



# THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

A PUBLICATION OF UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION

## Upcoming Conference Brings CT Advocates Together

*(Courtesy of UJF)* On Monday, March 9, the first ever Red, Blue, and White Conference, organized by CT for Israel will be held in Hartford, to bring together the grassroots Jewish community across the state. United Jewish Federation's (UJF's) Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) is pleased to be supporting this important and timely effort. With antisemitism on the rise, it's critical that the Jewish community is equipped and energized to stand up and speak out.

"As a Jewish community we need to be organized and develop relationships," shared UJF CEO Diane Sloyer. "If the Jewish community is going to remain safe in Connecticut, we need to be mobilized and be ready to stand up for ourselves. The Jewish communal organizations can't do this alone and need grassroots support of community members," Sloyer continued.

With the new legislative session underway in Hartford, it is important to recognize that during the last legislative session, those ready to oppose any efforts to stop antisemitism were mobilized and vocal. Several bills, including legislation

on hate crimes and antisemitism on college campuses, were stopped by a surge of well-organized opposition. At the local level, activists have pushed Israel boycott resolutions and flooded town council meetings to press for their passage.

As the Jewish community strives to mobilize and unite around crucial issues, this conference will provide an important opportunity to learn from top lobbyists and the state's most influential legislators on both sides of the aisle. Participants will spend time in the Capitol Building for meetings with legislators to lobby for legislation to fight antisemitism, build connections with elected representatives, and share concerns about the future of the Jewish community in Connecticut.

While the program is still being finalized, participating legislators include Senator Stephen Harding, Senator Derek Slap, Representative Vincent Candelora, Representative Christie Carpino, and Representative Eleni Kavros DeGraw. Other panelists include Merrill Gay, Chris Healy,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Annual Interfaith Seder Connects Faith Communities

*(Courtesy of UJF)* United Jewish Federation's (UJF's) Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) will partner with the Mayor's Multicultural Council, the Southwest Connecticut Interfaith Council, and UConn Hillel to bring the annual Interfaith Seder to the community on March 26 at 6:30 pm. This year the Seder will be held at Temple Sinai and co-led by Rabbi Jay TelRav, spiritual leader of Temple Sinai, and Reverend Mark Lingle, Associate to the Bishop, New England Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Additional faith leaders and public officials will join Jewish and non-Jewish community members to participate in this Interfaith Seder. Using a specially designed Haggadah, the themes of the Seder will include unity and common ground among varied cultures, backgrounds, and faiths. The Interfaith Seder brings the community together in a very collegial and meaningful way. Please attend and help publicize this opportunity to your friends of all faiths. This event is another example of the ongoing



Reverend Mark Lingle



Rabbi Jay TelRav

efforts of UJF and JCRC to build greater relationships with interfaith and intergroup communities in the UJF service area.

"I am thrilled that the JCRC is planning the wonderful interfaith event once again. It is a meaningful way to come together and share common themes of all religions," shared Gary Jones, JCRC Director.

The Interfaith Seder Host Committee is in formation. Debby Goldberg, Leslie Heyison, Lorraine Kweskin, Julie Rose, Marie Orsini Rosen, and Marilyn Galler Sofer have already agreed to participate.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

3 **Upcoming Programs**

4 **JCRC News**

5 **Holiday Celebrations**

14 **Bits & Pieces**

22 **Life & Legacy**

## Mission Accomplished!

When you travel on a mission, you are participating in a trip with meaning and purpose, and that is what travelers on United Jewish Federation's recent *ATID* (future) leadership mission experienced. Pictured here are participants at the Emunah home in Afula, UJF's partnership region in Israel. UJF dedicated a bomb shelter; and mission participants heard from an Emunah home alum, toured the grounds and planted trees in honor of Tu B'Shvat with residents. Please see the centerfold for more details on this impactful experience.





## From UJF's Chief Executive Officer It's All About the People

BY DIANE SLOYER

Over the past weeks, I had the profound honor of leading and participating in two meaningful Federation missions to Israel—each one transforming and deeply personal. As Federations throughout North America shift from emergency relief to rebuilding efforts, our time in Israel affirmed one constant truth: it's all about the people.



Diane Sloyer, UJF CEO

The first mission, ATID—Future, brought together emerging leaders who were invited to participate on a mission to Israel from across our community for four intense days on the ground. We met Israelis whose lives were shattered on October 7, 2023, and those working every day to restore hope. Standing at Nahal Oz where tragedy took place, we heard from the parents of young women like Noa Marciano who was a hostage and then murdered and Noa Price, who was murdered on October 7. At the Observer Memorial, created by parents of fallen female soldiers serving on the Nir Oz army base as “observers,” we reflected as new IDF recruits arrived to pay tribute—an intersection of grief, pride, and resilience.

At the Nova site, we walked through a space now dedicated to memorializing those who were murdered and honoring the heroes who saved others. The ripple of loss—like a bullseye without an outer ring—seems endless. Yet amid the heaviness, we found inspiration in the unity of those rebuilding.

We met Doris, a Christian Arab Israeli Zionist from Jaffa, who welcomed us into her home and reminded us of Israel's remarkable mosaic of identity. At Geha, Israel's premier psychiatric hospital, we witnessed the exponential rise in mental health needs. In the north, we spent time at Jordan River Village—part of Paul Newman's “Hole in the Wall” network—where children with medical or behavioral challenges can simply be kids again. In our partnership city of Afula, we dedicated an ambulance at Emek Medical Center and a bomb shelter at the Emunah Children's Home, where

we also planted trees for Tu B'Shvat and shared music, joy, and renewed faith in life.

Later, a dinner and cooking workshop in a Druze home in Daliyat al-Karmel offered delicious food and profound conversation about coexistence and shared citizenship. Each encounter

deepened our understanding of Israel's complex, resilient fabric.

I also participated in the National Ruby Lion of Judah Mission, focused on women's stories of courage and pain. We met researchers documenting the sexual violence of October 7 and the survivors whose testimonies they preserve. Their work is deeply important—and emotionally exhausting. We heard from a mother whose son was killed and who, along with her daughter, had been taken hostage and returned profoundly changed. We sat with survivors from the Nova festival, like Hila, who carries both trauma and hope, learning that grief and joy can coexist.

Beverly Stein and I were among a small group taken to Hostage Square on day 843 when Ran Givili's body was returned to his family in Israel for a proper burial, and for the first time in 12 years, there were no Jewish hostages in Gaza. We heard from former hostages and family members and watched the clock go dark and then sang Hatikvah. Hugging and crying with strangers was truly a moment of Am Yisrael. Through the tears, I could feel the resilience and strength.

Through countless conversations—with mothers, soldiers, doctors, and volunteers, I saw a nation filled with heartbreak but also unwavering determination. Israel is rebuilding, not just its infrastructure but its spirit. And we, as a Federation family, have the privilege and responsibility to stand with them—because in the end, it truly is all about the people.

*Pictures of the ATID mission can be found in the centerfold.*

### Upcoming Conference Brings CT Advocates Together

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and Peter Wolfgang.

“This promises to be a worthwhile and engaging opportunity for the Jewish Community. Relationships matter and having the opportunity to speak directly with those who represent us on the State level matters,” shared Gary Jones, UJF's JCRC Director. If you would like to attend,

please email [gary@ujf.org](mailto:gary@ujf.org) as UJF will cover the registration fee for the first 10 registrants.

Join in ensuring the blue and white always has a place in the red, white, and blue! More information and registration can be found at [CTforIsrael.com](http://CTforIsrael.com). Email [ari.schaffer@gmail.com](mailto:ari.schaffer@gmail.com) with any questions.

## UJF President's Message Rebuilding Israel Together: Reflections From the Ruby Lion Mission

BY BEVERLY STEIN

Over the past three years, I have had the unusual experience of visiting Israel each January—2024, 2025, and again in 2026. Each visit offered a distinct window into the emotional landscape of a nation grappling with the trauma of October 7th. And each time, at some point during my stay, I felt acutely aware that I was witnessing the country at a profoundly complicated moment.

In January 2024, the shock was still raw. The country felt suspended between grief and survival, its people carrying a heaviness that was impossible to miss. By January 2025, the grief had not disappeared, but it had shifted—becoming something more layered, more determined, more focused on endurance. And in January 2026, I sensed something new emerging: a fragile but unmistakable movement toward rebuilding, even as the pain remained close to the surface.

My most recent trip, in January 2026, was with the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) Ruby Lion Mission. More than one hundred women from across North America—women who care deeply about Israel and its people—traveled together with purpose, conviction and heart. Being surrounded by others who share that commitment reminded me of the extraordinary power of the collective. We were strong American women meeting strong Israeli women. We supported one another, and we stood with Israelis in their ongoing struggle to shape the future of the Jewish people.

This year, JFNA's focus is squarely on rebuilding Israel; physically, emotionally, and communally. That mission infused every conversation we had and every site we visited.



Beverly Stein, UJF President

Our mission was called Ometz Lev, the courage of heart. Throughout our journey, we met women from every corner of Israeli society who embody that courage on a daily basis. Despite the scars of war, terror, loss, and heartbreak, Israel is alive with determination. Children are playing outside again. New babies are being born. Families

are gathering, laughing, rebuilding. Israelis continue to live with a resilience that is both humbling and inspiring.

Even now, at such a complicated moment, Israel is alive with joy and real hope. People are rebuilding, showing up, and imagining a future—quietly or stubbornly, but always intentionally—because that is how life continues in Israel. For the Jewish people, balancing hope with hardship has never been naïve; it has always been part of our resilience.

One particularly poignant moment during our trip was the return of Ron Gvili, the last hostage. We were reminded that, for the first time in 12 years, no Israeli was being held hostage. And perhaps even more symbolically, many Israelis described this moment as the country finally reaching “October 8th.” Only now, they said, could the healing begin after the horrors of October 7th.

I returned home invigorated, with a renewed commitment to give, both my time and my resources, to support the people of Israel. They need us as much as we need them. Politics aside, the human story is what matters. We honor Israelis by sharing their stories of pain, perseverance, and hope.

PHOTO ON PAGE 8

### Annual Interfaith Seder Brings Faith Communities Together

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

If you are interested in joining the Host Committee, please reach out to [Gary@ujf.org](mailto:Gary@ujf.org).

Dietary laws will be observed, and guests will partake in traditional Passover foods. The cost to attend is \$18 through March 20. Register at [ujf.org/seder](http://ujf.org/seder).

For more information on this event or on the work of the JCRC, please contact Gary Jones at [gary@ujf.org](mailto:gary@ujf.org).

### CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

March 6.....	5:33 pm
March 13.....	6:41 pm
March 20.....	6:48 pm
March 27.....	6:56 pm

### UPCOMING DEADLINE

April 2026 Edition  
Deadline: Monday, March 2, 2026

Email submissions to [sandy@ujf.org](mailto:sandy@ujf.org)  
You should receive notification that your submission was received!

## CAS To Host Annual Dinner

שלח לחמך על-פני המים כי ררב  
המים תמצאנו  
Cast your bread upon the waters;  
trust that its impact will endure.  
(Ecclesiastes 11:1)

(Courtesy of Congregation Agudath Sholom) Congregation Agudath Sholom (CAS) will gather on Sunday evening, March 15, at 5:00 pm, for its Annual Dinner, an evening dedicated to celebrating lives of generosity, faith, and quiet leadership that strengthen our community and shape our future.

Inspired by the words of King Solomon, this year's theme "Lives That Uplift. Impact That Endures" honors those who give of themselves without expectation of return, creating ripples of blessing that extend far beyond any single moment. This evening celebrates faithful presence and steady commitment—the way *mitzvot* are lived, relationships are nurtured, and community is sustained.

Guests of Honor are Howard Weiss and Irwin Niedober, who will be recognized for decades of extraordinary devotion to Congregation Agudath Sholom and to Jewish communal life in Stamford, marked by humility, faithful presence, and a lifetime of *chesed* (kindness) and leadership.

Mitchell Bell will receive the Community Service Award, for his unwavering commitment to daily acts of kindness, volunteerism, and behind-the-scenes service that strengthen both the congregation and the broader community.

Audrey Waldstreicher will be honored with the Chai Award for a lifetime of leadership, warmth, and dedication to Jewish life, Jewish education, and civic responsibility.

And the Young Leadership Award will be given to Alex and Brett Olsson for their dynamic leadership among Jewish young



Guest of Honor  
Howard Weiss



Guest of Honor Irwin  
Niedober



Community Service  
Award recipient  
Mitchell Bell



Chai Award recipient  
Audrey Waldstreicher



Young Leadership  
Award recipients  
Alex and Brett  
Olsson

professionals and their tireless efforts to build connection and community for the next generation at CAS.

Special thanks to Honorary Dinner Chairs Josh and Stephanie Bilenker, Helene and Harvey Kaminski, and Gayle and Howard Rothman, Dinner Chairs Lorraine and James Marcus, and Journal Chairs Hannah Pitell, Nava Ulmer, and Shushannah Yasgur.

The Congregation Agudath Sholom Annual Dinner will be an evening of gratitude, inspiration, and shared purpose—honoring individuals whose lives uplift others and whose impact truly endures.

For more information, please visit [www.cas-stamford.org/dinner](http://www.cas-stamford.org/dinner) or contact Rabbi Daniel Cohen at [rabbicohen@cas-stamford.org](mailto:rabbicohen@cas-stamford.org).

## New Date for Chabad of Stamford Annual Gala

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Chabad of Stamford has rescheduled its Annual Gala Dinner to Sunday, March 22 at 5:30 pm, at the Armon Hotel, following the unexpected winter storm in January. The community can look forward to the same inspiring program and venue that make this evening a highlight of the year.

The Gala will honor Robert Yaghoubian and Neda Khaghan with the Lamplighter Award, Karen Karniol-Tambour with the Gan Partnership Award, and Jacob Contente with the CTeen Volunteer Award, recognizing their outstanding dedication and impact.

Known for being meaningful, elegant, fun and engaging, this year's dinner will focus on community, continuity, and the light each individual brings. Under the theme "Connected by Tradition and Empowered to Grow", the evening will celebrate the strength of the Stamford community's shared values and collective future.

To RSVP, email [programs@stamfordchabad.org](mailto:programs@stamfordchabad.org) or call 203-3CHABAD.

## BCHA Celebrates 70 Years of Jewish Education

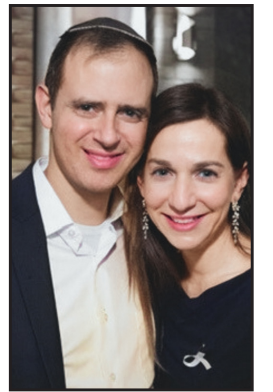
(Courtesy of Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy) Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy (BCHA) is preparing to host its 70th Annual Celebration Dinner. This milestone year's theme centers on *hakarat hatov* (recognizing the good) honoring the school's rich legacy while inspiring the future.

