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# THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

MAY 2019/NISAN-IYAR 5779  
VOLUME 21, NUMBER 3

A PUBLICATION OF UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION

## Family Store: Downtown Stamford 1940-1965

### JHS Art Projection Special Event

BY ELISSA KAPLAN

History has been called the art of documenting and translating the past into the present and the future. In that spirit, the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County will produce an art projection show in downtown Stamford, on the corner of Broad Street and Greyrock Place, on Wednesday, May 15 (rain date Thursday, May 16), beginning at 8:15 pm. The wall of Macy's on the Greyrock Place side will be lit up with photos of the former Jewish and other ethnic groups' family stores

that used to be located there and in the surrounding area. The show will last about 45 minutes. The program is free and open to the community. Those planning to attend are asked to bring their own chairs.

JHS received a grant to produce this artistic exhibit through Mayor David Martin and the Community Arts Partnership Program. "Using state of the art technology, our aim is to excite the community about local history and to bring people to the Stamford Town Center

See "Store" on page 6

## Turn Your Smartphone into a Medical Diagnostics Microscope

BY ABIGAIL KLEIN LEICHMAN

(Israel21c via JNS) – If your eye is oozing and red, and an infection is suspected, you need to make an appointment with your doctor and get a lab analysis before you can start antibiotic treatment.

Physicist-turned-biologist Ariel Livne wondered if the whole process could be done at home by pairing some simple optics equipment with his smartphone to analyze biological samples in the case of an eye infection, a teardrop.

That is the basis of the startup Di-

agnoz.me of Jerusalem, co-founded by Livne in November 2017 with Tamir Epstein with the help of a pre-seed grant from the Israel Innovation Authority.

"Our innovation is that we enable the smartphone to see bacteria," Livne tells Israel21c. "Once you see bacteria, you can perform medical diagnostics. Our technology transforms a low-cost disposable together with a regular smartphone into a high-end medical diagnostics microscope."

Still in the proof-of-concept stage, the innovation aims to enable patients

See "Medical" on page 14

## The Power of Women

### Siggy Flicker to Speak at UJF Women's Event

United Jewish Federation's Women's Philanthropy is gearing up to host its annual Spring Dinner on Wednesday, May 29. Hundreds of local women will gather at Temple Beth El at 6:30 pm to enjoy a buffet dinner, silent auction and program featuring TV personality Siggy Flicker. The evening is chaired by Cheryl Bader-Goldblum and Allison Greenbaum, and the fund-raising auction is chaired by Dinah Miller-Marlowe and



Siggy Flicker

sisters Elissa Klapper and Claudia Rimerman.

"Siggy Flicker is a TV personality, an author and a motivational speaker. Audiences around the world find her energy infectious and inspiring, walking away feeling freshly inspired to improve both their personal and professional well-being. Siggy's unique #KnowYour-

Worth message extends beyond the personal to the national. She will share

See "Women" on page 6

## Changes are happening at UJF

As you may have read or heard around town, United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien is changing. First, the name of the organization is being shortened to United Jewish Federation, or UJF. Second, UJF is reshaping the way it uses communal money raised to impact the Jewish community. Donors will have an opportunity to direct their financial support, given through UJF, to programs and projects that are of interest to them. And these opportunities will focus on community needs not currently being addressed.

Jewish agencies in Stamford, New Canaan and Darien – as well as synagogues, startups, entrepreneurs and community members – can apply to have their initiatives and program ideas considered as part of UJF's 2019 Campaign for Communal Needs. In addition, ideas from institutions outside the catchment area that affect the local Jewish population will also be considered. Applications with idea proposals will be accepted by Thursday, May 30. Proposals will be reviewed and the final list of all the new programs/projects

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Connecticut Teens at AIPAC

The Rosalie Aberman Agudath Sholom AIPAC Teen Fellows joined with teens from Stamford JCC Speak Up for Israel and Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy's Israel Advocacy Club, and with Senator Richard Blumenthal, at the 2019 AIPAC Policy Conference in Washington, DC, in March. (See article on BCCHA Israel Advocacy Club on page 16.)

**From UJF's Chief Executive Officer**

## It Costs a Lot to be Free

BY DIANE SLOYER

At the beginning of April, I was fortunate enough to be invited to attend the annual PJ Library conference in Springfield MA, not far from the headquarters of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. I was invited to participate in the advancement track, along with other CEOs, which took place alongside and in addition to the conference. We celebrated Harold's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and had the opportunity to learn from an individual who has made his mark on the Jewish world.

After a health scare 25 years ago, Harold began to become a philanthro-



Diane Sloyer,  
UJF CEO

pist, and the Jewish world was a beneficiary of his vision and will never be the same. In 2016, he and his wife, Diane Troderman, signed the Bill Gates giving pledge and will leave a lasting legacy for the Jewish community. You can read their pledge here: [pjfor.me/givingpledge](http://pjfor.me/givingpledge).

PJ Library is a global program that sends free Jewish books and educational tools to children 6 months to 8 years old, every month. PJ Our Way is also free for kids 8½-11 years old. It costs a lot to be free! The annual PJ Library budget is more than \$36 million distributing about 600,000 books in 21 countries

and in five languages. More than \$15 million a year is from the Grinspoon Foundation and the rest comes from community partners like our Federation, PJ Alliance Partners (other philanthropists each giving \$1 million over four years), international donors and the Israeli government.

Grinspoon's success comes from his leveraging partners and he has found a partner in Federations because of our focus on building and sustaining communities. PJ has grown to be the largest, most successful Jewish engagement tool around the world. And with the findings of the Pew Study with regard to the future of the Jewish community, this is exactly what the Jewish world needed. The foundation

has done extensive research and projections on its impact. It projects that currently 10 percent of any Federations' donor base are PJ families and that in 20 years nearly 100 percent of each Federation donor list will have once been a PJ family. Time will tell, but these are staggering projections.

