienne & Michael Alexander
 David Amsellem
 Alice & David Andersen
 Jeri Appel
 Mark Appel
 Ricky Snow Arbron
 Mihal & David Ariyeh
 Suellyn Bache
 Monica Becker & Edieal Pinker
 Rachel Tyd & Robert Beldock
 Gayle & Mitchell Bell
 Debra & Michael Berg
 Dina & Paul Berger
 Karen & Ira Berk
 Devra Jaffe- Berkowitz & Parry Berkowitz
 Lynn & Harvey Berman
 Berkun Family
 Darona & Rabbi Tzvi Bernstein
 Jen & Andy Bernstein
 Melody & Claude Bernstein
 Bruce & Nancy Blasnik
 Judith Block
 Ilana Springer Borkenstein & Daniel Borkenstein
 Jodi & Richard Boxer
 Amy Bubel
 Henry Bubel
 Blake & Daniel Bueckman
 Rita & Michael Buttermann
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 Kate & Peretz Cik
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 Andrea & David M. Cohen
 Diane & Rabbi Daniel Cohen
 Malerie Yolen-Cohen & Jeff Cohen
 Judy & David S.* Cohen
 Mimi Cohen
 Rachel & Ephraim Cohen
 Saul Cohen*
 Marsha Colten
 Kahla & Gordon Cooper
 Randie Katz & Lawrence Cryer
 Tracy & Nahum Daniels
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 Andrea Dener
 Elayne Dener
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 Esta & Jay Feinsod
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 Peggy & Jerry Fensterstock
 Linda Hurwitz & Richard Fine
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 Gail Berman & David Fogel
 Stephanie & Howard Fogel
 Lenore Fogel
 Ilan Fogel
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 Julia & Eli Freedberg
 Marjorie Freeman
 Connie & Alan Freeman
 Maxine & Jay Freilich
 Susan Frieden
 Rachel & Keith Friedman
 Marc Friedman
 Donna & Edward Fuhrman
 Nancy & Mark Funt
 Heidi & Harrison Ganz
 Lisa & Gadi Gavronsky
 Lesley & Dennis Gehr
 Gary Gepner
 Cynthia Gordon & Doron Ginat
 Carole Gladstone
 Herbert Gladstone*
 Sylvia & Herb Gladstone*
 Leslie Glenn
 Michael Gold
 Abby Goldberg
 Cyndy & Eric Goldberg
 Marilyn & Irving Goldblum
 Alicia & Jason Goldstein
 Caryl & Melvin Goldstein*
 Judy & Howard Goldstein
 Sharon & Bruce Goldstein
 Meryl & David Gordon
 Nan & Paul Gordon
 Linda Gornitsky
 Lorelee & Philip Granowitz
 Shira & Ethan Green
 Allison & Frederic Greenbaum
 Sharon & Larry Greenberg
 Susan & Edward Greenberg
 Pam Ehrenkranz & Matt Greenberg
 Rhonda Greif
 Grecia & Ron* Gross
 Caryn Halbrecht & Tommy Haendler
 Jeremy Hager
 Michael Handel
 Scott Handelman
 Kayla & Leon Hanna
 Wynd Harris
 Jacqueline Herman
 Elissa & James Hyman
 Rebecca Isenstein
 Shara & Rabbi David Israel