Gratitude has been an essential part of the school year as BCHA celebrates its 70th anniversary, reflecting on generations of leadership, learning, and community impact. The much-anticipated event will take place on Sunday, March 8, at 5:30 pm at the Hyatt Regency Greenwich, promising an evening of festivities, community togetherness, and gratitude toward those who have contributed to the school's 70 years of success. Guests will enjoy cocktails, dinner, and a program highlighting this year's honorees.

This year's Guests of Honor are Rhoda and Avram Freedberg, recognized for their dedication and support of BCHA. The Young Leadership Award will be presented to Kate and Peretz Cik, honoring their commitment to the school and the Jewish community. Additionally, the BL Manger Foundation will receive recognition for seventy years of unwavering support of



Rhoda & Avram  
Freedberg, Guests of  
Honor at the BCHA  
annual celebration  
dinner.



Peretz & Kate Cik being  
honored with The Young  
Leadership Award.

BCHA and Jewish education. Bi-Cultural Day School's Class of 1966 will also be recognized, marking 60 years since their graduation.

BCHA is grateful to welcome back Sandi and Stuart Waldstreicher and Rachel and Greg Waldstreicher as Dinner Co-Chairs, along with Howard Wolfe as Journal Chair. With the support of dedicated staff members and parent volunteers, this year's celebration, commemorating a remarkable 70-year milestone, promises to be truly special.

To purchase tickets or place an ad, please visit [Celebration.bcha-ct.org](http://Celebration.bcha-ct.org).

## White House Speechwriter to Discuss Jewish Identity

(Courtesy of Temple Sinai) Save the date of May 3, 2026, at 4:00 pm for Temple Sinai's Joan Bruder Danoff Lecture when acclaimed former White House speechwriter and author Sarah Hurwitz will present a reflection on Jewish identity and

spiritual resilience in the face of growing antisemitism. Join the conversation to hear a deeply personal call to reclaim what it means to be Jewish - on our own terms.

The event is free and is open to the entire community.



- 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](http://www.jbstv.org)



# UConn Stamford Hosts Holocaust Studies Programs

*(Courtesy of UConn Stamford)* UConn Stamford will host a series of programs concerning Holocaust Studies, free and open to the public on Thursday evenings from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. While the series began on February 19 with an interview of Roland Tec, son of Professor Nechama Tec, it will continue on March 26, and April 30. All sessions are open to the public and will be held in the Main Auditorium (Room 109).

On March 26, Dr. Zeke Levine will present “How You Live in My Memory!': Yiddish Song in America After the Holocaust.” In this lecture-recital, musicologist Zeke Levine will perform and analyze musical examples

to demonstrate how we hear the impact of the Holocaust on Yiddish-American culture. Among the musicians to be addressed is songwriter Mordechai Gebirtig, who perished in the Krakow Ghetto in 1942, yet whose legacy echoed into the post-Holocaust era of Yiddish-American song. Dr. Levine is a musicologist whose research focuses on Yiddish-American folk song, the American Folk Revival, and American improvised music. His work is forthcoming in the journal *American Jewish History* and the *Journal of Musicological Research*. Levine is also a translator, having twice been selected as a Yiddish Book Center Translation Fellow.

On April 30, Professor Roden will interview Jonathan Bohm Jacobson in “From Vienna to Stamford: Maria Bohm Jacobson -- Refugee,

Immigrant, Scientist” to commemorate the gift of the Ishier Jacobson Judaica Collection to the UConn Stamford Library. The discovery of three childhood diaries led Stamford native Jacobson to transcribe, translate, and annotate his mother’s early history: a captivating story of the uprooting of one immigrant family, surmounting countless challenges, and ultimately achieving their American dream. After a journey from Austria to Czechoslovakia, England, and America, Maria followed in her mother’s footsteps, earning a degree in chemistry at Vassar, then master’s and completion of doctoral coursework at Northwestern University. She married Ishier Jacobson, a Harvard engineer and U.S. Navy veteran. They settled in Stamford in 1954, where they stayed for the remainder of their lives. Ishier

retired as president and CEO of Citizens Utilities following a 36-year career there. Maria worked at the AMF research and development laboratory on Hope Street for 30 years. She also taught chemistry and physics at the UConn Stamford Campus. Jonathan Bohm Jacobson graduated from Rippowam High School, the University of Pennsylvania (BA), and Yale University (MBA). He will share the story of his mother and her family: how their escape, survival, and ultimate assimilation and success were the result of foresight, determination, hope, luck, and, perhaps most importantly, the kind help of others.

Please contact Professor Roden to register for attendance in-person or remotely (online) at frederick.roden@uconn.edu or 203-251-8559.

## THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

“The New Jewish Voice” (USPS #184) is published by the United Jewish Federation Inc.

2009 Summer Street, Suite 302 Stamford 06905.

[www.ujf.org](http://www.ujf.org) for updates and donations

Beverly Stein ..... President

Diane Sloyer ..... CEO

### Advisory Committee

Meryl Gordon ..... Chair

Allison Greenbaum, Meryl Japha, Arlene Rosen, Nancy

Schulman, Ellen Weber

### Jewish Link Media Group

The Jewish Link Media Group edits and publishes

The New Jewish Voice.

### Opinions

The views expressed in editorials and opinion pieces are those of each author and not necessarily the views of the United Jewish Federation.

### Letters

The New Jewish Voice welcomes letters on subjects of interest to the Jewish community. All letters must be signed and include a phone number. The editor may withhold the name upon request.

### Kashrut

We are not responsible for the Kashrut of any advertiser’s product or establishment.

### HOW TO REACH THE EDITOR:

**Mail:** Sandy Golove

United Jewish Federation

2009 Summer Street – Suite 302

Stamford, CT 06902

**E-mail:** [sandy@ujf.org](mailto:sandy@ujf.org) **Phone:** (203) 912-9945

Send article submissions via e-mail to

Sandy Golove at [sandy@ujf.org](mailto:sandy@ujf.org)

marked “Stamford Voice” in the subject

line. Expect an acknowledgment;

please re-send if you do not receive one.

### HOW TO REACH THE

### ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE:

### AARON GABERMAN

**Phone:** (203) 321-1373

**E-mail:** [aaron@ujf.org](mailto:aaron@ujf.org)

### SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION:

**Phone:** (203) 321-1373

**E-mail:** [sandy@ujf.org](mailto:sandy@ujf.org)

## JCRC NEWS

# Building Strategic Relationships

*(Courtesy of UJF)* United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) Director Gary Jones attended a legislative breakfast in Hartford. Gary, center, is pictured with Awet Tsegai, External Affairs Director for the House Majority Leader; Representative Mike Demicco; Eadie Pitino Associate Director of JCRC of Greater Hartford Jewish Federation; Senator Douglas McCrory; Heather Fiedler Vice President for Impact and Strategy of the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford; State Senator Matt Lesser; State Senator Derek Slap; and State Representative Christie Carpino.



# Hate Incident Reporting Instructions

**BY JAMES COMSTOCK, UJF DIRECTOR OF SECURITY**



James Comstock

*(Courtesy of UJF)* Our Jewish community is well aware that antisemitism has been growing nationally and locally over the last decade and even more so since the Hamas attacks on Israel of October 7, 2023. To respond to the rise in hate targeting the Jewish community and others, the State of Connecticut has recently established the Hate Crimes Investigative Unit to monitor, record and support local police in responding to hate crimes as well as bias incidents that do not technically qualify as hate crimes in Connecticut.

It is crucial we all do our part in making sure that all hate crimes and

bias incidents are reported to the police and to UJF Security Director Jim Comstock of CSI, the non-profit organization retained by UJF to protect the Jewish community and institutions in Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien.

You all have heard the saying “**If you see something, say something**”. I recommend a slight modification for the purposes of protecting the Jewish community in Connecticut. “**If you see or hear an antisemitic incident, report it to the police first, and then to CSI.**” Whether the incident is a physical attack, verbal abuse (including antisemitic epithets) or vandalism (including graffiti), report it immediately. It is important to understand that not all hateful incidents are illegal. However, all such incidents

must be reported to the police. Never assume that someone else will report the incident, and it is beneficial for multiple people to report if applicable.

**To report hate crimes or bias incidents, please do the following:**

1) For emergencies or if you are concerned about potential physical violence, call 911 immediately.

2) For non-emergency incidents, call 203-977-4444 in Stamford; 203-594-3500 in New Canaan and 203-662-5300 in Darien.

3) After speaking with police, please contact UJF’s Regional Security Director Jim Comstock by email at [comstockj@csiny.org](mailto:comstockj@csiny.org) or by phone at 203-321-1371, ext. 1006. Please copy [Dianesloyer@ujf.org](mailto:Dianesloyer@ujf.org) on these emails.

# Celebrating Tu BiShvat

(Courtesy of UJF) United Jewish Federation and Mem Global, under the leadership of UJF Shlichah Eden Refaelovich, came together for a special Tu BiShvat (New Year of the Trees). The evening was full of learning, creativity and fun.

Together, participants explored the meaning of Tu BiShvat through an interactive quiz, enjoyed tasting dried fruits, decorated plant pots, and planted seeds to take home.

This enjoyable and educational evening brought together holiday traditions, environmental awareness, and a sense of community.



Young adults design and plant their own pots for Tu BiShvat.



Tu BiShvat event participants (standing) Jocelyn Abrams, Micah Greenberg, Chelsea Gifford, Julia Linsner, Simon Fleger, Abby Litchfield, Kate Cykman, Bernie Vagnini, (seated) Jennie Fishman, Daniela Glaser, Schoke JFS Community Partnerships Manager Aubri Doughty, UJF Shlichah Eden Refaelovich, and Nellie Cole.

# Celebrating the Joy of Tu BiShvat

(Courtesy of UJF) UJF Community Shlichah Eden Refaelovich brought Tu BiShvat to children in the community with a fun and festive celebration. Together, they learned about the holiday - the birthday of the trees.

The children had a “birthday party” with blessings and dancing, learned how

Tu BiShvat is celebrated in Israel, read a story about Tu BiShvat in an Israeli preschool, and created Tu BiShvat baskets filled with fruits they made as a creative art project.

“It was a joyful and educational experience, full of holiday spirit, creativity, and lots of smiles!” shared Eden.



UJF Community Shlichah Eden Refaelovich and students at The JCC Sara Walker Preschool celebrate Tu BiShvat.

# PJ Library Celebrate Tu BiShvat

(Courtesy of UJF) PJ Library joined the Tu BiShvat celebration at Congregation Agudath Sholom, where children marked the birthday of the trees with hands-on fun. Kids decorated stones for the synagogue garden and designed their own potted plants to take home. The celebration also included a Tu BiShvat seder featuring a variety of fruits and a chocolate fondue treat.



Children’s decorated stones, created in honor of Tu BiShvat, now add a personal touch to the CAS garden.



Jillian Moore, Director of Programming and Engagement, and Eden Refaelovich, UJF Israeli Emissary, join children hard at work decorating pots at the Tu BiShvat celebration at CAS.

# Generations Come Together

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Chabad of Stamford held a beautiful Tu BiShvat celebration lunch, where different generations came together to honor the Jewish New Year of the Trees, a holiday “rooted” in growth, renewal, and continuity, with music and entertainment from the children of Gan Yeladim.



*Our Community is Full...of Life.*  
**JOIN THE WAITLIST TODAY!**



Opening in 2027, Mozaic Concierge Living is a premier Life Plan Community designed for those who expect the finest in retirement living.

Construction is underway – and every one of our 164 residences has already been reserved.

To learn more or secure a place on our waitlist, schedule a personal appointment with our Residency Counselors: 203-396-1140 or [info@mozaiccl.org](mailto:info@mozaiccl.org).

[mozaicconciergeliving.org](http://mozaicconciergeliving.org)

**MOZAIC** Concierge Living  
 Life with Community



Welcome Center located at 260 Long Ridge Road, Suite C-160, Stamford, CT 06902

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





## Temple Sinai Gifts Mishloach Manot



The Temple Sinai Mishloach Manot Team

(Courtesy of Temple Sinai) Purim is fast approaching, and Temple Sinai is gearing up to celebrate with a 7-year tradition—assembling gift bags full of sweets for each and every member of its congregation and delivering them directly to their homes. Managed by Larry Stoogenke, Director of Congregational Engagement, and Shelly Welfeld, Director of Operations, the effort is otherwise completely executed by volunteers. Mishloach Manot, the gifting of different foods, is a small gesture, one that cements community within the congregation, but it also takes a massive collective endeavor by the Sinai family to pull off.

The funding for Mishloach Manot is usually offset entirely by congregant donations, further demonstrating the love people have

for their community. Congregants are given the option to sponsor bags for specific families or the entire congregation. This year, 450 bags will be assembled by intergenerational volunteers. The variety of ages participating in this effort is both intentional and important. Each step of this process is designed to encourage connection.

This year, Sinai is adding a new wrinkle to their Mishloach Manot. In order to fulfill a vital mitzvah of Purim, *Matanot L'Evyonim* or giving to the poor, two nickels will be added in the bag along with a notecard that encourages congregants to give to those in need. While Mishloach Manot is strengthening Sinai's community within their own congregation, they note that their community isn't limited to the walls of the synagogue.

Once the bags are packed, 45 volunteer drivers will personally deliver them to every single congregant's home. But they won't just be dropping off on stoops or mailboxes. They're instructed to knock on doors and ring doorbells, to have face-to-face conversations. If the drivers have children, they are encouraged to bring them. Not only does it bring extra delight to the recipients, especially the elderly, but it also teaches kids the power of giving. According to Stoogenke, "When you have a ten year old delivering to a 90 year old, it's a perfect representation of spanning the generations."

Of course, not all of Sinai's congregants are local, but that doesn't mean they have to miss out. Mishloach Manot bags are sent out across the country to places like

Florida, New York City, Illinois, Michigan, and Massachusetts. Even if they can't get the face-to-face interaction, Sinai still wants to make sure their family members living long distance feel equally included and loved.

The feedback from the congregation for Mishloach Manot is unanimous and emphatic. Stoogenke says, "Every personal touch makes a difference, fosters a sense of community, a sense of belonging, that fits into our mission." In past years, Sinai has received numerous letters and emails from both recipients AND drivers about how meaningful these exchanges have been. Stoogenke considers this one of the most powerful connecting points for the entire congregation. He goes on to say, "This is a big moment for Sinai."



Sinai congregants assemble Mishloach Manot bags.

## Purim Character Breakfast Comes to TBE

(Courtesy of Temple Beth El) This year, Temple Beth El's (TBE's) Young Families Committee is reimagining how the community celebrates Purim. In place of its traditional Purim carnival, the synagogue will host its first-ever "Purim Character Breakfast" on Sunday, February 22 at 9:30 am, welcoming families from across the community—especially those with younger children—for a joyful, festive morning.