Many young families have been a product of "free." Many participated in a free trip to Israel with Birthright. Now many are receiving free books as parents of young children. It is our challenge as a community and as a Federation to use these gifts of engagement to bring about the next generation of volunteers and philanthropists, because nothing is really free – and sometimes it costs more than \$35 million!

## Seeking Justice and Protecting Human Rights

### Norma and Milton Mann Lecture Returns

BY SIMA BROZA

The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County will present the third annual Norma and Milton Mann Lecture on Sunday, June 16, at 11 am, hosted by Temple Beth El, 350 Roxbury Rd., Stamford. The program is underwritten by the Mann Family Foundation to honor the memory of their parents, two community leaders and supporters of the JHSFC. This year, guest lecturer Roya Hakakian will address the topic "Seeking Justice and Protecting Human Rights in a Perilous World: A Case Study."

Human rights activist, writer, journalist, poet, filmmaker and a founding member of Iran Human Rights Documentation Center, Hakakian has been featured on network television, including CBS "60 Minutes" on CBS



Roya Hakakian

and documentary specials with the late Peter Jennings on ABC. She was a fellow at Yale University's Whitney Humanities Center, is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and serves on the board of Refugees International. She speaks and writes on the topic of the Middle East and human rights throughout the United States and Europe. Her opinion columns and essays appear in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and *The Wall Street Journal*, among others.

## UJF Shalom Baby Visit



Hilary Goldstein and her daughter, Ava Rose, received a Federation Shalom Baby welcome visit.

Hakakian has authored two award-winning nonfiction books. "Assassins of the Turquoise Palace" is about Iran's terror campaign against exiled Iranian dissidents in Western Europe. The murders that took place in Berlin and the trial that followed led to a paradigm shift in Europe's relations with post-revolutionary Iran and is still considered to have implications for today. For the first time, the New York Federal Bar Association honored prosecutors from outside the U.S. for their pursuit of justice in that trial. Her memoir of growing up a Jewish teenager in post-revolutionary Iran, "Journey from the Land of No: A Girlhood Caught in Revolutionary Iran," was one of Publishers Weekly's best books of the year.

"The presentation by Roya Hakakian is one my parents would be pleased to bring to the community and ties Norma and Milton Mann's support of human rights with the opportunity to share awareness of this important topic," said their daughter, Pamela Mann Baron.

"Beginning in 1956, Norma and Milton Mann were leaders in the Jewish and Stamford community. They worked to improve the lives of immigrants and refugees and provide fair housing, protect the environment and strengthen Jewish culture." Both Manns were patrons and board members of the Jewish Historical Society.

Light refreshments will be served for the general audience at 10:30 am. with the lecture beginning at 11 am. An invitation only donor brunch and short presentation by Hakakian will precede the lecture.

"The JHSFC looks forward to your presence at this thought provoking and enlightening presentation," said Elissa Kaplan, JHS president. To RSVP or to ask questions, call 203-321-1373, ext. 150, or e-mail [info@jhsfc-ct.org](mailto:info@jhsfc-ct.org). For more information, visit the website at <http://jhsfc-ct.org>.

*The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County is a beneficiary agency of Federation for Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield County.*

## Changes.....

will be announced to the community by Monday, July 1.

This new structure will:

- ◆ Contain a transparent menu-driven fund-raising campaign.
- ◆ Allow initiatives that are passionately supported by the community (donor driven) to rise to the top of UJF's philanthropy structure.
- ◆ Result in Federation's Annual Campaign raising money to fill gaps in the Jewish community here, in Israel and around the Jewish world.

UJF initiatives including *The New Jewish Voice*, Jewish Community Relations Council, PJ Library programs, Grinspoon Life and Legacy Initiative (a new initiative run through UJF for all Jewish institutions to secure legacy gifts), a communal security fund to support all institutions and more will also be part of this new menu for donor directed giving. And donors will have an opportunity to directly give to support overseas needs of UJF's partners, including the Jewish Agency for Israel, the sister-city of Afula, the Joint Distribution Committee and World ORT.

The new campaign structure will better support UJF's new mission: "United Jewish Federation is committed to building and safeguarding our Jewish community and strengthening

•Continued from page 1

connections to Israel and World Jewry by mobilizing our community to invest in Jewish life for today and future generations."

Jill Kaplan, a new member of the UJF board, said, "Little did I know when I joined the board in January that such exciting new changes would be happening at Federation. Allowing donors to select programs that they feel are important makes a great deal of sense. Those programs that are supported by the community will be ones offered by UJF."

Rhonda Schaffer Maron, a member of the UJF committee that developed the new campaign and also a board member, said, "We have already seen examples of how this new funding model is causing people to think creatively about how to fill new needs within our community. I am excited that our new approach gives donors a say in how the UJF campaign will strengthen our local Jewish community by selecting which projects their contributions will fund."

Applications for idea submissions and FAQs for applicants and for donors can be found on the UJF website at [www.ujf.org](http://www.ujf.org). For more information, contact Diane Sloyer, CEO UJF, at 203-321-1373, ext. 105, or [dianesloyer@ujf.org](mailto:dianesloyer@ujf.org).