Sari & Alan Jaffe
 Meryl & Ron Japha
 Anne Liss Johnson
 Sadae & Michael Kadish
 Judith & Grant Kallen
 Peggy Kalter
 Helene & Harvey Kaminski
 Chanie Kamman
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 Jason Kaplowitz
 Lisa & Arnold Karp
 Jeannie Kasindorf
 Jessica & Ilan Katz
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 Neil Katz
 Flora and Carl Kaufman
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 Madelyne Kirch
 Liz & Marc Kitay
 Elissa & Philip Klapper
 Sally Kleinman
 Harris Kligman
 Naomi & Rabbi Eli Kohl
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 Claudia Kraut
 Norma Kraut
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 Jeannie & Brian Kriitcher
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 Elizabeth & Scott Krowitz
 Nina Kuch
 Svetlana Kunin
 Jackie & Marshall Kurland
 Lorraine & David Kweskin
 Helen & Ed Kweskin
 Lieba & Steve Lander
 Hannah & Ilan Lastoff
 Dallice & Ian Lazarus
 Shelley Leibowitz
 Lois Stark & Gary Lessen
 Helene Levine*
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 Carol & Peter Lilienthal
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**Of Blessed Memory
 This is the list provided to UJF at time of publishing. We apologize for any names that have been omitted. Please let us know and the missing names will be added to the next issue of the paper. Names in blue have finalized their commitment at the time of publication.*

PJ Library Joins TBE Fall Festival

(Courtesy of UJF) PJ Library joined the fall festivities at Temple Beth El as United Jewish Federation Director of Programming and Engagement Jillian Moore delighted young listeners with seasonal tales and shared books to take home. The festival also served as a great chance for families new to the community to enroll in PJ Library, which delivers free Jewish books to children, 6 month to 8 1/2 years old, each month. Interested in learning more? Reach out to Jillian Moore at Jillian@UJF.org.



Jillian Moore shared the fun of PJ Library at Temple Beth El's Fall Festival

Jewish Federations of North America General Assembly

(Courtesy of UJF) JFNA's annual General Assembly, in Washington DC, is where our community's leaders came together to learn about, and engage in, and take action in defining our Jewish future. From inspiring plenaries and informative breakout sessions, and of course networking, the 2000 plus attendees, including UJF's delegation of five, left energized for the difficult road ahead.



US Senator John Fetterman and Robin Fischel



IDF spokesperson Daniel Hagari and Robin Fischel



Beverly Stein, Diane Sloyer, Robin Fischel, Rebecca (Shapiro) Ruhberg, and Eric Ross celebrate Eric's achievements in the JFNA Executive Accelerator Program



Robin Fischel, Diane Sloyer, and Beverly Stein get into the GA spirit.

An Evening With Russ Roberts of Shalem College

(Courtesy of UJF) In mid-November United Jewish Federation donors had a special opportunity to hear from Russ Roberts, President of Shalem College in Jerusalem--Israel's only liberal arts college. Its purpose is to grow the next generation of leadership for the country. He shared his reflections on moving to Israel at an unprecedented time. He also discussed his experiences in braving the online world and seeking to foster deeper understanding of the conflict.

The host and founder of the weekly podcast *EconTalk: Conversations for the Curious*—long form conversations with interesting thinkers, Roberts has hosted guests including Milton Friedman, Angela Duckworth, Michael Oren, Christopher Hitchens, Sam Harris, Emily Oster, Susan Cain, Michael Lewis, and Danny Gordin. Over 1000 episodes are available on iTunes and elsewhere.

His latest book is *Wild Problems: A Guide to the Decisions That Define Us*. The book looks at the challenge of making big life



Russ Roberts and Michael Schlessinger

decisions—whether to marry, whether to have children, what career path to follow—when there is little analytical evidence to help us.

He is also the author of *Gambling With Other People's Money: How Perverse Incentives Caused the Financial Crisis* and *How Adam Smith Can Change Your Life: An Unexpected Guide to Human Nature and Happiness* and three novels that teach economics principles.



An attentive group gather to hear Russ Roberts



Stu and Sandi Waldstreicher and Marilyn and Harry Soffer

United Jewish Federation
The New Jewish Voice
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Invite You To:



Each organization will be hosting a shabbat related program. On Saturday night, the commUNITY will come together for Havdalah and to celebrate being together, As One!

Live Music by The Shuk
Activities for Adults, Kids + Families...
Something for Everyone!

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47 JOHN STREET
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★ DECEMBER 13 ★
6:30 - 9:30 PM

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TO LEARN MORE AND TO REGISTER VISIT WWW.UJF.ORG/ONESHABBAT