Designed with families and children up to age ten in mind, the Purim Character Breakfast offers a warm, manageable alternative to the high-energy carnival model while preserving everything that makes Purim such a beloved holiday. The morning will feature a kid-friendly breakfast, hands-on crafts, a photobooth, and other fun

activities. Adding an extra dose of magic, children will have the chance to meet costumed characters including Elsa, Anna, Spidey, and Batman, ready to pose for photos and spread Purim cheer.

Purim is known for its costumes, silliness, and sense of joyful surprise, and the Character Breakfast embraces those traditions in a format especially suited to younger kids. This is the first time Temple Beth El has hosted an event like this, and organizers hope it will create an inclusive, welcoming space where families can slow down, celebrate together, and feel at home.

The event is chaired by Rachel Sackman and Emma Adler, both parents of three young children. For Sackman, the inspiration was deeply personal. "I wanted to plan something I knew my kids would

love," she said. Adler, who sits on Temple Beth El's Board of Trustees, echoed that sentiment, emphasizing the intentional focus on younger families. "We wanted to try something new, especially for younger kids," said Adler, a mom of three children under five. "This felt like a fun and accessible way for families to celebrate Purim together."

Beyond the activities themselves, the breakfast reflects Temple Beth El's broader commitment to building Jewish community through programming that meets families where they are. The Purim Character Breakfast is open to the entire community, not just synagogue members, offering an opportunity for families to connect through Jewish life in a relaxed, joyful setting.

The cost to attend is \$18 per person, with a maximum of \$54 per family,

making it an affordable option for families seeking a meaningful and memorable Purim celebration. The Young Families Committee—also known as TeeBeEs—receives support from the United Jewish Federation, which also supports the synagogue's popular First Friday Tot Shabbat series.

As Temple Beth El experiments with new ways to mark Jewish holidays, the Purim Character Breakfast represents both creativity and continuity—honoring the spirit of Purim while adapting to the needs of today's families. For parents and children alike, February 22 promises a morning filled with laughter, connection, and a little bit of Purim magic.

## Upcoming Celebrations With Chabad @ Harbor Point

(Courtesy of Chabad at Harbor Point) Chabad at Harbor Point will host Megillah readings and a Purim feast on Purim, bringing the joy and meaning of the holiday to the community. If you

or someone you know is homebound - or would love a Purim visit at home or the office - Chabad @ Harbor Point is happy to bring Mishloach Manot, L'chaim, warmth, and a Megillah

reading to you.

Join Chabad @ Harbor Point for uplifting Passover Seders filled with song, engaging discussion, and delicious food for all ages on Wednesday,

April 1 at 7:00 pm, and Thursday, April 2 at 7:00 pm.

For more information and registration, call or text Levi Deren at 203-912-7708. Locations provided upon RSVP.

## Carrying on Passover Traditions through Cooking



BY RONNIE FEIN

It's comforting and reassuring to carry on traditions. It keeps us grounded in Jewish culture, it conjures pleasant memories and helps us feel the endurance of our tribe.

For me, one of the most satisfying ways of carrying on Jewish tradition is by preparing classic Ashkenazi food. Sure, most of the time for everyday meals I cook "contemporary American food." But when it comes to the holidays I always include the recipes handed down to me by my mother and grandmothers.

That doesn't mean I cook the recipes exactly the same way they did. I actually think that updating a classic Jewish recipe is a good way to make sure it endures.

One good example is my grandma's "kumput." This dish - stewed, dried fruit compote - was once a staple in Ashkenazi homes, especially for Passover. Most everybody's grandma made it with prunes (now sold as dried plums) because prunes were cheap and available. Occasionally, my grandma included some dried apricots. Add some water, a few slices of lemon and that was that.

Years ago I decided to update this classic to make it more appealing to my family. That meant using a variety of dried fruit. Fortunately, these days, it's easy to find dried figs, dates, mango, cherries and lots more.

I've changed my grandma's recipe in other ways too. Very often I use fruit juice or wine rather than water and usually include some seasoning other than lemon (cinnamon, crystallized ginger, vanilla bean, cardamom pods, etc.). I often leave out a sweetener but sometimes include honey or maple syrup.

The point is that I learned the basics of

Ashkenazi stewed fruit, and that's the classic dish I make, even though it's ever changing based on my mood and also what I have in the house.

The recipe below would be a delicious choice for Passover. Eat it for dessert at the Seder or serve it for breakfast with oatmeal or yogurt. It's a classic, albeit an updated one. Not exactly grandma's, but I think of her every time I make one version or other.

### DRIED FRUIT COMPOTE

- 2 cups orange juice
- 1-1/2 cups water
- 1/4 cup honey, optional
- 1 3" cinnamon stick
- 12 whole cloves
- 2 pieces of orange peel, each about 2-inches long
- 12 prunes
- 8-10 whole dried figs, cut in half
- 1 cup dried cherries, blueberries, raisins or cranberries
- 1 cup dried apricot halves or pieces of dried mango

Place the juice, water, honey, cinnamon stick, cloves and orange peel in a saucepan large enough to hold all the dried fruit. Bring to a boil over high heat. Turn the heat to medium-low and simmer for 15 minutes. Add the fruit and simmer another 18-20 minutes or until the fruit is soft. Let the fruit cool in the pan. The sauce will thicken as the fruit absorbs some of it. Discard the cinnamon stick (you won't find the cloves). Serve with the poaching liquid.

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](http://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).

## From Matzah to Seders: A Full Passover Experience

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) As Passover approaches, Chabad of Stamford is once again serving as a one-stop resource for a meaningful, accessible, and joyful Pesach observance. With a full slate of educational programs, hands-on experiences, communal celebrations, and essential holiday services, Chabad of Stamford is making it easier for individuals and families to prepare for and celebrate Passover with confidence and connection.

The season begins on Sunday, March 15, with Chabad's annual Family Model Matzah Bake at 10:00 am at 770 High Ridge Road. This popular interactive program invites children and parents to step back in time and experience the age-old process of baking matzah, a central element of the Passover Seder. Families have the chance to make their very own *shmurah matzah* (guarded matzah), and through stories and dress up and hands-on participation, they gain a deeper appreciation for the traditions that define the holiday.

Morah Leah encourages all participants to "roll up your sleeves and join the fun, mix, shape, and bake while discovering the careful, sacred process behind authentic handmade matzah. It's an engaging way for families to connect with the rich customs of Pesach and create lasting memories together."

"Our goal is to bring the community closer to the tradition of *shmurah matzah*, showing that learning about Pesach can be both meaningful and fun," explains Rabbi Moshe Shemtov, Director of Chabad of Stamford.

Next, on Sunday, March 29, Chabad will host a teen Party Bus, offering local teens in grades 9-12 a creative and energetic way to engage with Passover through their CTeen program. The event combines fun, games, and bonding with the meaningful mitzvah of delivering *shmurah matzah* to community members throughout Stamford.

To help ensure every Seder is complete,

Chabad is also making *shmurah matzah* available for purchase and assisting community members with the sale of *chametz*, an essential pre-Passover ritual. In addition, the community is also encouraged to participate in *Maos Chitim*, a time-honored *tzedakah* (charitable) initiative that provides food and holiday support to those in need.

For those seeking a deeply meaningful (and delicious) communal celebration, Chabad of Stamford will host traditional Passover Seders on both nights of the holiday, April 1 and April 2, beginning at 7:00 pm. These Seders offer a warm, inclusive and interactive environment, complete with delicious classic Passover cuisine, an elegant setting, meaningful insights, and engaging discussion designed for participants of all backgrounds.

For the seventh consecutive year, Chabad will also offer Seder-to-Go kits for families and individuals who wish to host their own Seder at home. Each kit includes handmade *shmurah matzah*, wine or grape juice, a thoughtfully designed interactive Haggadah, and all the essentials for the Seder plate, removing the stress and simplifying preparation.

Finally, for those wishing to close out the holiday in a meaningful and celebratory fashion, Chabad invites the community to join them for a traditional "Moshiach Seudah" meal on the last day of Pesach, Thursday, April 9 at 7:00 pm. This beautiful custom was instituted by the Baal Shem Tov, founder of Chassidus, who taught that just as we strengthen our connection to the Exodus by eating matzah, we strengthen our connection to the final redemption by having a special *seudah* (festive meal) on the last day of Pesach.

For more information, to register for events, or to order Passover essentials, visit [www.stamfordchabad.org/Pesach](http://www.stamfordchabad.org/Pesach), call 203-324-2223 ext. 103, or email [programs@stamfordchabad.org](mailto:programs@stamfordchabad.org).

## Congregation Agudath Sholom Prepares for Passover

(Courtesy of Congregation Agudath Sholom) As Passover approaches, Congregation Agudath Sholom (CAS) is offering a full slate of opportunities to help families prepare for the holiday with learning, community engagement, and meaningful connection to Israel.

The season begins with the CAS Men's Club Passover Fair on Sunday, March 8, 2026,

from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. The fair will feature a range of vendors selling Passover-related wares, making it a convenient one-stop opportunity to prepare homes and seder tables for the holiday while supporting communal programming.

In the weeks leading up to Passover, CAS

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11



# Magic Meets Meaning



UJF Community Shlichah, Eden Refaelovich, with MEM Global Disney World retreat participants Jen and Ben Litwin, Shana Rose, and David Pasmanik.

(Courtesy of UJF) UJF Community Shlichah, Eden Refaelovich, joined 32 Jewish young adults from across North America for the MEM Global Disney World Retreat in Orlando, Florida, exploring Disney through Judaism. Participants were all Mem Global “hosts” in their respective communities and attended this retreat to learn new ideas and explore initiatives to bring back to their communities to enrich and engage more young adults in Jewish life.

During the weekend, they learned about Jewish rituals, focusing on concepts such as *Halakhah* (Jewish Law), *Mitzvah* (Commandment), *Minhag* (Custom), *Keva* (Routine), *Kavanah* (Intention), *L'dor V'dor* (From Generation to Generation), and *Talmud Torah* (the Study of Torah).

“At first, I was skeptical - how could Disney World possibly connect to Judaism?” shared Eden. “But the moment I arrived, I started noticing Judaism in everything:



UJF Community Shlichah, Eden Refaelovich (standing, 5th from right), joined 32 Jewish young adults for the MEM Global Disney World retreat.

every ritual, every background sound, even the rides. And then I realized - it really is the most magical place in the world. We returned from the retreat with so many new experiences, new friends, and, most importantly, a deeper understanding of ourselves and our Jewish identity.”

“I’m so grateful to have been part of this retreat, and I highly recommend that anyone

visiting Disney with their kids try to see it through a Jewish lens. It completely adds to the experience and makes it both fun and meaningful,” Eden continued.

Mem Global, formally known as Moishe House, is a global organization fostering peer-led Jewish community for adults in their 20s and 30s.



**PRESENTS:**



## Cocktails for a Cause

Sip, socialize, and support a cause at Cocktails for a Cause. Enjoy handcrafted cocktails, tarot card readings, and discover meaningful ways to give back with UJF's Women's Philanthropy- featuring 3Square, Dignity Grows, David's Treasure Tree, Aaron's Place, Reading Partners, and more!

**THURSDAY, MARCH 5**  
7:30-9:30PM  
WORKPOINT, 290 HARBOR DRIVE, STAMFORD

Early bird pricing is \$54/person. Price increases to \$65/person after 2/19. For more information visit [UJF.org](http://UJF.org) or email [Jillian@ujf.org](mailto:Jillian@ujf.org).

Event chairs:  
Tara Shapiro, Marlene Gatz,  
Jill Kaplan, Robin Madan, Alix Field,  
Nancy Fahey, and Lisa Popper

[UJF.org/Cocktails](http://UJF.org/Cocktails)

## TBE Invites You to Mark Your Calendars

(Courtesy of Temple Beth Beth El) Save the date for Temple Beth El's (TBE's) annual Norma and Milton Mann Memorial Cantor's Concert - "Od Yom Yavo / Another Day Will Come," an inspiring evening of Jewish music, community, and hope featuring Noah Aronson and Friends.

The concert will take place Sunday, April 26 at 7:00 pm at Temple Beth El.

This year's program features renowned Jewish composer and performer Noah Aronson, whose music—blending spiritual depth, contemporary sound, and heartfelt

connection—has become a beloved part of synagogue life, camps, and concert halls around the world.

The evening will also showcase a meaningful collaboration with Temple Beth El's own Cantor Katie Kaplan, whose expressive voice and musical leadership bring warmth, soul, and community to every performance. Together, Noah and Cantor Katie promise a powerful and uplifting musical experience.

For ticket information, please call 203-322-6901.

### Rebuilding Israel Together: Reflections From the Ruby Lion Mission

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2



(l-r) UJF President Beverly Stein, CEO Diane Sloyer, Nancy Mimoun, and Linda Spilka with the Old City in the background on the Lion of Judah Mission.

## Volunteer Families Bake Challah with Friendship Circle

(Courtesy of Friendship Circle) On Sunday evening January 11, close to 50 people gathered at the Nerenberg family home for a Friendship Circle Challah Bake that included volunteers and their parents. Rochel Shmotkin led the event, explaining about the *mitzvah* (commandment) of making challah. Participants measured, mixed and kneaded their own individual challah dough. After it was shaped, everyone had the opportunity to paint the dough with fun food-safe coloring.

In one of the highlights of the evening, Todd Palker spoke about what the Friendship Circle means to his family. Participants also played “guessing the giant challah weight.” It was 6.5 pounds, and the winner was able to take it home. Each participant left with their challahs to bake and enjoy at home.

To learn how to become involved in the Friendship Circle, please email Director Malya Shmotkin at [malya@friendshipct.com](mailto:malya@friendshipct.com).



Volunteer Evie Nerenberg with baked challah.



Jane Levine and son Harrison Tronick.



Volunteer families prepare to bake challah.

## Former Local Israeli Soldiers Visit JScouts

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) This month, Chabad of Stamford’s JScouts Mitzvah Club “troops” were powerfully inspired as three former local IDF soldiers led an IDF-style bootcamp training, followed by hands-on mitzvah projects, woodworking with Hebrew letters, and learning how to make Israeli-style pickles.



## Young Professionals Shabbaton in New York

(Courtesy of Chabad at Harbor Point) In January, a delegation of young Jewish professionals from Stamford joined over 1,000 peers from across the U.S. for an unforgettable, high-energy weekend in New York that blended inspiration, connection, and fun. From a lively Friday night cocktail hour to a Saturday night live concert, the summit buzzed with good vibes and big conversations. Highlights included the largest in-person Jewish speed-dating event ever, plus world-class speakers diving into relationships, career growth, and finding real purpose.



Delegation from Stamford join the Chabad Young Professionals Shabbaton in Brooklyn.