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## CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

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April 26 .....	7:28 pm
May 3 .....	7:35 pm
May 10 .....	7:42 pm
May 17 .....	7:49 pm
May 24 .....	7:56 pm
May 31 .....	8:01 pm
June 7 .....	8:06 pm
June 8 .....	after 9:15 pm
June 9 .....	after 9:16 pm

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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## JCC to Host “Israel@71” Community Celebration

The Jewish Community Center will host the community Yom Hazikaron ceremony and Yom Ha’atzmaut celebration on Wednesday, May 8, from 6-8:30 pm, co-sponsored by the Friends of the IDF; Temple Beth El of Stamford; United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien; Congregation Agudath Sholom; Schoke Jewish Family Service; Temple Sinai; Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy; Carmel Academy; Stamford Hadassah; StandWithUs; Jewish Historical Society; Jewish War

Veterans; BBYO; Young Israel of Stamford; and Israel Cancer Research Fund.

“Israel@71 is an opportunity for the entire Stamford Jewish community to come together to honor Israel,” said Noa Bober, JCC Israeli *shlichah*. “With face painting and crafts for children, Israeli food and wine, exhibits featuring Israeli art and innovations, and Judaica and jewelry for sale, we will feel as if we have traveled to Israel to experience all that Israel has to offer.”

At 7 pm, there will be a Yom Hazikaron ceremony to commemorate Israel’s fallen soldiers, followed by a concert from 7:45-8:30 pm featuring an Israeli band, “The Tel Avivim,” to celebrate Yom Ha’atzmaut.

Visit [www.stamfordjcc.org/israelat71](http://www.stamfordjcc.org/israelat71) for online registration and sponsorship opportunities.

For more information, contact Bober at [nbober@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:nbober@stamfordjcc.org).

*The JCC is a recipient agency of United Jewish Federation.*

## An Evening with Schoke JFS

### Cocktails, Dinner, Honors and a Juggler

The Elayne and James Schoke Jewish Family Service will hold its annual gala, An Evening with Schoke JFS, on Sunday, May 19, at 6 pm, at The Italian Center, 1620 Newfield Ave., Stamford. Honoring a long-standing tradition, Schoke JFS will give the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Mitzvah Award to Meryl Japha, the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Young Leadership Award to Lauren and Joe Zalis, and the first Volunteer Award to Marina Sapir. The evening’s events will be hosted by Master of Ceremonies Alan Kalter and co-chaired by Liz Kitay and Ronnie Sichel. Sandy Speter will serve as the auction chair.

This year’s celebration will welcome Greg Kennedy, a featured artist with Cirque de Soleil, and an innovator who incorporates the principles of physics and geometry to produce juggling feats.

Japha has been a volunteer for 25 years in the Stamford community. Her volunteer work with Schoke JFS includes currently serving as vice president of development and previously as Board secretary. She was honored as a 2016 Family Champion by the CCSFA. She has co-chaired the Schoke JFS coat drive for the past three years, co-chaired An Evening with Schoke JFS for five years and currently participates in the



L-r: Meryl Japha, Joe Zalis, Lauren Zalis and Marina Sapir. (Photo by Alison Wachstein Photography)



Juggler Greg Kennedy will entertain.

Strategic Planning Committee while also chairing the Legacy Planning Task Force. She is also executive vice president for her fourth generation, family-owned business, O. Berk Company, a distributor of glass, plastic and aluminum containers.

Lauren (Rosenthal) Zalis was raised in Stamford. In 2008, Lauren and her two business partners founded

the Waverly Group in Greenwich, which is a pediatric multidisciplinary center. She previously served on the Board of Directors for Schoke JFS and is a founding

*See “JFS” on page 6*

## CT Native to Head Stamford Jewish High School

Rabbi Shimmy Trencher has been appointed principal of the Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy upper school, it was announced recently by the school’s President David Pikoff and Head of School Jacqueline Herman.

A native of West Hartford, Rabbi Trencher previously served as principal of the Rabbi Moshe H. Levinson Upper School Hebrew Academy in Rockville, MD.

“Rabbi Trencher’s administrative and teaching experience, coupled with his extensive student engagement programming, make him an outstanding choice for the upper school principal at BCCHA,” said Herman. “Rabbi Trencher is passionate and dedicated to bringing out the best in each student. I look forward to welcoming him to our dynamic faculty and staff.”

Although he will officially come on board at BCCHA this summer, according to Herman, Rabbi Trencher will spend time in the Stamford Jewish community

this spring to become acquainted with students, parents, faculty and prospective families.

As BCCHA upper school principal, Rabbi Trencher replaces Rabbi Elisha Paul, who recently announced that he will leave the Stamford high school this summer to become head of school of a Jewish day school located in the south.

“We are truly grateful to Rabbi Paul for his dedicated leadership of our high school, for his warmth and kindness and for all he has done and meant to our students and families these past four years,” wrote Pitkoff and Herman in a letter to the BCCHA school community.

A graduate of the Bess and Paul Hebrew Academy in Bloomfield, Rabbi Trencher received a bachelor’s degree in computer science from Yeshiva University, and a master’s in social work from the University of Connecticut. Rabbi Trencher’s experience in Jewish education and Jewish teen engagement includes

*See “Head” on page 6*

## Deadlines for articles

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

Monday, April 29 ..... June/July/August  
Monday, July 29 ..... September  
Thursday, August 29 ..... October

Send *New Jewish Voice* article submissions to Sandy Golove at [sandy@ujf.org](mailto:sandy@ujf.org) marked “Stamford Voice” in the subject line. Expect an acknowledgement; please re-send if you do not receive one.

Howard K. Weiner, M.D., Psychiatry

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# It's Business as Usual for UJF's Rothschild Society

BY SHARON FRANKLIN

United Jewish Federation's Rothschild Society held a business networking event for area professionals on March 11. The evening included mingling, dinner and an educational program titled "Entrepreneurship and Innovation: How To Get It Right." Rothschild Society's chair, Rica Lieberman, moderated the program, which featured a panel including Andrew Bein, head of business at Loeb International; Bonnie Marcus, president of Bonnie Marcus Creations; and Greg Waldstreicher, CEO and founder of PHiflow. Guests had a chance to hear about their individual entrepreneurial experiences and ask questions about their business journeys.