The weekend also offered powerful, uniquely Jewish experiences: a warm Shabbat meal hosted by a Hasidic family in Brooklyn, a walking tour of Crown Heights with local shopping, and a deeply moving Shabbat spent with Elia, who miraculously survived 505 days in Gaza, alongside his girlfriend. The journey wrapped up with a special visit to pray at the Rebbe’s Ohel (the resting place of the Lubavitcher Rebbe,) leaving participants energized, connected, and proud to be part of something much bigger.



**20 YEARS IN BUSINESS**

**Highest Quality & Most Trusted Transportation Service**

- All Major Tri-State Area Airports
- Weddings, Groups & Convention Transportation
- Worldwide Ground Transportation

- Executive Car Services
- Reliable, On-time Services with Professional Chauffeurs
- Business Meetings and Special Events with On Site Coordinators



**Fabian Fustini**  
President



Mercedes-Benz Sprinter Van

**203.564.9391 | [www.HighClassLimoCT.com](http://www.HighClassLimoCT.com) | [reservations@highclasslimoct.com](mailto:reservations@highclasslimoct.com)**



**Modern fleet of vehicles including Volvos, Suburbans and Genesis G90s**  
Vans, Party Buses and Motor Coaches available



**20 YEARS IN BUSINESS**

**\$50 OFF**  
Round Trip  
WHEN YOU BOOK ONLINE  
NEW CLIENTS ONLY  
Not valid with any previous bookings.  
One offer per family.

**\$20 OFF**  
One Way Trip  
WHEN YOU BOOK ONLINE  
NEW CLIENTS ONLY  
Not valid with any previous bookings.  
One offer per family.

## Some of Fairfield County's First Jewish Inhabitants

(Courtesy of Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County) Jewish immigration during the colonial era was driven by a desire to escape restrictive European laws, discrimination, pogroms and victimization. The first known Jew to arrive in America with the intent to settle was Jacob Barsimon who arrived in New Amsterdam (now New York City) on August 22, 1654, from the Netherlands. Barsimon was succeeded by a party of 23 Jews from Recife, Brazil in September, 1654, escaping the Portuguese reconquest thereof and the reinstatement of the Inquisition.

So, who were those first Jews who settled in Fairfield County, Connecticut?

The First President of the Stamford Jewish Historical Society, now the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County, Irwin J. Miller, was obsessed with the identities of the first Jewish settlers in the area. In 1984 Miller wrote on Stamford Jewry and its origins, "When I first arrived in Stamford, I soon learned that almost any Stamford native of the Jewish faith that I encountered, had an uncle somewhere along the line, who was supposed to have been the first Jewish settler in their town. What made it so difficult to confirm or refute was the

lack of any history, old papers, or early Congregational records relating to the Jews of this area. ..."

As we approach the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the enactment of our Declaration of Independence, dated July 4, 1776, we must realize that Jewish residence in Fairfield County predated said Declaration.

### STAMFORD

1698: Moses Levy purchased a slave, Dina, owned by Mary Holt Turney whose son Samuel Hoyt built the Hoyt-Barnum House on Bedford Street (now at the Stamford Historical Society on High Ridge Road) in 1699.

1721: Jewish Merchant Nehemiah Marks pleaded for more time to pay his New York Jewish Supplier, Nathan Simson, for goods, claiming that local farmers were unable to pay their charges due to a poor harvest.

1728: Jacob Hart was listed as a merchant in Stamford and by 1738 he had become the town's fifth largest tax payer. In 1732, Hart purchased a "mansion house" on Main Street. He then leased a house and two grist mills on the Goodwives River in Darien in 1737. In 1739, Hart purchased a house on two acres near the Mill River Bridge. This property became a "way station" for

Abraham L. Abrahams, an itinerant mohel traversing between New York and Newport, Rhode Island in 1758. In 1748 Jacob Hart and Esther Levy welcomed the first Jewish child born in Stamford. They would also have two more Stamford born children. In 1760, Jacob Hart bought a house and land on the Post Road east of the Noroton River in Darien. In 1763, after over 35 years in Stamford, the Harts moved to Newport, Rhode Island to join his brother and become members of the Truro Synagogue.

1746: Another merchant, Samuel Levy and his wife Miriam resided in Stamford.

During the Revolutionary War era (1776-1783) Isaac Pinto, a former Stratford merchant (1749) and Translator of the First English High Holy Day prayer book in America (1761) and an English Siddur in 1766 resided in Stamford. His father Abraham Pinto was listed as a Jewish Merchant and taxpayer in Derby (1718). Two of his brothers were the first Jewish residents of New Haven.

### FAIRFIELD

1718: A Polish Jew and Merchant, Andris Truby (Trubee, Trube) settled in Fairfield. The New York Jew, Nathan Simson, who supplied goods to Nehemiah Marks, also supplied merchandise to Andris Truby. Truby was a member of Shearith Israel in Manhattan until 1729. Irwin J. Miller stated, "His descendants remain in Fairfield and are now scattered across the USA."

### NORWALK

1725: Ralph Isaacs, a former employee of Andris Truby in Fairfield becomes the first Jew to settle in Norwalk. In 1758, Isaacs was listed as the Executor of the Truby estate.

1746: Michel Judah, a schochet, settled in Norwalk after borrowing five pounds "lawful money" from Shearith Israel. Judah's 1786 will listed a "killing knife" as an asset.

1756: The mohel Abraham I. Abrahams recorded the circumcision of Michel Judah's son David in Norwalk.

During the Revolutionary War era, the noted Silversmith, Myer Myers, resided in Norwalk until the British torched the town in 1779. He then relocated to Stratford.

### GREENWICH

1728: Abraham Hayes of Rye probably became the first Jew to settle in Greenwich and purchased property in Cos Cob.

1734: Jacob Hayes of Rye referred to as Rabbi Hayes purchased the Bush-Holley house on Cos Cob Harbor and sold it to his brother David in 1735 before buying it back in 1736. In 1737, he sold the property to the DeMille brothers.

During the revolutionary period other Jews settled in Stamford, Norwalk, Wilton and Stratford. Members of the Cardozo, Mears and Simson families resided in Wilton and Darby.

The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County will provide and share the stories of other Jews in the county in further editions of the *New Jewish Voice*.



## From The Shlichah's Kitchen

### Shakshuka

★★★★★

**Ingredients:**

- Olive oil
- 4 cloves of garlic, finely chopped
- 5 crushed tomatoes
- Optional: 2 bell peppers, chopped
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 1 teaspoon sweet paprika
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon sugar
- ½ teaspoon black pepper
- 5 eggs
- Chopped parsley, for garnish
- Feta cheese

**How to make:**

1. Heat olive oil in a pan and lightly sauté the garlic (do not burn it).
2. Add the crushed tomatoes to the pan, along with the bell peppers, if using. Once they have reduced slightly, add the tomato paste and the spices.
3. If you want it spicy, add the spicy ingredient at this stage.
4. Stir everything together and let it simmer on low to medium heat without covering the pan.
5. Once the sauce has thickened, make small wells in the sauce and carefully add the eggs. Cook the eggs to your desired doneness.
6. Sprinkle chopped parsley on top.
7. At the end, you can add feta cheese on the plate - it adds a lot of flavor!

**TIP**

- If you like it spicy, you can add spicy paprika or chili powder.
- Best enjoyed with bread!



BON APPÉTIT

תאריך

RECOMMENDED

## Chabad of Stamford Launches a Daily Minyan



(l-r) Alex Tannenbaum, Radik Sendersky, Nathan Links, Rabbi Moshe Shemtov, and Matt Gordon gather around the Torah at Chabad of Stamford's newly launched daily minyan.

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Chabad of Stamford is excited to introduce a daily minyan at 770 High Ridge Road. The community is invited to join morning services at 6:30 am (8:00 am on Sundays), as well as Mincha and Maariv daily. Come for the prayers, stay for the coffee cart and good schmoozing. Sunday mornings also feature Living Torah and Rambam classes.

This daily minyan was established with the needs of their community in mind, including providing a place to ensure Kaddish can be recited for loved ones. If anyone is in need of someone to say Kaddish on their behalf, or for more information, please email [programs@stamfordchabad.org](mailto:programs@stamfordchabad.org) or call 203-3-CHABAD.

# Tax-Smart Giving: Using Your IRA to Make Charitable Contributions

BY ERIC ROSS,  
UJF DEPUTY DIRECTOR

As we step into 2026, it is time to start thinking intentionally about charitable giving for the year ahead. While writing a check or donating cash may feel like the easiest option, there's a powerful – and often overlooked – way to give that could benefit both the causes that you care about and your financial standing.

If you are age 70 ½ or older and own an Individual Retirement Account (IRA), you may want to consider using your IRA to support United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien (UJF), or any IRS-qualified 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Through a strategy known as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) – sometimes called an IRA Charitable Rollover – you can make a direct gift from your IRA to a charity without the distribution ever counting as taxable income.

Here's what matters: instead of withdrawing funds, paying income taxes, and then donating the remainder, a QCD allows your IRA custodian or broker to send the gift straight to the charity. The result? You avoid potential income taxes and support meaningful work in a tax-smart way. It's a simple, efficient approach to giving tzedakah that

can stretch the impact of your generosity.

There's an added benefit for donors age 73 and older. Your QCD can count toward your annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), reducing the amount you're required to take as taxable income for the year – while still fulfilling your charitable goals.

For 2026, individuals can donate up to \$111,000 through an IRA QCD (or \$222,000 for married couples). If philanthropy is part of your New Year planning, this strategy may be a meaningful way to give more intentionally and effectively.

**KEY TAKEAWAYS:**

- Donors age 70 ½ may make a QCD directly from your IRA to United Jewish Federation
- Beginning in the year you turn 73, the QCD can be used to satisfy some or all your RMD
- The entire amount of your gift goes to UJF and you pay no income tax on the funds
- You can use a QCD to make new gifts or to pay pledges to UJF
- Since QCDs do not qualify as charitable income tax deductions, using your IRA is an attractive option if you don't itemize your deductions and instead use the standard deduction on your tax return

## Congregation Agudath Sholom Prepares for Passover

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

will host a series of classes focused on both the meaning and the laws of the holiday. Led by Rabbi Cohen and Rabbi Roberts, these sessions are designed to help participants deepen their understanding of the Exodus story while gaining practical halachic guidance for Passover observance.

Passover preparation will continue with a Men's Seder Prep night on Monday, March 23, at Six Thirteen restaurant. Local rabbis will share short, accessible ideas that participants can bring directly to their seder tables, making it an evening of practical learning and communal connection.

The shul is once again facilitating access to special matzah that directly supports a community in southern Israel. Shlomit is a small agricultural community near the borders of Egypt and Gaza that has, over the past fifteen years, transformed desert land into

a flourishing place to live. Recently, Shlomit invested in establishing a matzah bakery, producing handmade *shemurah* matzah called "Emunah Matzah," prepared by community members under the highest standards of supervision. Although the war forced the community's evacuation after October 7, volunteers returned early to ensure matzah production could continue. Ordering this matzah offers a tangible way to support resilience and renewal in Israel. Those interested in ordering are encouraged to visit [cas-stamford.org](http://cas-stamford.org).

Through shopping, learning, and meaningful support of Israel, Congregation Agudath Sholom invites the community to enter Passover prepared, inspired, and connected to the broader Jewish story.

For more information, contact Rabbi Daniel Cohen, Rabbi Aryeh Roberts or visit [www.cas-stamford.org](http://www.cas-stamford.org).



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

THE CALENDAR CONTINUES TO BE IMPORTANT TO AVOID CONFLICTS.

[WWW.UJF.ORG](http://WWW.UJF.ORG)  
QUESTIONS? EMAIL [TALY@UJF.ORG](mailto:TALY@UJF.ORG)




Join United Jewish Federation's Jewish Community Relations Council, in partnership with the Interfaith Council of Southwestern CT, the Mayor's Multicultural Council, and UConn Hillel, for a special Interfaith Seder.

# INTERFAITH SEDER



## UNITING OUR COMMUNITY

Led by Rabbi Jay TelRav and Reverend Mark Lingle

### Thursday, March 26, 6:30 pm

Temple Sinai  
458 Lakeside Drive, Stamford, CT

**The event is open to all**

Using a specially designed Haggadah (the traditional narrative), the themes of the Seder will include unity among varied cultures, backgrounds, and faiths. Guests will enjoy traditional seder foods and light refreshments.

Registration: \$18  
Dietary laws observed

[www.ujf.org/seder](http://www.ujf.org/seder)






## 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](http://www.ujf.org/aaronsplace)**

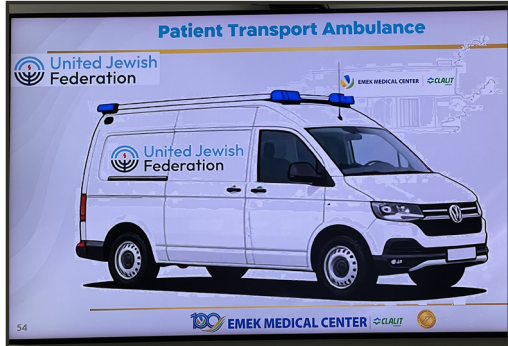
Aaron's place is a project supported by the United Jewish Federation, the Sichel Family, Stamford Hospital, and private donations.

# Investing in the Future of Our Jewish Community

United Jewish Federation is nurturing the next generation of community leaders. In mid-January, nine local participants took part in ATID—meaning “future” in Hebrew—a powerful leadership mission that explored Federation’s global impact. Over four and a half transformative days, these emerging leaders witnessed firsthand how the collective efforts of Jewish Federations of North America, and United Jewish Federation, impacts Jewish life overseas.



A visit to JDC-Eshel, showed how Israel is using technology to provide companionship to isolated homebound elderly.



A transport ambulance was dedicated to the Emek Medical Center in Afula, UJF’s partnership city. This was made possible by generous donors to Israel’s emergency campaign.



ATID participants engage in a reflection conversation on Leadership with Scott Copeland, Executive VP and Director of Education, J2 Adventures.



The Nova Music Festival memorial site, located at the Re'im forest in southern Israel, is a sprawling, unified, and evolving memorial. Established to honor the nearly 400 people killed on October 7, 2023, it features hundreds of personal shrines, photos, and memorials. Pictured Hersh Goldberg Polin’s memorial.



Far right, Avi, father of Noa Marchiano z'l, shares the details of Noa’s abduction and ultimate murder in Gaza.



A tour and briefing on Geha Mental Health Center in Petach Tikvah, gave participants an insight into the enormous mental health crisis in Israel.



Long time community leader, Claude Bernstein, hosted mission participants at Jordan River Village, part of Paul Newman’s Hole in the Wall Gang camp network. Jordan River Village is where Israel’s children living with serious illness and disability find joy, strength, and life-changing experiences that help them heal, grow, and build a brighter future.



Learning to roll grape leaves as part of a cooking workshop and dinner in Daliyat al-Karmel, a Druze town located on Mount Carmel in the Haifa District of Israel.