The event was held at Comradity, a shared workspace in the Harbor Point area. As a pro-

gram sponsor, Comradity owner Kathy Kern had a chance to tell guests about a new membership plan resulting from a new partnership with General Assembly – a company that offers training in tech, data, design, business and marketing. Membership includes discounted meeting space and online and in-person workshops and boot camps with GA to help companies and their employees remain competitive and relevant.



L-r: Sheryl Brown and Mike Handel with Rothschild committee members Emily Wirgin, Caryn Halbrecht, Pamela Feldstein, David Loewenberg and Peter Wolly.

For more information about UJF's Rothschild Society or to get involved, contact Sharon Franklin at [sharon@ujf.org](mailto:sharon@ujf.org)/203-321-1373, ext. 109.



L-r: Rothschild Chair Rica Lieberman with panelists Andrew Bein, Bonnie Marcus and Greg Waldstreicher.



L-r: Rothschild committee members Jeff Benson and Aviva Maller with Daniel Kraus and Steven Rapaport.



L-r: Peretz Cik\*, panelist Greg Waldstreicher and Shari Raymond\*. (\*Rothschild committee members)

## Schoke JFS Introduces Program for Holocaust Survivors

During the first event of the Anachnu (We) program, more than 50 Holocaust survivors in the Stamford area were treated to a performance by the Gan Yeladim nursery school students, who performed Jewish songs and music in the auditorium at Chabad of Stamford. The Anachnu (We) program is made possible by Schoke JFS through a grant from the JFNA Holocaust Survivor Care program. The grant helps Schoke JFS advance person-centered, trauma-informed supportive services for Holocaust survivors

in Fairfield County. The event, offered in Russian and English, was made possible with transportation provided for the attendees.

For more information and a schedule of events in the Holocaust Survivor Care Programs, contact Marina Sapir at 203-921-4161 or by e-mail at [msapir@ctjfs.org](mailto:msapir@ctjfs.org).

*At right: An audience of Holocaust survivors and the children of Gan Yeladim Nursery School listened to the program of Jewish music and songs at Chabad of Stamford.*



**PJ Library & PJ OUR WAY™**  
A Program of United Jewish Federation

## Celebrate Spring With PJ Library



**Story Time at Barnes & Noble**  
**Monday, May 6th, 10:00-11:00AM**  
**Stamford Town Center**  
**RSVP: [www.ujf.org/pjmay](http://www.ujf.org/pjmay)**

**Ice Cream for all at our  
Spring Celebration of Shavout**  
**Friday, June 7th, 1:30-2:15PM**  
**Carvel, 1060 Long Ridge Rd.**  
**RSVP: [www.ujf.org/pjicescream](http://www.ujf.org/pjicescream)**

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**PJ Parent Committee: Elise Feldman, Shira Fischer,  
Adam Furmansky, Liat Kochavi,  
Jonathan Ostroff and Shushannah Walsh**

**Questions: Contact Sharon Franklin at [Sharon@ujf.org](mailto:Sharon@ujf.org)/203-321-1373 ext.109**



# Two Federations Host Human Rights Pioneer

United Jewish Federation partnered with UJA-JCC Greenwich in March to host Bassem Eid, an internationally known political analyst, human rights pioneer and activist, and commentator on Arab and Palestinian affairs. Eid spent time at the Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy high school and at an evening with major donors from both Federations held at a private home.

"As Campaign chair and past president of UJF, I was honored to partake in this evening and to hear directly from Bassem Eid. He provided us all with thoughtful insight on a topic that is near to our hearts as Federation donors. It was also special in the spirit of collaboration to share this evening with our friends from Greenwich," shared Ellen Weber.

Eid was born in the Jordanian-occupied Old City in eastern Jerusalem. He spent the first 33 years of his life in Shuafat, a United Nations Refugee Works Agency refugee camp. He has been a resident of Jericho for close to 20 years. He, his wife and four children are citizens of Israel, and are free to travel in and out of Jericho.

During the first Palestinian *intifada*, Eid was a senior field researcher for B'Tselem, the Israeli Information



Students at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy listened to Bassem Eid.

Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories.

"I spent 26 years of my life defending the rights of the Palestinians, first under the Israelis and then, after Oslo, defending them from [Yasser] Arafat," he told both audiences.

In 1995, following his report on the Palestinian Preventive Security Forces, he came under attack by some Palestinian leaders for revealing human rights violations committed by the Palestinian

*See "Rights" on page 19*



L-r: Linda Spilka; Diane Sloyer, CEO of UJF; Pam Ehrenkranz, CEO of UJA-JCC; and Ellen Weber, campaign co-chair and past president of UJF.



L-r: Bassem Eid, Beverly Stein, Shoshana Dweck, Nancy Mimoun (UJF campaign co-chair) and Ed Smith.



L-r: Bassem Eid with Mort and Ele Lowenthal.



Seated, l-r: Susan Mark and Kerrin and Stephne Behrend.



L-r: Sissy and Gary Stein with Diane Sloyer.

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 **Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy**  
of Connecticut

## BITS AND PIECES

BY SANDY GOLOVE

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

### WELCOME TO GROWING FAMILIES:

**Yolly and Yaakov**

**Faratci** on the birth of a daughter; grandparents are **Rachel and Rabbi Mark Dratch** and **Stephanie and Shimon Faratci**.

**Iva and Amihai Freed** on the birth of a son.

**Hilary and Ari Goldstein** on the birth of a daughter; grandparents are **Joan and David Goldenberg** and **Betsy and Steve Goldstein**; great-grandmother is **Beatrice Goodfeder**.