Nava Ulmer enjoying the petting zoo at the Emunah Children’s home in Afula.



After an interactive cooking workshop, mission participants enjoyed a delicious kosher dinner in the home of Amira and Waggii, a Druze family home in Daliyat al-Karmel.



Finding time to give back at Metzilot Mazon – Food Rescuers, a grassroots organization with a big mission: saving fruits and vegetables from going to waste and getting them into the hands (and kitchens) of those who need them most.



Robin Fischel, Lee Soffer, Beverly Stein, and Shushannah Walshe master the art of rolling grape leaves.



Participating in the daily ceremony at the National Memorial Hall for Israel's Fallen on Mount Herzl, Jerusalem, a dedicated space commemorating all fallen soldiers and victims of terrorism from 1860 to the present. It features a 250-meter-long spiral "Wall of Names" made of 23,000+ engraved bricks, illuminated on each anniversary of death.



The Jewish Agency for Israel's Fund for Victims of Terror (VOT) is emergency aid for those in dire need. To help survivors in the wake of tragedy, they provide financial assistance in as quickly as 48 hours in addition to ongoing care to get individuals and families on the road to recovery. Center is former Knesset member Ayelet Nahmias-Verbin who heads the VOT fund, Diane Sloyer, recipient Yahel, and Beverly Stein.



Diane Sloyer and Beverly Stein received a plaque from Emek Medical Center CEO Dr. Maor Maman for UJF's generous support of the Hospital.



Learning about and understanding the religions and cultures that create the Israeli mosaic by meeting with Doris Hiffawi, a Christian Arab living in Jaffa. (l-r) Beverly Stein, Lee Soffer, Shira Schwartz, Elina Furman, Nava Ulmer, Doris Hiffawi, Robin Fischel, Shushannah Walshe, Robert Hoff, Diane Sloyer.



Standing at the memorial created in memory of the female IDF soldiers killed at the Nir Oz Army Base. (l-r) Nava Ulmer, Elina Furman, Shira Schwartz, Sigal Price (mom of murdered Noa Price z'l), Diane Sloyer, Shushannah Walshe, Robin Fischel, Lee Soffer, Robert Hoff, Beverly Stein.

## A Week in Israel

BY ROBERT HOFF

I spent a week in Israel recently. I traveled without my family, and while I missed them deeply, I was able to be fully present in a way I hadn't been on past trips. I had time to really look, listen, think, and feel—to take in the country and, most importantly, its people. I learned a great deal.

The trip began with a peaceful Shabbat in Jerusalem—always a great way to start a trip to Israel. Right away, I was struck by the diversity of the types of Jews observing Shabbat. Walking to and attending shul Friday night, walking Jaffa Street and the Old City on a Shabbat afternoon walk, and seeing into the open windows and terraces of peoples' Shabbat meals, I saw a more kaleidoscopic representation of Jewish and non-Jewish people than we typically see here in America. I saw a robust, colorful mix of modern and traditional clothing, ethnicities from all over the world, and a multicultural mélange of food that all represented what makes Jerusalem a uniquely holy city for so many.

On Sunday, I traveled to the Netanya area for the wedding of the son of dear friends. That evening was deeply meaningful. I was overwhelmed witnessing joy from a new perspective—through the eyes of dozens of young adults who had spent the past several years serving in the IDF, carrying responsibilities and risks most people their age never face. These are the young men and women who helped save Israel and the Jewish people. If they are the future of the Jewish people, then that future is in strong hands.

From the moment the ceremony began through the all-night, high-energy dancing, their faces reflected a pure, almost trance-like happiness. It felt as though they were releasing years of fear, pressure, and stress, transforming it—if only for one night—into unfiltered celebration. It was extraordinary to witness.

On Monday, following the high of the wedding, I joined a small but determined group on a four-day mission, ATID (future) led by Diane Sloyer, CEO of United Jewish Federation. Each day brought visits to locations and programs supported by our charitable dollars—places where help is delivered quietly and consistently to people who need it. But the first day began with visits to sites connected to the October 7, 2023 terror attacks.

At Nahal Oz military base, one of the earliest targets, we saw the burned-out command center, bullet holes still marking the walls. We stood in a bomb shelter where young women were killed, and where others were held for hours—injured, bound, and forced to remain beside the bodies of their friends. We listened to parents describe the loss of daughters

who were killed on October 7 or later in captivity. No words can adequately convey the weight of standing in those places and hearing their stories.

From there, we went to Kibbutz Alumim and then to the site of the Nova music festival. Again, we stood on ground forever changed. We read names, saw faces, and learned stories. I couldn't stop thinking about how many of the lives destroyed that day belonged to people who believed deeply in peace and coexistence. Many kibbutz residents were active advocates for dialogue. Many of the young people at the festival were there simply to dance, to be outdoors, to celebrate life.

The stories shared about those killed spoke repeatedly of openness—of love for people across backgrounds and beliefs. Their photos showed joy, curiosity, and a connection to nature and community. They were, simply, humans who cared about other humans. It is a painful irony that many who might have been voices for peace were among the first lost. That loss represents not only lives cut short, but possibilities erased.

In the days that followed, we visited programs supported by Federation funds that serve Israelis of all religions and backgrounds—Jewish, Muslim, Christian, religious and secular. We saw affordable housing centers for seniors; hospitals and clinics treating PTSD and other mental health crises; programs for children with illnesses, disabilities, or behavioral challenges; and centers for long-term support for victims of terror as they navigate grief and fear.

These experiences reinforced something essential: support given in compassion reaches people in need regardless of politics, ideology, or identity. One survivor of October 7—a strong, independent, secular woman—said something I will never forget: "I never imagined the creativity of trauma." She explained that healing is not linear; even after weeks or months of feeling stable, something unexpected can reopen the wound. The phrase has stayed with me as a reminder of how long and unpredictable recovery can be.

Shortly after our trip ended, Israel finally recovered the body of the last remaining deceased hostage, Ran Gvili. The world needs to know that Israeli society never gave up on him, even after every other living and deceased hostage returned home. Throughout our trip, we saw signs everywhere pleading for the return of Ran. One deceased hostage in captivity was one too many. This speaks to the unity and connectedness of the Israeli people and our broader Jewish family in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

## Bits &amp; Pieces



BY SANDY GOLOVE

To submit information to Bits and Pieces, call (203) 912-9945 or email [sandy@ujf.org](mailto:sandy@ujf.org).

**MAZEL TOV TO GROWING FAMILIES:**

**Sandy Golove** Sara Mark & Bart Baily on the birth of a daughter; and to grandparents, Susan & Len Mark.  
**Hannah Brockhaus & Haran Pittel** on the birth of a son.  
**Yolly & Yaakov Faratci** on the birth of a daughter; and to grandparents, Rachel & Rabbi Mark Dratch.  
**Shoshana & Baruch Glazer** on the birth of a son; and to grandparents, Debbie & Avi Glazer; and great grandparents Sandy & Moshe Speter.  
**Devorah Meyers & Michael Rudin** on the birth of a son; and to grandparents, Kori & William Meyers.  
**Becca & Zev Newman** on the birth of a son; and to grandparent, Bruce and Rose z”l

Newman.

**Jessica & Eli Niedober** on the birth of a daughter; and to grandparents, Irwin Niedober and Jean Niedober.

**Lele & Rabbi Aryeh Roberts** on the birth of a son.

**Stephanie & David Rome** on the birth of a daughter, Emma Madeline Rome; and to grandparents, Lisa & Michael Rome.

**Remi & Scott Winer** on the birth of a son, Chase Owen Winer; and to grandparents, Sharon & Steve Winer.

**Nina Roth & David Wollner** on the birth of a daughter.

**MAZEL TOV ON MARRIAGES/ENGAGEMENTS:**

**CAS Youth Directors Rivky Kolodny & Aryeh Klein** on their engagement. Rivky is the daughter of Rachel & Rabbi Mark Dratch and Binyomin & Chani Kolodny. Aryeh is the son of Miriam & Rabbi Frederick Klein.

**Kori & Bill Meyers** on the engagement of their son, Ben Meyers to Ayelet Bessler, daughter of Michal & Barry Bessler.

**Howard Wolfe and Michelle & Jeff Zelin** on the marriage of their daughter, Danielle Wolfe to Noam Slomovic; and to grandmother, Sandy Ehrenkranz.

**MAZEL TOV TO B'NEI MITZVAH:**

**Jake Agovino**: son of Jessica & Adam Agovino.

**Ariella Niedober**: daughter of Jessica & Eliaz Niedober; and granddaughter of Irwin Niedober.

**Bailee Wahren**: daughter of Danielle & Barry Wahren.

**Natan Warmflash**: son of Belana & Michael Warmflash and grandson of Doris & Ron Warmflash..

**Alexander Wood**: son of Rebecca Nurick Wood.

**WE MOURN THE LOSS OF:**

**Ruth Aminoff**: wife of Mel Aminoff z”l; and mother of Sarah, Leeba and Noam Aminoff.

**Lenore Berkun**: mother of David Berkun and Alan Berkun, and sister of Susan Gelfand.

**Joel Brest**: husband of Wendy Brest; and

father of Daniel Brest, Diana Toomey Wilsom and Richard Brest.

**Ronni Ginsberg**: wife of Paul Ginsberg, mother of Steven Ginsberg and Ilana Ginsberg; and sister of Kenny Ginsberg.  
**Stephen Gordon**: stepfather of Jonathan Pollack.

**George Heller**: husband of Phyllis Heller; and father of Denise Freiberg, Wayne Heller, Bruce Heller and Marc Heller z”l.

**Sanford Klein**: father of Diane Klein.

**Eleanor Lowenthal**: wife of Mort Lowenthal and mother of Terri Lowenthal, Meg Akabas and Emily Cassella.

**Shirley Roberts**: grandmother of Rabbi Aryeh Roberts.

**Donna Rubin**: mother of Burt Rubin, Julie, Rubin, Jon Rubin and Paul Rubin.

## 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](http://www.ujf.org/tribute), or call 203-321-1373



## MAZEL TOV

Do you know someone that 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](http://www.ujf.org/tribute), or call 203-321-1373

A Message from UJF's Community Shlichah  
Finally, Everyone Is Home

BY UJF COMMUNITY SHLICHAH EDEN REFAELOVICH

“For the first time since 2014, there are no Israeli hostages left in Gaza.”

This is how I found out that the IDF had found Ran Gvili and brought him home. Reading this on social media, I felt an unexpected wave of relief. For years, families stayed awake at night, waiting for their loved ones, hoping for a chance to say goodbye and a place to grieve. Now that waiting is over, and they can begin and try to move forward, we can try to move forward.



Eden Refaelovich

Tears came, though I wasn't sure if they were from happiness or sadness, thinking that we would never get to tell Ran Gvili how proud we are of him. A person I don't know, whom most of us don't know; but in a way, we all know him, and we are grateful that he returned to burial in Israel, in our holy land.

A phrase about Ran Gvili stayed with me, “First to go, last to return.” And again, tears come, but this time they are tears of happiness. I feel proud of him, of our brave

IDF soldiers who risked their lives to bring him back, and of all of us.

Watching photos and videos from Hostages' Square, the stopped clock after Ran's return, the crowds gathering to support one another - I felt a deep sense of unity. In moments like these, disagreements fade, and what binds us - solidarity and togetherness - is what unites us and makes us Am Israel, as one.

Even though I couldn't be there physically, I felt connected emotionally. The relief and celebration spreading across Israel and the global Jewish community reached me, and I'm sure it reached all of us.

As a community *shlichah* (emissary) here in Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien, as an Israeli in the Jewish community, I often feel the ache and the sense of missing out - not being physically present to celebrate and share these kinds of moments with other Israelis. Yet, despite the distance, I feel part of something much bigger, part of one people, one big family. No matter where you are in the world, we feel joy, sorrow, and everything in between together, as one nation.

Finally, everyone is home. And even from a distance, we can breathe a little easier.

# A Birthday Marked with Meaning

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Morah Leah Shemtov from Chabad of Stamford marked her milestone birthday in a deeply meaningful and inspiring way, celebrating not with a party for herself, but with a gift to women in the community, a visit to the Ohel. In Jewish tradition, a birthday is viewed as a powerful spiritual milestone, a time for reflection, gratitude, renewed purpose, and increased acts of *mitzvot*. It is a day when one's *mazal* (luck) shines brightly, making it an especially auspicious time for blessing, prayer, and growth. In that spirit, Morah Leah chose to commemorate this milestone by leading a visit to the Ohel, the resting place of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, of blessed memory, a place revered as a source of holiness, inspiration, and *tefillah* (prayer).

More than 100 women from the Stamford community joined her on this special trip, filling two buses for an evening filled with unity, friendship, and shared purpose. Before entering the Ohel, the women gathered nearby in elegant surroundings for refreshments, speeches and socializing with old friends and new.

For Morah Leah, "The Ohel holds profound significance, serving as a sacred space where individuals seek guidance and feel a deep connection to the Rebbe's enduring presence and belief in every Jew. For the women who participated, the experience was both uplifting and transformative. Surrounded by fellow Jewish women, the sense of care, strength, and spiritual closeness was palpable."



Over 100 women from Stamford gathered at the Ohel in Queens to mark Morah Leah Shemtov's milestone birthday with an evening filled with meaning, mitzvahs, and shared inspiration.

While Morah Leah set out hoping to give others an opportunity for blessing and inspiration, she herself emerged deeply moved. The outpouring of love from her family, friends, former students, and community members left her feeling profoundly full, blessed, and grateful. Reaching 50, she reflected, "has been nothing short of magical, a moment to thank Hashem for decades filled with growth, learning, challenges, and goodness, and to step forward into the next chapter with health, strength, and joy."

Morah Leah expressed deep gratitude to Hashem for the many blessings in her life; to the Rebbe, for the privilege of being his *shlucha* (emissary), and to the Stamford community

whose love and support continue to uplift her.

The evening concluded with collective prayer that all personal, communal, and universal *tefillot* (prayers) be answered in an open and revealed way. For all who participated, the journey was far more than a birthday celebration; it was a moving reminder of the beauty of Jewish life, the strength of

community, and the power of shared faith. Each woman returned home with a Shabbat bag, inspired to carry the holiness forward by baking challah and lighting Shabbat candles.

For more information about Chabad's organized visits to the Ohel (or to arrange a personal visit), please contact [programs@stamfordchabad.org](mailto:programs@stamfordchabad.org).

# Shulchan Ivrit: Hebrew Reading and Conversation



UJF community Shlichah Edna Refaellovich, Richard Schwartz, Stamford JCC's Rabbi Joshua Strom and Sam Fischel.