**Krista and Ryan Harvey** on the birth of a son, Levi Warren Harvey; grandparents are **Kathy and Lenny Kreicas**, **Evelyn Blum Harvey** and **Lee Harvey**.

**Adrienne and Scott Karpen** on the birth of a son, Caleb Norman Karpen.

**Rebecca Shapiro Ruberg and Rabbi Jeremy Rubberg** on the birth of a daughter; grandparents are **Naomi Hersh**, **Bernie Shapiro** and **Miriam and Rabbi Archie Rubberg**.

**Fraida and Rabbi Binyomin Warmflash** on the birth of a daughter; grandparents are **Suri and Yerachmiel Glasner** and **Doris and Ron Warmflash**; great-grandmother is **Camille Warmflash**.

### MAZEL TOV TO:

**Rochel and Hecky Attar** on the marriage of their daughter, **Aviva Attar**, to **Zev Gassner**; grandmother is **Yospa Lieberman**.

**Lee Fanwick** on the engagement of her grandson.

**Samuel Schulman**, son of **Nancy and Gary Schulman**, on his graduation from the University of Connecticut School of Engineering.

**Liba and Steven Steinmetz** on their daughter, **Jennifer Steinmetz**, making aliyah.

**Lynn and Aron Trombka** on the engagement of their daughter, **Elana Trombka**, to **Yosie Friedman**, son of **Rachella and Allan Friedman**.



### MAZEL TOV TO B'NAI MITZVAH:

**Rebecca Kaplan**, daughter of **Melanie and Mark Kaplan**.

**Isaac Reicin**, son of **Maria and Glenn Reicin**.

**Allan Weiner**, son of **Nadia and Howard Weiner**.

**Emma Spitz**, granddaughter of **Carol Rosmarin**.

### WE MOURN THE LOSS OF:

**Lillian Beck**: sister of **Marilyn Schwartz**.

**Edith Becker**: mother of **Monica Becker**.

**Robert Beningson**.

**Linda Bloom**: mother of **Andy Bloom** and **Jill Grabowski**.

**Susie Blumenthal**: mother of **Lori Tobin**.

**Marsha Helene Cochon**: mother of **David Wolff**.

**Saul Cohen**: husband of **Mimi Cohen**; father of **Rene Kopelman and Amy Kruglak**; and brother of **Jerry Cohen**.

**Marvin Gold**: husband of **Barbara Gold**; and father of **Edward Gold, Joseph Gold, Richard Gold and Kerri Ruttenberg**.

**Harold Heller**: father of **Ronni Ginsberg and Ken Heller**; and brother of **Eleanore Agatstein**.

**David S. Jankelovitz**: father of **Lisa Goldberg**.

**Howard Lerner**: husband of **Rita Lerner**; father of **Gregg Lerner, Susan Lerner and Mark Lerner**; and brother of **Lawrence Lerner**.

**Harold Newman**: father of **Michelle Genn**.

**Anna Rosenthal**: mother of **Allen Rosenthal and Judy Hoffman**.

**Marc Rosenthal**: father of **Allison Ostroff**.

**Roberta (Bobby) Shapiro**: mother of **Andy, Lee and Richard Shapiro**.

**CyShavrick**: father of **David Shavrick**.

**Michael Gerard Sverdlove**: grandson of **Andrew Sverdlove**.

**Anne Zeide**: mother of **Steve Zeide**.

### CORRECTION

The following listing was listed incorrectly in last month's issue. *The New Jewish Voice* apologizes for the error.

### MAZEL TOV TO THE B'NAI MITZVAH

**Jesse Kalt**, son of **Carin and Greg Kalt**; and to grandparents **Lynn and Alan Pearce**.

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

## UJF PJ Library Outreach at Fairway



Suzanne Horn and Sandy Golove stopped by UJF's outreach table at Fairway Supermarket with Sharon Franklin.

## Women . . . . .

her message, 'The Power of Women,' at the upcoming Spring Dinner," shared Federation CEO Diane Sloyer.

Flicker credits her strength to her Israeli born roots. She says she is a staunch supporter of Israel and the Jewish people. As the daughter of scholar and Holocaust survivor Dr. Mordechai Paldiel, who ran the division of the Righteous Among the Nations at Yad Vashem in Israel for more than 24 years, she has said she understands the importance of education for peace, love and tolerance, and the vitality of standing up to evil, tyranny and antisemitism.

Flicker served as the honorary grand marshal in the 2018 Celebrate Israel parade and is an advocate for Israel. Flicker is known for her role on "The Real Housewives of New Jersey" and has used her celebrity status to address issues facing the Jewish community. She has spoken at numerous other Jewish organizations throughout North America, including Federations, Hadassah, StandWithUs, JNF and more.

Women's Philanthropy President Tara Shapiro shared some thoughts

Continued from page 1

on Flicker's visit to Stamford: "Siggy is known for her messages of self-assurance and empowerment, and her no-nonsense yet nurturing advice. She is a strong, accomplished Jewish woman who cares about Israel and the Jewish people. Watch her YouTube video. She is awesome!"

UJF's Women's Philanthropy traditionally offers speakers at its annual Spring Dinner, which also raises funds to support its programming. Speaking about her involvement in this Federation event, Rimerman explains, "Elissa and I grew up in a Federation house. It's who we were and what we did. We are so happy to be working on this event with Dinah, Cheryl and Allison, and hope to see you all there to support this great cause."

Tickets are \$95 through Wednesday, May 15, and \$125 after. Young women ages 13-18 are \$75 and sponsorships are available for \$360. Auction tickets can be purchased in advance, as well. Registration and all information can be found at [www.ujf.org/springdinner2019](http://www.ujf.org/springdinner2019), or call 203-321-1373.