(Courtesy of UJF) UJF Community Shlichah Edna Refaellovich, along with Rabbi Joshua Strom, Director of Jewish Experiences at the Stamford Jewish Community Center, facilitates a bi-weekly "Shulchan Ivrit" Hebrew Table session

focusing on reading Hebrew articles, learning advanced words, and engaging in Hebrew discussion. The group also discusses travel experiences and plans in Israel, creating meaningful conversation around Hebrew language and Israeli culture.

**Gan Yeladim**  
**SUMMER CAMP**

JOYFUL JEWISH EXPERIENCES | GARDENING AND ENVIRONMENT | CULINARY EXPERIENCES

June 16 - August 7  
 For Ages 6 weeks - 5 Years

- EXPLORATION IN ART
- GARDENING AND ENVIRONMENT
- INTERACTIVE MUSIC
- LITERACY AND STORY TELLING

Swimming at Darien YMCA for Ages 3.5 - 5 yrs

For more information:  
[REGISTRATIONOFFICE@STAMFORDCHABAD.ORG](mailto:REGISTRATIONOFFICE@STAMFORDCHABAD.ORG)  
 203 324-2223 [WWW.STAMFORDCHABAD.ORG](http://WWW.STAMFORDCHABAD.ORG)

## BCHA Men's Basketball Team Competes at Maimonides Invitational

(Courtesy of Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy) In January, Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy's (BCHA's) Upper School Men's Basketball team made school history with their first-ever appearance at the 2026 Maimonides Invitational Basketball Tournament in the Boston area. Competing against strong programs from across the country, including SAR, Maimonides, and the Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy from Kansas, the BCHA Bobcats embraced the opportunity to test their skills on a larger stage and represent the school with pride.

The weekend proved to be a memorable and meaningful experience and offered valuable opportunities for the BCHA Bobcats to lead both on and off the court. The tournament helped build team chemistry, resilience, and confidence while providing valuable exposure to high-level competition.

From hard fought games on the court, to connecting with Jewish students across the nation during the Shabbat programming, the BCHA Bobcats' effort, sportsmanship, and school spirit were on full display throughout the event.



BCHA Upper School Men's Basketball team (far right) pictured with other participating schools, including teams from SAR (center right), Maimonides (center), Atlanta Jewish Academy (lower right), and the Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy (far left) at this year's Maimonides Invitational Tournament held in Brookline, MA.

## Holocaust Survivor Shares Testimony with TOR Students

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) For the past two months, eighth-grade students, at Turn of River Middle School (TOR), have been studying the Holocaust, learning about one of the darkest chapters in world history. Last month, their classroom learning was brought to life through a deeply moving firsthand account.

Through a visit organized by Schoke Jewish Family Service, students had the profound opportunity to hear from 99-year-old Holocaust survivor Ernest Nemeth, a Schoke JFS Anachnu program participant,

who shared his life experiences before, during, and after the Holocaust. Mr. Nemeth's testimony offered students a personal and powerful perspective on history, resilience, and the enduring impact of remembrance.

Following his talk, students engaged in thoughtful discussion, asking meaningful questions and personally thanking Mr. Nemeth for his courage and willingness to share his story. His openness left a lasting impression on all in attendance.

Mr. Nemeth concluded his visit with a message that resonated deeply with students

and educators alike, "No matter what you do, the most important things are to never forget and never let it happen again."

Schoke JFS extends its deep gratitude to Mr. Nemeth for his strength, generosity, and commitment to ensuring that the lessons of history continue to be shared with future generations.

Learn more about the Anachnu program, supported by a grant from United Jewish Federation, and how Schoke JFS supports Holocaust survivors in our community, [www.ctjfs.org/anachnu](http://www.ctjfs.org/anachnu).



Ernest Nemeth speaks with students and teachers about his life experiences during the Holocaust.

## NEW AROUND TOWN

### Aubri Doughty, Schoke JFS Community Partnership Manager

Aubri Doughty joins Schoke JFS as the Community Partnership Manager. Originally from Maine, she moved to Connecticut with her wife and son, bringing a grounded, people-focused perspective shaped by the belief that communities are strongest when people feel seen, supported, and valued.



Aubri Doughty

Aubri earned her undergraduate degree in Psychology from the University of Maine at Presque Isle, developing a strong interest in human behavior, well-being, and the systems that support individuals and families. She is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Nonprofit Management and Community Engagement at Merrimack College, with a focus on volunteer engagement, community

partnerships, and the creation of sustainable, values-driven nonprofit programs.

"I'm excited to be working at Schoke Jewish Family Service because my passion is creating spaces where people feel connected and empowered to contribute meaningfully. I'm especially interested in reducing isolation, strengthening intergenerational relationships, and designing community engagement initiatives that honor dignity and lived experience."

Outside of her professional and academic pursuits, Aubri enjoys photography and traveling, and she aspires to explore the world more fully in the future. She values time spent with her family and finds inspiration in experiences that foster creativity, perspective, and connection.

### Michael Corcoran, Schoke JFS Case Management Support Specialist

Michael Corcoran joins Schoke Jewish Family Service as a Case Management Support Specialist, where he supports individuals and families in navigating public benefits, health coverage, and community resources. After spending time working in the culinary world, Michael began exploring a path toward more spiritually fulfilling, service-oriented work, which led him to case management. He plays an active role in coordinating and running case management events, is quick on his feet, and remains deeply engaged in learning and growth. Michael is grateful for the opportunity to continue developing his skills while contributing meaningfully to the community.

"I'm drawn to work that allows me to show up for people in practical, compassionate ways," Michael shared. "Being part of Schoke JFS gives me the chance to learn every day while making a real difference in people's lives."

## Using AI for Good

*(Courtesy of UJF)* On Monday evening, February 9, dozens of community members gathered at United Jewish Federation's office for a fun and lively Cardozo Society event. Elie Herman of Charter Communications and Jeffrey Cunningham of Cohen Vaughn LLP, together with moderator Rob Hoff of Wiggin & Dana, discussed the ethical considerations for using artificial intelligence in the practice of law. Participating attorneys earned 1 Ethics CLE credit.

UJF Deputy Director Eric Ross said, "It was fascinating to learn about situations where AI has been maliciously misused to hide or obfuscate the truth, as well as recent cases where AI was responsibly used to better understand evidence. UJF is so grateful to Elie and Jeffrey for sharing their expertise, and to everyone who joined us."

The Cardozo Society is UJF's affinity group for legal professionals in Fairfield County, providing education, leadership, and networking opportunities aimed at helping the local Jewish community. Lawyers, professors, judges, and other members of the legal profession come together to exchange ideas, to learn, and to make a difference. If you would like to get more involved in activities like this, please contact UJF Deputy Director Eric Ross at [eric@ujf.org](mailto:eric@ujf.org).



Participants engage in a thoughtful presentation and questions on AI in the legal world.



(l-r) Rob Hoff, Jonatthan Lipsitz, Jeff Cunningham, Elie Herman, Jason Lewis, Benjamin Folkinshteyn, David Rand



(l-r) Howland Gordon, Maxine Como, Alexander Podelko, Gerald Knopf, James Smart

## Schoke JFS Celebrates Successful MLK Day of Service

*(Courtesy of Schoke JFS)* Schoke Jewish Family Service proudly marked Martin Luther King Jr. Day with "Mission Possible II," a powerful day of service that brought together 67 dedicated volunteers committed to making a difference. United by a shared purpose, volunteers worked side by side to support neighbors in need through hands-on service and community connection.

Throughout the day, volunteers packed more than 200 personal care bags, each one filled with essential items to provide comfort, dignity, and support to individuals and families in our community. The collective effort went beyond the numbers, reflecting the spirit of Dr. King's call to service and social responsibility.

"Mission Possible II" was more than a volunteer event, it was a reminder of what can be accomplished when community members come together with compassion and determination. Schoke JFS is deeply grateful to everyone who participated and helped turn a day of service into lasting impact.

To get involved with Schoke JFS, explore our many new and exciting upcoming opportunities by visiting [www.ctjfs.org/volunteer](http://www.ctjfs.org/volunteer).



(l-r) Schoke JFS Chief Strategy Officer Eli Schaffer, intern Poonam Gunjal, Community Partnerships Manager Aubri Doughty, intern Mara Chumpitaz Ruiz, and intern Paul Casey prepare for a day of giving back and community action.



Local families make "compassion cards" for MLK Day, creating uplifting messages for seniors and Holocaust survivors.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**UJF WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY**

# Spring Dinner

*Stories We Share:*  
*Collective Strength Through Community*

**Thursday, May 7, 2026 | 6:00 PM**

Farmhouse at the Stamford Museum & Nature Center  
151 Scofieldtown Road, Stamford

*Featuring Zibby Owens, author of*  
*On Being Jewish Now*

*Honoring Aviva Maller*  
**Woman of Valor Award Recipient**

**Chairs: Michelle Cait, Valerie Cohen,**  
**Elina Furman, and Jennie Fishman**

**Early Bird: \$118 through April 24**  
**NextGen: \$95**

Buffet dinner, tricky tray, silent auction, and more.

[www.UJF.org/SpringDinner](http://www.UJF.org/SpringDinner)

## A Week in Israel

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

the diaspora. As long as one body remained in captivity, the Israeli and Jewish people could not rest.

Of course, the trip included familiar joys. The landscape was beautiful. The food was unforgettable. We learned, explored, and reconnected with the land.

But above all, the trip was about people. One of my companions said, "Israelis are heroes." She wasn't referring only to soldiers. She meant the people building lives under extraordinary strain—raising families, working, celebrating milestones, and carrying trauma while trying to live with dignity and hope. In that sense, heroism showed up everywhere.

Wherever we went, people were welcoming, warm, and generous. Most Israelis I've met radiate an openness that

feels as natural as the sun on a Tel Aviv beach. Like any society, Israel contains multitudes—different personalities, viewpoints, and experiences—but broad stereotypes miss the humanity that defines everyday life.

That humanity is also marked by vulnerability. Since October 7, words like "Israeli" and "Jew" have too often been reduced to caricatures or used as shorthand for moral judgment. Many of the people who speak this way have never met Israelis or Jews and have little sense of our diversity or complexity. To know Israelis is to know a society made up of countless backgrounds, beliefs, ethnicities, and worldviews.

To know Jews is to encounter a tradition that, from ancient texts to modern practice, emphasizes ethics, learning, responsibility, and care for others: loving one's neighbor,

pursuing justice, repairing the world, and giving generously. These values are not abstract. They show up in hospitals, classrooms, community centers, and quiet acts of care.

None of this erases the complexity of the ongoing conflict. There are deep disagreements, painful truths, and moral tensions that resist simple answers. Innocent lives are lost, and that loss should provoke grief and outrage—universally, without exception. No innocent life should matter less than another, and suffering should never be celebrated or dismissed.

What I took away from this trip is something simpler and more enduring. No matter one's views on any government, military action, or political debate, helping people in need must stand apart from those disagreements. When we give our time, our

resources, and our presence, we are not endorsing a policy or choosing a side. We are affirming the dignity of people who are trying to live, heal, and hope.

The people of Israel—like people everywhere—laugh and celebrate, grieve and struggle. They want safety, peace, connection, and the chance to enjoy ordinary moments with those they love. They are citizens of the world, bound to us by shared humanity.

Our responsibility, especially as American Jews, is to show up for them. Politics will shift. Arguments will continue. But our obligation to help one another should remain steady. Israelis may be heroes in many ways—but even heroes need help sometimes. I am grateful to UJF for this experience and proud to serve on the UJF board.

## Young Hearts at Kibbutz Alumim

BY ELINA FURMAN

In mid-January I was fortunate to be invited to participate on United Jewish Federation's ATID emerging leader's mission. When we visited Kibbutz Alumim this year, I didn't know what it would mean to me. Three months after October 7, I had been on another UJF mission visiting Kibbutz Kfar Aza. That first trip was necessary but disorienting. I absorbed devastation faster than I could process it. I came home shaken, heartbroken, and searching without clarity about what was being asked of me.

This second mission was different. I had not known much about Kibbutz Alumim before arriving. Early on, they were often described as the lucky ones, a community spared the worst through the bravery of a few. I knew about the Thai workers who had been murdered and taken hostage. What I did not fully grasp was that our last hostage had died here defending the Kibbutz. Alumim

remained standing because people refused to abandon one another.

Learning what happened there, I was not prepared for how present it still felt. We stood near a bomb shelter on the outskirts of the Kibbutz. On its wall was a plaque noting it had been donated by an American Jewish group. Protection shared across oceans.

We spoke about Ron Gvili. A soldier who had been lying in a hospital bed awaiting surgery, who got up and ran to defend the kibbutz. For months, he was the last hostage. The final poster at the airport. The last yellow ribbon we refused to take off.

As we stood there speaking about October 7 and Ron, I looked down and saw a playing card resting on the ground beside the shelter.

An Ace of Hearts.

Later, I looked up its meaning. Love expressed through action. In Israel, symbolism is rarely needed. Meaning is built into the land, the language, the way people show up for one

another. Still, the card felt right. Alumim itself means youthful vigor, energy and spirit in motion. Not innocence, but the vitality that comes from choosing renewal over despair, again and again.

The same week we were there, Israel launched an exhaustive search. Soldiers, volunteers, intelligence units. Over 250 graves were examined. Because in Israel, no one is ever just lost. No one is reduced to a statistic.

When Ron was finally brought back, it was not quiet relief. It was collective breath returning. No other society treats its heroes with this devotion or this refusal to let go. Israelis are practical people. But beneath that practicality is something unmistakable. This country is led by its heart and devotion to its people.

This mission clarified what the first could not. Like the Ace of Hearts at Alumim, it marked a beginning rooted in responsibility. I left knowing my purpose is not only to witness,



but to support Israel and our people through action, voice, and unwavering commitment. I am grateful to UJF for providing this outlet and for this opportunity.

We love Israel not because it is perfect, but because it never abandons its people. For that, we will never abandon it.

## A Mother's Will

BY NAVA ULMER

On the final morning of our ATID mission, we met Yahel.

Her story was one embedded with questions of logistics surrounding survivor status. Specifically, who qualifies as a survivor of Oct. 7? If you heard rumors that terrorists were nearby, did you have to actually see one? Or, perhaps, does internalizing as an imminent danger that a terrorist is coming to kill or kidnap you, but either way definitely rape you - does living through that paralyzing fear transform you into a survivor? While on a business site visit gone wrong, finding yourself crouching in a corner, taking

"cover" in an open air barn, and looking down at your choice of wardrobe that day - shorts - and the sinking feeling that follows...what does that qualify you as? Or, in Yahel's case, what does it qualify you for? Because she wasn't at the Nova Festival where the sound of music was replaced with screams and then silence. And she wasn't at one of the kibbutzim turned slaughter houses. She was hiding down the road from massacres.