## Store . . . . .

for a unique experience," said Gail G. Trell, JHS chair. "This presentation will reveal one part of the story of the economic development of Stamford and its downtown, as well as illustrate the role of Jewish immigration in the development of Stamford."

The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County, a non-profit, secular, educational organization established in Stamford in 1983, includes Jewish and non-Jewish individuals and organizations. With the cooperation and sponsorship of the Stamford History Center, JHS has researched the cultural history of downtown Stamford from 1940-65, specifically the shopping mecca comprising four streets where the mall now stands. JHS hopes to offer the entire community an opportunity to revisit that era with this art projection event, which is intended to be the beginning of a multi-year project that will result in a museum quality vertical panel exhibit about pre- and post-war Stamford businesses.

Based on photos of Jewish-owned businesses from the JHS archives, from the URC and from individual

recollections, JHS is seeking additional information from the community at large. "We hope the photos will trigger memories of managers, workers and customers who represented the rich diversity of downtown Stamford at that time," said Lester Sharlach. "We are using projection art to bring to light social history with attention-grabbing visuals. This project is the intersection of art and history, adding a new artistic perspective on Stamford and Connecticut history. Stamford's downtown family stores were part of a diverse community of store owners, whose stories have never been told. This history needs to be cherished, because much of it has vanished without a trace."

Those who have anything to contribute to the project, or would like to help in any way, are asked to contact the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County at 203-321-1373, ext. 150, e-mail [info@jhsfc-ct.org](mailto:info@jhsfc-ct.org) or via its website, <http://jhsfc-ct.org>.

*The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County is a recipient agency of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield County.*

## Head . . . . .

serving as assistant regional director of the New England region NCSY, the youth group of the Modern Orthodox movement, and as dean of students at the Hebrew High School of New England in West Hartford.

"Rabbi Trencher combines an energy and enthusiasm with strong pedagogic and leadership skills," wrote Pitkoff and Herman in their letter. "Throughout the search pro-

cess, he stood out as the candidate who immediately connected with our students and parents. We look forward to welcoming Rabbi Trencher and his family to our school and community this summer."

Rabbi Trencher and his wife, Stacy, are the parents of two college-age daughters and a son who will be an 11<sup>th</sup>-grader at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy's upper school this fall.

## JFS . . . . .

and current board member of the Friendship Circle of Fairfield County.

Joe Zalis was born and raised in the Maryland suburbs of Washington, DC. Joe has served on synagogue and Federation boards, and received the UJF's Harvey A. Peltz, Young Leadership Award in 2013.

Sapir, a Stamford resident for almost 20 years since immigrating to the United States from Russia, has been said to have worked to improve the community almost from the second she arrived. Sapir first became involved with Schoke JFS in 2014, helping with Passover deliveries, but soon started running the food pantry. Seeing that many elderly Russian residents were in the dark about the program, she took upon herself to help the food

pantry reach as many people as possible. When Schoke JFS began its Fresh Produce events, she helped to establish a separate day with Russian-speaking assistance. There are now more than 60 Russian-speaking families that receive help thanks to Sapir's work.

The evening will begin with appetizers and cocktails, followed by dinner, presentation of awards to the honorees and an auction. The performance and dessert will follow.

General tickets include the dinner, show and dessert for \$180. Visit [www.ctjfs.org/an-evening-with-schoke-jfs](http://www.ctjfs.org/an-evening-with-schoke-jfs) to reserve tickets.

To discuss donations for the evening, contact Lisa Rich, Schoke JFS donor relations coordinator, at 203-921-4161 or [lrich@ctjfs.org](mailto:lrich@ctjfs.org).

Continued from page 3

# JCC's Golf and Tennis Outing Supports Youth Programs

More than 100 golfers and tennis players are expected to participate in the Jewish Community Center's 25<sup>th</sup> annual Golf and Tennis Outing on Monday, June 3, at Rockrimmon Country Club in North Stamford.

Dubbed "Fore the Kids," the outing is held each year in support of JCC early childhood education, inclusion programming, summer experiences

and youth sports. The event includes morning and afternoon tennis, a buffet luncheon, shotgun start for golf at 12:45 pm and an awards banquet to end the day. Craig L. Price is serving as event chair.

For reservations or information about sponsorship opportunities, contact Shannon Jacobs at 203-487-0965 or sjacobs@stamfordjcc.org.



## Reading Partners – 20 Years and Still Counting

Spring has arrived and United Jewish Federation's Herbert and Sarah M. Gibor Reading Partners volunteers are preparing for the end of the school year. On April 8, team leaders met at Federation offices to plan the end-of-year

celebrations for the student reading partners. In late May and early June, all students and reading partners will have a party and awards ceremony. Each child will receive a new book and a certificate of accomplishment for participating in



*Reading Partners volunteers include (back row, l-r): Myra Graubard, Lisa Tyson, Lynn Canning, Lenore DiPalma and Laura Godown. Front row (l-r): Pam Hirschfeld (Stillmeadow team leader), Leah Baker (Stillmeadow team leader) and Kathy Bodall.*

## Getting in the Spring Holiday Spirit

United Jewish Federation Women's Philanthropy and Chapter Two celebrated spring by getting in the holiday spirit. Women gathered to prepare holiday treats for the children of 3SQUARE, swapped Passover recipes and tasted charoset from around the world, including Guatemala and Uganda. Participants took part in an interactive learning session with Jonathan Fass (Jewish educator and Schoke JFS COO), who shared suggestions on how to make seders more interesting and interactive.



*A right: Toby Lazarus (Schoke JFS outreach coordinator) wrapped holiday baskets.*



*Women's Philanthropy and Chapter Two members gathered to pack holiday baskets for 3SQUARE.*

the Reading Partners program.

"The joy on the children's faces when they are singled out and receive their awards is something I look forward to every year," said longtime reading

partner Ellen Weber.

This year's annual Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast will take place the morning of Monday, June 3, at the Jewish See "Reading" on page 8

## Schoke JFS Celebrates its Relocation



*Schoke Jewish Family Service celebrated its relocation to 196 Greyrock Place with the placing of mezuzot anticipating its upcoming grand opening. L-r: Matt Greenberg (CEO of Schoke JFS), Mimi Cohen, Rhoda Freedberg, Avram Freedberg, Edith Samers (immediate past president of Schoke JFS), Ed Smith (representing the Gibor Foundation) and Beverly Stein (president of Schoke JFS).*



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The Temple Sholom Learning Center provides an innovative religious school experience that is embraced by students and valued by parents.

- Fun, meaningful and relevant Jewish learning
- Age-appropriate, hands-on activities that educate and inspire
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- Flexible schedules for Pre-K through 7<sup>th</sup> Grade
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### ENROLLMENT IS OPEN FOR THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR!

Take advantage of our Early Bird Discount by registering/paying in full by May 31. For more information, contact David Cohen, Director of Schools, at 203-869-7191 or [david.cohen@templesholom.com](mailto:david.cohen@templesholom.com).



## Save the Date

Federation's Campaign Launch - September 8  
Featuring Ethan Zohn



United Jewish Federation

Visit [www.ujf.org](http://www.ujf.org) or [facebook.com/stamfordFederation](https://facebook.com/stamfordFederation)

## CAS Women's Scholars Series

The Adult Education Committee of Congregation Agudath Sholom announced that Nechama Price will be this year's presenter at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Scholars Series. Her topic will be a study of the four major leadership tribes – Reuven, Yehuda, Yosef and Binyamin – tracing how their personalities have been transmitted to and through their descendants.

The series will take place between Passover and Shavuot on Wednesdays, May 8, 22 and 29 and June 5. All classes will be



Nechama Price

held at the synagogue, 301 Strawberry Hill Ave., Stamford, at 8 pm. The series is free of charge, and open to members and non-members alike.

Price is the director of Yeshiva University's Graduate Program for Advanced Talmud Studies, from which she earned certification in 2003. She is a senior lecturer in the Bible and Judaic Studies Departments at Stern College, where she has been teaching since 2004. Price earned a master's degree in Jewish education from

Azrieli Graduate School, and an M.A. in Bible from the Bernard Revel Graduate School. She is also a graduate of the inaugural class of the American branch of Nishmat's Yoetzet Halacha Program, and currently serves as a *yoetzet halacha* (*halachic advisor*) to the communities of Englewood, Tenafly, Livingston, West Orange and Long Branch, NJ. Price is a community scholar and speaks all over North America. She lives in Bergenfield, NJ, with her husband and four children.

For more information, call 203-358-2200 or visit [www.cas-stamford.org](http://www.cas-stamford.org).

## Sylvia Plotkin Annual Mah Jongg Tournament

Master Mah Jongg players and novices alike are invited to play in the Sylvia Plotkin Annual Mah Jongg Tournament to be held at the Jewish Community Center on Wednesday, May 1. Registration will start at 9 am, with play starting at 9:30 am and continuing until 2 pm.

"All levels are welcome," said Lorraine Kveskin,

daughter of the late Sylvia Plotkin and chair of the event. "This is a day of friendly competition and serious fun."

Bridge and Canasta games are also welcome. "Nota game player?" Kveskin added. "Come for the fun! And, of course, donations are also welcome." All proceeds will benefit programs for senior adults at the JCC.

There will be door prizes and tournament prizes; noshes and nibbles will be served.

The cost is \$40 per person. Register online at [stamfordjcc.org](http://stamfordjcc.org) or pick up a registration form at the JCC welcome desk. For more information, contact Connie Cirillo Freeman at 203-487-0983 or [cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:cfreeman@stamfordjcc.org).

## "With All My Heart"

### Jewish Spirituality Course in Stamford and New Canaan

This May, Rabbi Levi Mendelow will offer "With All My Heart," a new six-session course by the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute that will examine the Jewish art of prayer and spiritual experience. Rabbi Mendelow is the director of Chabad of New Canaan, and

also serves as the director of SAJE – The Stamford Academy of Jewish Education, which offers the JLI courses in Stamford.

Participants in the course will study the history and philosophy of Jewish worship, and seek to discover the

structure embedded within the Jewish prayer book and within Judaism's ancient synagogue traditions.

The six-week course will be offered three times each week, twice in Stamford and once in New Canaan, beginning in mid-May. The course will be presented in Stamford on six Tuesday evenings, at 7:30 pm, and again on Wednesday mornings, at 9:30 am, at Chabad of Stamford, 770 High Ridge Rd., Stamford. The course will also be offered in New Canaan on Wednesday evenings, at 6:45 pm, at the New Canaan YMCA, 564 South Ave., New Canaan. The cost is \$99, which includes the textbook.

"Responsibilities pull us in so many directions that we seldom get a chance to reflect on our lives, our mission in this world, what's true and what really matters to us," said Rabbi Mendelow. "Even much of religion seems to have become routine and devoid of heartfelt feeling and spirituality. This course is out to debunk that notion and reclaim the 'spirit' within spiritual practice."

According to JLI's website, the course promises to "outline profound Jewish prayer techniques that lend wings to our emotions and words to our yearnings, allowing us to communicate with something much larger than ourselves, and feel comfort and shelter within a reality that's more whole, more intense, more real, and more beautiful."