Yahel ended up escaping by making an impossible choice to keep moving and, through a series of brave and lucky chances, found a way to reunite with her husband and two young children at their home further

north that evening. She thought she would and should be fine. She didn't consider herself a survivor. But as the weeks passed, and she couldn't get up from her chair and stop staring into the distance, while her toddler curled up into her lap for hours on end, Yahel began to experience what she describes as the "unlimited creativity of trauma."

So she eventually applied, and very much qualified, to be a recipient of the JAFI's crucial Fund for Victims of Terror, a fund that UJF of Stamford supports. Her journey towards healing involves conventional therapy, as well as an infusion of a fashion design course that sparks joy for her and a

swimming membership that helps her to release. She is very grateful and is hopeful one day she'll feel like herself again.

As we listened to Yahel, we were in awe of her poise, spirit, and fortitude. After her presentation concluded, I went over to her. "There's one thing I kept thinking while you were talking," I said. "It's how lucky your girls are to have you as their mom." Tears started down her face while we hugged and she shared, "That's the very thing I'm most scared of. What if this experience ruined me for them? What if I can no longer be the mom I was or hoped to be?" All the survivor work Yahel is doing, it turns out, isn't for her. She's doing it for them.



# UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION OF STAMFORD

COMMUNITY JEWISH HERITAGE MISSION TO ARGENTINA  
LED BY DIANE SLOYER AND BEVERLY STEIN

**OCTOBER 7-15, 2026** /// FROM **\$6,999** LAND ONLY

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover Argentina's vibrant Jewish history in Buenos Aires neighborhoods.
- Engage community leaders addressing memory, justice, and Jewish resilience.
- Honor victims at AMIA, embassy, and dictatorship memorials.
- Participate in tikkun olam supporting vulnerable Argentine communities.
- Celebrate Shabbat with Buenos Aires' dynamic Jewish congregations.
- Explore Argentine Jewish identity at museums, schools, and community centers.
- Experience tango, culture, and creativity shaping Argentina's national soul.
- Encounter indigenous heritage at the Triple Frontier and La Aripuca.
- Marvel at Iguazú Falls' breathtaking power and natural wonder.
- Return home inspired by peoplehood, memory, and global Jewish connection.



PASSIONATE **JEWISH JOURNEYS**

EDUCATIONAL & EXPERIENTIAL JOURNEYS CREATED WITH YOU IN MIND.

NYC | TLV | PRG | JHB | [J2ADVENTURES.COM](http://J2ADVENTURES.COM)





# Thanks to the generosity of community donors, UJF continues to impact our local and global Jewish Community

## Prime Minister Society, \$100,00+

Melody and Claude Bernstein  
Estate of Ronald Gross  
Lilly E. Reiser Foundation Inc  
Gayle and Howard Rothman  
Monica Smyth and Michael Schlessinger

## Hertzl Society, \$50,000-\$99,000

Stephne and Kerrin Behrend  
Dignity Grows  
Harold Grinspoon Foundation  
Herbert and Sarah M. Gibor Charitable Foundation  
Jewish Federations of North America

## King David Society, \$25,000-\$49,000

Anonymous  
Anonymous  
George and Martha Rich Foundation  
Louis J. Kuriansky Foundation (Florida)  
Susan and Len Mark  
Nancy and Gadi Mimoun  
Judy and Robert Raymond  
Praxix Foundation  
Beverly and David Stein  
Dr. Gary and Ms. Sissy Stein

## Joshua Society, \$10,000-\$24,999

Ricky Arbron  
B.L. Manger Foundation  
Dr. Joshua and Ms. Stephanie Bilenker  
Henry Bubel  
Rita and Michael Butterman  
Claire Friedlander Family Foundation  
Valerie and Jeff Cohen  
Stephanie and Howard Fogel  
Beverly Frank  
Rhoda and Avram Freedberg  
Kathryn Emmett and David Golub  
Meryl and David Gordon  
Joan and Michael Gray  
Sandra and Michael Kamen  
Sheila and Leslie Klein  
Leon N. Lapine Trust  
Dr. Toby Lazarus and Mr. Allan Lichtenberg  
Lynn and Jeffrey Lowin  
Alison and Nate Pava  
Susan Plutzer  
Molly Schrag and Adam Rafalowicz  
Susan Rapoport  
Lenore and Donald Rich  
Annea and Steven Rosenberg  
Terry Newman and David Rubin  
Edith Samers and Ed Smith  
Diane and Elliot Sloyer  
Marilyn and Harry Soffer  
Dr. Richard and Ms. Ellen Weber

## Devorah Society, \$5000-\$9999

Marlyn and Richard Agatstein  
Sary and Edward Backer  
Alan Benet and Sheila Romanowitz  
Judith Block  
Barbara and Gary Bloom

Malorie Yolen Cohen and Jeff Cohen  
Donfeld Family Fund  
Fairfield County's Community Foundation  
First County Bank Foundation INC.  
Gail Berman and David Fogel  
Dr. Jay and Ms. Maxine Freilich  
Susan Frieden  
Laura Sklar and Daniel Goldstein  
Caryl Goldstein, z"l  
Nan and Paul Gordon  
Dr. Suzanne Horn  
Elissa Garber-Hyman and James Hyman  
Dr. Eric and Ms. Monica Jankelovits  
Meryl and Ronald Japha  
Joanne and Sheldon Kahan  
Jill and Mitchell Kaplan  
Barbara Kasman and Arthur Wernicke  
Dr. Philip and Ms. Elissa Klapper  
Susan Kostin  
Lorraine and David Kveskin  
Elina Furman and Jay Landauer  
Sharon and Jeff Lewis  
Louis J. Kuriansky Foundation  
Judith and Mark Lowenstein  
Norma Mann, z"l  
Chris Maroc  
Rhonda Schaffer Maron and Jeffrey Maron  
Monica Becker and Edi Pinker  
Dr. Gerald and Ms. Lynn Rakos  
Lori and Stuart Ratner  
Tova Weinstock and Micky Reich  
Janice and Stanley Rosenstock  
Drs. Miriam and Michael Schechter  
Ivy and Marvin Schildkraut  
Rachel Seligson  
Tara and Richard Shapiro  
Marsha Shendell  
Bracha and Jerry Silber  
Rebecca Sloyer and Jonathan Suriel  
Eileen Springer  
Dr. Stuart and Sandi Waldstreicher  
Barbara Orwick and Stephen Wayne  
Joan Zinbarg, z"l

## Tikun Olam Society, \$1800-\$4999

Marjory and Robert Abrams  
Jeri and Mark Appel  
Barbara and Frank Axel  
Barbara and Thomas Bale  
Tracey Aaron and Adam Balinsky  
Dr. Jessica and Mr. Adam Batkin  
Madeleine and David Bavelsky  
Natalie and Neal Behrend  
Benjmain & Seema Pulier Charitable  
Foundation, INC.  
Dina Berger  
Charlotte and Manfred Birnbaum  
Rina Carmel  
Zoe and Harry Chiel  
City of Stamford  
Karen and Daniel Davis  
Helen and Martin Donner  
Lauren and Joshua Esses  
FBO Strategies, LLC  
Esta and Jay Feinsod  
Stacy Ferber  
Ms. Robin and Dr. Jason Fischel

Dr. Ilan and Lenore Fogel  
Foundation for Jewish Camp  
Lynne and Steven Frenkel  
Rabbi Gerry and Dr. Frances Ginsburg  
Debby and Jack Goldberg  
Joanne and Marshall Goldberg  
Judy and Howie Goldstein  
Shari Goodstein  
Loralee and Philip Granowitz  
Paula and Benjamin Green  
Pamela Ehrenkranz and Matt Greenberg  
Barbara and Edward Guttman  
Arlene and Bob Hall  
Zeena Hine  
Dr. Shara and Rabbi David Israel  
Karen Joelson  
Elise and Oren Klein  
Claudia Kraut  
Renee Manger  
Roselyn Mangot  
Eva Mayer  
Jane and Philip Molstre  
Roslyn and Merritt Nesin  
Marguerite and Kenneth Neuhaus  
Lynn and Alan Pearce  
Brenda Piskin  
Caryl Ferber Poser and Peter Poser  
Risa and Steven Raich  
Maria and Glenn Reicin  
Rich, Mcmanus & Goett Group of Coghlan  
& Associates  
Arlene and Carl Rosen  
Margo Rosenfeld  
Dr. Allen and Ms. Sherri Rosenthal  
Carole and Michael Roth  
Linda and Leonard Russ  
Kaili and Daniel Scherban  
Shira and Yoni Schwartz  
Rochelle and Harold Schwartz  
Dr. Steven and Ms. Ronnie Sichel  
Lisa and Larry Siebert  
Wendy and Jared Siegel  
Dalia Sirkin  
Brenda Smith  
Stacy and Lee Soffer  
Fred Springer  
Stamford Rotary Trust Fund  
Susan and Warren Stern  
Gail and Bruce Stone  
Jacqueline Tepper  
The First Presbyterian Church of Stamford  
Laura and Seth Tobin  
Dr. Jeffrey and Ms. Sharon Turshen  
Nava and Eitan Ulmer  
Pamela and Richard Vogel  
Alison Wachstein  
Dr. Linda Gornitsky and Mr. Harvey Weber  
Barbara and Harry Webski  
Alissa Wool and Peter Weisel

## Dor L'Dor Society, \$1000-\$1799

Marlene and Paul Adelberg  
Billie and Peter Anker  
Lisa Ross-Benjamin and Michael Benjamin  
Stephen Berni  
Rabbi Tzvi and Ms. Darona Bernstein  
David Bessaleli

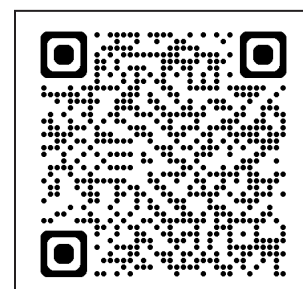
Hannah and Daniel Blonshteyn  
Christine Bloom  
Meredith and David Cohen  
Dr. Isaac and Ms. Stella Cohen  
Roberta and Alan Cohen  
Andrea and David Cohen  
Ms. Joan Danoff  
Lorraine Ditesheim  
Maggie and Andrew Domont  
Taly and Trevor Farber  
Karen and Mark Feder  
Miriam and Ira Flatow  
Dr. Leslie Freedman  
Connie and Alan Freeman  
Marlene and Jeffrey Gatz  
Debbie and Neil Gershon  
Ellen Bromley and Tom Gizicki  
Adrienne Gold Davis  
Ann and Alex Goldblum  
Sharon and Bruce Goldstein  
Yvette Gordon  
Lynn and David Greenberg  
Hanna & Mazer Dental Group  
Kamal Haron  
Leslie and Joe Heyison  
High Class Limo  
Dr. William and Ms. Sally Hines  
Dale and Stephen Hoffman  
Rabbi Mitchell and Ms. Roseanne Hurvitz  
Renee Migdal Judd and Sam Judd  
Katchko & Sons Construction Services Corp.  
Dr. Neil Katz and Mrs. Leslie Glenn  
Betsy and Peter Kempner  
Ilene Kirschner Madwed and Bert Madwed  
Norma Kraut  
Susan Krieger  
Carol and Allen Krim  
Leonard Kundel, DMD LLC  
Rita Lerner  
Barbara Levy  
Barbara Malloy  
Lisa and Jeff Manheim  
Kori and Bill Meyers  
Cynthia Hoffman and Stan Miller  
Dr. Ellen Naidorf  
Erica Newman  
Bruce Newman  
Paul's Marble Depot, LLC  
Irma and Allan Paull  
Risa and Michael Pollack  
Lisa and Jeffrey Popper  
Randi and Craig Price  
Robin and Richard Redniss  
Esther and Harvey Rein  
Linda Rezak  
Robert and Joan Rosenthal  
Dr. Burton and Ms. Sharon Rubin  
Rachel and Michael Sackman  
Helene and Nathaniel Samberg  
Lauren and Uri Shanske  
Drs. Valerie Warmflash and Jonah Schrag  
Dr. Edward and Ms. Shelley Senker  
Nancy and Jeffrey Serkes  
Madeline Shapiro  
Marian and Arthur Shulman  
Siegel, Colin & Kaufman P.C.  
Richard Silver  
Claudia and Keith Silver  
Phyllis Sinrich  
Miriam and Steve Sosnick  
Audrey and Joseph Speter  
Dr. Moshe and Ms. Sandy Speter  
Ellen Spilka  
Brina and Teddy Stalbow  
Judith Steinberg

Geri and Merrill Stone  
Shelley Taylor and David Swerdloff  
The Pickel Law Firm  
Dana and Carl Weinberg  
Lynne Weinberg  
Joan Wexler  
Alyssa and Jacob Zeldin  
Hillary and Robert Zitter

**Chaverim, Friends,  
\$500-\$999**

4Ds Landscaping Services LLC  
Aaron P. & Susan M. Hollander  
Jon and Barb Achenbaum  
Jody Pontone and Peter Adams  
Barbara Aronica  
John Ashe  
Atikah Arifin and Scott Bale  
Sanford A. Bell  
Dr. Burton Benjamin  
Sabrina and Daniel Benjamin  
Helen Berkoff  
Judith and Raymond Birnbaum  
Herbert Bregman  
Joan and Howard Breslow  
Martin Budd  
Dvora and Stephen Celniker  
Joyce and Barry Chavkin  
Elise Sosnow Cohen and Steven Cohen  
Marsha Colten and Robert Cohen  
Community Foundation of Greater Memphis  
Lisa and Pat Comunale  
Carrie Coyle  
Lawrence Cryer  
Janice Steinberg and Stephen Davidson  
Dr. Bruce and Ms. Karen Denker  
Marcia and Jerrold Dolinger  
Elite Concierge Physicians  
Dr. Robin Evans  
Events By Marylee  
Sharon and Michael Feldstein  
Linda Hurwitz and Richard Fine  
Sam Fischel  
Lindy and Leonard Fox  
Audrey Frankenberg  
Lauren Frank and Adam Frapart  
Nancy and Richard Freedman  
Marc Friedman  
GA Castro Construction LLC  
Joan and Jeffrey Gallin  
Jeffrey Gedacht  
Sheryl Brown and Michael Gertzner  
Rhonda and Larry Ginsberg  
Shari and Allen Glucksman  
Jessica and Joel Graber  
Green Mechanicals  
Greener Acres  
Jaffa and Pinchas Gross  
Judy and Leonard Haber  
Dr. Harvey and Ms. Gail Hecht  
Hilary and Peter Hohmeister  
Irina and Mikhail Iogman  
Gary Jones  
Olga and Michael Kagan  
Evelyn and Bruce Kahn  
Judith and Grant Kallen  
Elena and Mikhail Kalman  
Ronnie and Ira Kaplan  
Randie Katzel  
Olivia Kaufmann  
Nancy and Harris Kligman  
Rabbi Michael & Adira Knopf  
Barbara Kronman  
Dorothy Lakner  
Dorothy Landress

Roni and Allan Lang  
Dr. Gary and Ms. Mandy Lazarus  
Debbie and Stan Lee  
Belle-Ann Abrams and Jerry Leichter  
Ellen and James Levenson  
Carla and Roger Levien  
Andrea and Martin Levine  
Marla and Jason Lewis  
Carol and Peter Lilienthal  
Donald Lipkis  
Drs. Charisse and Mark Litchman  
Viktor Litvinov and Anna Rozinov  
Nina and Norman Lotstein  
Peter Maglathlin  
Dr. Ronald Mann and  
Ms. Stephanie Rifkinson-Mann  
Jacqueline Marcus  
Tatyana Yudina and Ilya Margolin  
Dinah Miller Marlowe and Seth Marlowe  
Melanie Massell  
Master Na's Traditional Martial Arts  
Arline and Harvey Melzer  
Janice and Jacob Meyer  
Joseph Mittel  
Dr. Shari Damast and Mr. Jeffrey Mosenkis  
Dr. David Moskowitz and  
Ms. Rona Orestein Moskowitz  
Stacy and Gary Mozer  
Edith Neidle  
Shira and Marc Nerenberg  
Doreen and Howard Nusbaum  
Dr. David and Ms. Sandra Oberhand  
Alexandra and Brett Olsson  
Miriam and Gideon Pell  
Marina Sapir and Alexander Podelko  
Robin Portman  
Jennifer and Edward Rosenfeld  
Rotary Club of New Canaan Charitable Foundation  
Rachel and Jake Rothman  
Linda and Joe Rothman  
Barbara and Paul Schultz  
Karen and Michael Schwartz  
Diane and Steve Shaby  
Pam and Alan Shanker  
Amanda and David Shapiro  
Dafna Shochat  
Sarit and Kenneth Sichel  
Jacob Simon  
Maira Morrissey and Mark Slivka  
Diane Sorcher  
Mindy Sosland  
Southern Connecticut Dermatology  
Amanda Sherman and Anthony Stark  
Victoria Sukholutskaya  
Carrie Tate  
Drs. Danielle and Steven Thau  
Hildi and David Todrin  
Richard Tren  
Dr. Richard & Shirley Viscarello  
Marc Weiner  
Alisa and Jeremy Weisser  
Barbara and Kenneth White  
Sharon and Simeon Wohlberg  
Rabbi Naftali and Ms. Navah Wolfe  
Sheila and Dan Wolfson



Please scan the QR code  
to see a full list of  
Community Supporters

# Chabad of New Canaan Celebrates Fifteen Years

*(Courtesy of Chabad of New Canaan)* Chabad of New Canaan recently celebrated fifteen years of serving the local New Canaan Jewish community with a festive gala recognizing individuals whose dedication and leadership have helped shape and strengthen community life.

Among those honored were the Weinman Family, who received a special tribute award recognizing the impact of the Weinman Jewish Academy, the Lifelong Learning Program at Chabad of New Canaan.

Yan and Valerie Klats were presented with the Young Leadership Award in recognition of their commitment to

community engagement and their role in inspiring the next generation of Jewish leadership in New Canaan.

Aria Babayev received the Teen Volunteer Award for outstanding dedication to volunteerism and community service, exemplifying the values of kindness and responsibility embraced by Chabad's youth programming.

Rabbi Levi and Michal Mendelow, co-directors of Chabad of New Canaan, presented the awards and reflected on the organization's fifteen-year journey of expanding educational, social, and spiritual programming for families and individuals throughout the community.



The Weinman Family received a tribute award from Rabbi Levi and Michal Mendelow.

(PHOTO CREDIT: AVIVA MALLER PHOTOGRAPHY)



Yan and Valerie Klats (with their children) were presented with the Young Leadership Award by Michal and Rabbi Levi Mendelow.



Aria Babayev received the Teen Volunteer Award from Michal and Rabbi Levi Mendelow.

## Saturday Night LIVE @ Chabad!

*(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford)* Chabad of Stamford hosted a magical "Musical Havdalah in PJs," featuring the popular #GanDadBand. Band Leader Daniel Wallis, who led the performance with incredible dedication just days after welcoming his new baby.



## LIFE & LEGACY

### 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](mailto:eric@ujf.org).

#### BRUCE NEWMAN TESTIMONIAL

My late wife Rose Newman z"l and I moved to Stamford in 2015. Our parents were Holocaust survivors, and that legacy had shaped who we are and what we value. As Jews, we'd always felt a deep responsibility to support the local Jewish community and to stand with Israel. I believe in giving back through both charitable support and personal involvement, and one of my most meaningful commitments has been helping expand social programs for adults 55+ at Congregation Agudath Sholom. These programs create connection, joy, and lasting friendships, strengthening our community and improving quality of life.

Supporting Israel is also deeply personal to me. I invest in Israeli bonds and support FIDF and other Israeli charities as part of my commitment to sustaining Israel and strengthening our shared future.

Through the Life & Legacy Program, I have chosen to ensure that when I am gone, a portion of my assets will return to the Jewish community that has given me so much. I believe Legacy Giving is essential. We are fortunate to have the resources, and with that comes responsibility. By sharing what we have, we help secure a strong and vibrant Jewish future for generations to come.



Bruce Newman

B " H

MEM GLOBAL, UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION, YOUNG & JEWISH CHABAD OF HARBOR POINT, JEWISH TWENTIES AND THIRTIES, STAMFORD JEWISH EXPERIENCE PRESENTS :

# RPM X PURIM

*Game Night*

AT RPM STAMFORD

TUESDAY MARCH 3 7-9 PM

Megillah reading: 5:15 PM at Chabad @ Harbor Point, 101 Washington Blvd

DRINKS • MUSIC • ARCADES • GAMES • TREATS

\*THE VENUE OFFERS ADDITIONAL ON-SITE ATTRACTION NOT INCLUDED IN OUR PROGRAM

*\$30*

EARLY BIRD ENDS FEB 15

[WWW.UJF.ORG/PURIM](http://WWW.UJF.ORG/PURIM)

DRESS CODE: COSTUMES

STAMFORD JEWISH EXPERIENCE

young & Jewish Chabad @ Harbor Point and Downtown Stamford

jtt Jewish twenties and thirties

United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien

Let The Questions Begin.

# 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](mailto:Lenore@ujf.org), or Diane Sloyer at (203) 321-1373 or [dianesloyer@ujf.org](mailto: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  
 Daron & 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  
 Judy & Jeff Cahn  
 Kate & Peretz Cik  
 Roberta & Alan Cohen  
 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  
 Janice Steinberg & Stephen Davidson  
 Andrea Dener  
 Elayne Dener  
 Rabbi Yisrael Deren  
 Helen & Marty Donner  
 Fran & Bob Dorf\*  
 Shoshana Dweck  
 Heather & Glenn Dynner  
 Peter & Michelle Ebstein  
 Debra & Dan Faizakoff  
 Michelle Fanwick  
 Esta & Jay Feinsod  
 Sharon & Michael Feldstein  
 Peggy & Jerry Fensterstock  
 Linda Hurwitz & Richard Fine  
 Robin & Jason Fischel  
 Gail Berman & David Fogel  
 Stephanie & Howard Fogel  
 Lenore Fogel  
 Ilan Fogel  
 Miriam Lavinsky & Morton Folb\*  
 Beverly Frank  
 Sharon Franklin  
 Robin Frederick  
 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  
 Judith & Leonard Haber  
 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  
 Ronny & Ira Kaplan  
 Roni & Jan Kaplowitz  
 Jason Kaplowitz  
 Lisa & Arnold Karp  
 Jeannie Kasindorf  
 Jessica & Ilan Katz  
 Joy Katz  
 Larry Katz  
 Judith & Sheldon Katz  
 Neil Katz  
 Flora and Carl Kaufman  
 Mark S. Kaufman  
 Betsy & Peter Kempner  
 Madelyne Kirch  
 Liz & Marc Kitay  
 Elissa & Philip Klapper  
 Sally Kleinman  
 Harris Kligman  
 Naomi & Rabbi Eli Kohl  
 Susan Kostin  
 Arthur Kramer\*  
 Claudia Kraut  
 Norma Kraut  
 Erica Kraypohl  
 Jeannie & Brian Kriftcher  
 Carol & Allen Krim  
 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\*  
 Marla & Jason Lewis  
 Sharon & Jeffrey Lewis  
 Elizabeth Libner  
 R. & J. Licht  
 Ronnie & Gary Lilien  
 Carol & Peter Lilienthal  
 Vered & Mark Links  
 Lisa & Seth Linzer  
 Pamela Feldstein & David Loewenberg  
 Eleanor & Mort Lowenthal  
 Stu Madison  
 Lisa & Jeff Manheim  
 Norma & Milton Mann\*  
 Susan & Len Mark  
 Dinah Miller Marlowe  
 Seth Marlowe  
 Chris Maroc  
 Rhonda Schaffer-Maron & Jeffrey Maron  
 Melanie Massell  
 Sandra Mehl\*  
 Michal & Rabbi Levi Mendelow  
 Janice & Jake Meyer  
 Wendy Goldberg Miles  
 Nancy Zinbarg Mimoun  
 Cecile E Minkoff  
 Bennet Moskowitz  
 Marguerite & Kenneth Neuhaus  
 Becky & Omer Neumeier  
 Rose\* & Bruce Newman  
 Judge Stanley Novack\*  
 Marsha & Louis Panzer  
 Leah & Doni Perl  
 Robin Evans & Jeffrey Perry  
 Beth Shepherd Peters  
 Dr. Shay Pilnik  
 Michele & Scott Piskin  
 Lev Podelko  
 Caryl Ferber Poser & Peter Poser  
 Tanya Barton- Radin & David Radin  
 Molly Schrag & Adam Rafalowicz  
 Enid Randall\*  
 Bonita & Stephen Rappoport  
 Judith & Robert Raymond  
 Lisa & Harry Rich  
 Judy & Adam Rin  
 Jamie & Toby Ring  
 Betty & Dan Roberts\*  
 Sonia & Brian Roitman  
 Linda & David Roitman  
 Romanowitz Family  
 Arlene & Carl Rosen  
 Lindsay Benjamin Rosen  
 Peter B Rosen  
 Julie & Remi Rosenberg  
 Natalie & Mark Rosovsky  
 Irma Ross  
 Jaime & Eric Ross  
 Sandra Ross  
 Sally & Jim Rothkopf  
 Ruth Rothseid  
 Terry Newman & David Rubin  
 Linda & Leonard Russ  
 Bonnie Russo  
 Edith Samers  
 Renee Samson\*  
 Sharyn & Richard Sarner  
 Sharon L & Charles H Saul  
 Edward Schachter  
 Leah Schechter  
 Hilde Scheraga\*  
 Jayne & Bud Schiff  
 Judy Schneiderman  
 Nancy Schiffman  
 Monica Smyth & Michael Schlessinger  
 Elayne & James Schoke\*  
 Daniel Schwartz  
 Chaya & Levi Segal  
 Alana and Jed Selkowitz  
 Betsey & Arthur Selkowitz  
 Myrna & George Sessa

Diane & Steve Shaby  
 Debbie Katz Shapiro  
 Leon Shapiro  
 Tara & Richard Shapiro  
 Jessica & Laurence Sheinman  
 Leah & Rabbi Moshe Shemtov  
 Marsha Kaiser Shendell  
 Carol Ruth & Herman Shepherd\*  
 Rosalyn Mae Sherman  
 Stephanie & Bob Sherman  
 Malya Shmotkin  
 Ronnie Ness Sichel & Steven Sichel  
 Jerome and Bracha Silber  
 Lisa & Grant Silver  
 Miriam Landsberg-Silverman & Eliezer\* Silverman  
 Paula Simon  
 Gloria & Randy Skigen  
 Marty Skrelunas  
 Diane & Elliot Sloyer  
 Michal Fox Smart  
 Brenda & Bruce\* Smith  
 Ed Smith  
 Marilyn Sofer  
 Greta Solomon  
 Miriam & Steve Sosnick  
 Sandy & Moshe Speter  
 Ed Spilka  
 Cantor Micah Morgovsky & Rabbi Benjamin Spratt  
 Eileen Springer  
 Fred  
 Beverly & David Stein  
 Betsy & Michael Stone  
 Gladys & Greg Teitel  
 Julie & Rabbi Jay TelRav  
 The Estate of Judith Bragin\*  
 The Estate of Sheila Carmine\*  
 The Estate of Thomas Gilmartin\*  
 The Estate of Ronald Gross\*  
 Rebecca Tipermas  
 Hildi and David Todrin  
 Gail & Steven Trell  
 Janet Trell  
 Pamela & Richard Vogel  
 Janet Wainright  
 Phyllis & Harvey Walzer  
 Annie & Jeremy Watman  
 Shternie & David Wayne  
 Ellen & Richard Weber  
 Linda Gornitsky & Harvey Weber  
 Dana & Carl Weinberg  
 Marian Weinberg  
 Leon Weisburgh  
 Janet Welkovich  
 Barbara Kasman & Arthur Wernicke  
 Barbara & Ken White  
 Leigh Wilson  
 Robyn & Mark Winarksy  
 Howard Wolfe  
 Navah & Naftali Wolfe  
 Dana Horowitz & Peter Wolly  
 Neda Khaghan & Robert Yaghoubian  
 Rita & Abe Yellen  
 Marcia Gordon & Seth Young  
 Sheryl & Dan Young  
 Lauren & Joe Zalis  
 Joan Zinbarg\*  
 Renee Zinn  
 Alex Zislis  
 Navah & David Zizmor  
 Shira & Mitchell Zucker

\*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.

United Jewish Federation  
The New Jewish Voice  
2009 Summer St., Suite 302  
Stamford, CT 06905

Non-profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Flushing NY  
Permit # 19357

# Volunteer Trip to Israel

Travel with us to Israel!  
June 30 - July 9, 2026

Experience Israel like never before on an unforgettable 8-day journey of travel, volunteering, and connection. This exceptional "Birthright" opportunity—once limited to college students—is now open to adults of all ages who want to build meaningful relationships, support Israel through volunteering, and standing together with Israel during this period of rebuilding.

Birthright is partnering with United Jewish Federation to offer a highly subsidized trip with limited availability. Don't miss your chance to be part of this once-in-a-lifetime experience. Apply now to secure your spot.



- Adult Volunteer Trip
- Tel Aviv based
- Day trip to Gaza Envelope
- Geopolitical Update
- Includes flights, hotel, breakfasts, and all daytime activities

\$2,820 double occupancy including flights  
\$3,675 single occupancy including flights



Scan the QR code or visit  
[www.UJF.org/Birthright](http://www.UJF.org/Birthright)  
for more information.

 United Jewish  
Federation

 UJA JCC  
greenwich



Questions?  
Please contact UJF Deputy Director Eric Ross  
at [eric@ujf.org](mailto:eric@ujf.org)