"With All My Heart" will explore questions such as: What is Jewish prayer? What is the mystical meaning, power and impact of our prayers? If prayer is a journey, what is its destination? And, how do we practice focused mindfulness while engaging in our day-to-day responsibilities?

Rabbi Laibl Wolf, founder and dean of Spiritgrow and author of "Practical Kabbalah," commented about the course, "Talking to God, or discovering the deeper self, is not taught or experienced by most Jews in a lifetime. It is therefore heroic of JLI to tackle this gap and bridge it with an excellent course that includes experiential elements like meditation."

The course is designed to appeal to people at all levels of knowledge, including those without any prior experience or background in Jewish learning. All JLI courses are open to the public and attendees need not be affiliated with a particular synagogue, temple, or other house of worship.

Interested students may call 203-449-0472 or visit [www.myJLI.com](http://www.myJLI.com) for registration and for other course-related information, including the dates of the class.

JLI, the adult education branch of Chabad-Lubavitch, offers programs in more than 800 locations in the U.S. and in numerous foreign countries. More than 400,000 students have attended JLI classes since the organization was founded in 1998.

## Reading . . . . Continued from page 7

Community Center. Reading Partners will celebrate the completion of its 20<sup>th</sup> year of service to the Stamford community. Deborah Freedman, children's author and illustrator, will be this year's guest speaker.

It is not too early to start thinking of becoming a volunteer in the fall. For more information about the program, contact of Reading Partners Director Lenore Fogel at 203-321-1373, ext. 115, or [reading-partners@ujf.org](mailto:reading-partners@ujf.org).



Nate Himelstein and Gabby Lovishuk trained with Shelly Welfeld as they got ready to work with Sinai's Seniors on Mitzvah Day.

congregation's teens. The project team's members are Eve Block, Robin and Michael Himelstein, Susan Pellish-Thaler and Gabriela Marcus. Helping the seniors get connected through technology is believed to have a positive impact on their lives by allowing them to communicate more frequently with the congregational family, keep up with community developments and help distant senior community members to reconnect to the congregation. The teens will teach the skills needed to navigate the new website and mobile app through one-on-one sessions with seniors using many of the common tech devices such as computers, tablets and smartphones. The teens seek to help them hold on to their social connection and community engagement with Temple Sinai through this guided tutorial program.

This ALI Mitzvah Day project also aims to engage its teen congregants and instill a lifelong appreciation of the importance of being productive citizens who contribute to the quality of life for the entire temple family. The website committee wanted to offer a website that brings the community to life online. Temple Sinai invites all to explore its website so that everyone may experience the energy of the congregation.

For more information, contact Robin Himelstein at 203-360-2023 or [rtriedel2000@yahoo.com](mailto:rtriedel2000@yahoo.com), or drop by the office at Temple Sinai, 458 Lakeside Dr., Stamford, and sign up in person. The office is open 9 am-5 pm, Monday through Friday. The temple phone number is 203-322-1649.

*Gabriela Marcus is a Temple Sinai congregant and member of the Amidah Leadership Initiative and Website Committee.*

## ► Friendship Day/Walk to Benefit Special Needs Children

On Sunday, May 19, Friendship Circle will celebrate its ninth annual Friendship Day and Walk. In past years, almost 700 people have joined the walk and raised money for the Friendship Circle's daily activities that benefit children with special needs, as well as their parents and siblings. In addition to the fund-raising walk, there will be multiple family-friendly events and activities.

In addition to the fair that will highlight local Jewish organizations, there will be a trampoline show, inventor mentor, bumper balls, caricatures, face painting and more. Complimentary food and beverages will be served.

To learn more about the event, to donate or to make an individual fund-raising page, visit [www.FriendshipDayCT.com](http://www.FriendshipDayCT.com). Those interested in volunteering and becoming more involved are asked to contact [Malya@friendshipct.com](mailto:Malya@friendshipct.com).

# Behrend Institute Prepares for Eighth Program

## UJF Accepting Nominees for 2019-20 Cohort

United Jewish Federation is initiating another year of the Behrend Institute for Leadership. This will be the eighth time the program has been offered. More than 150 leaders have participated in the Behrend Institute. Past Behrend fellows have gone on to become presidents and leaders of all the Jewish institutions in Stamford.

This year, the program will begin in fall 2019 and run through June 2020. The curriculum is being modified to help community leaders respond and adapt to new issues facing the Jewish world. The curriculum is also designed to help participants develop leadership

skills, such as managing committees, fund-raising and effective communication. Jonathan Fass will facilitate the full program and a panel of instructors will lead workshops on a wide variety of topics.

Behrend Fellow and current Federation President Ricky Arbron credits the Institute for deepened relationships within the community: "The Behrend Institute was about so much more than the curriculum; it was about the community, and our commitment to our local and global Jewish world. I am forever grateful for the relationships I made and skills I learned."

Program founder Kerrin Behrend said, "Stephne and I benefitted from a leadership program when we moved to Stamford many years ago, and we are happy to be able to pay it forward to enhance the future leadership of the Stamford Jewish community."

The Behrend Institute will once again be run through United Jewish Federation, providing an opportunity for all community organizations to strengthen their future leadership. Participants are nominated by all the Jewish organizations and synagogues in Stamford, New Canaan and Darien in recognition of their potential to be

future leaders. Participants who have been nominated will have a telephone interview before being required to fill out an application. This will ensure that potential participants have a clear understanding of what the program offers, and the goals and expectations of the program. For the first time this year, individuals or couples may be nominated and there will be a stipend for babysitting, if participants need it.

Information and applications for the 2019-20 Behrend Institute for Leadership are available by contacting Diane Sloyer at 203-321-1373, ext. 105, or [dianesloyer@ujf.org](mailto:dianesloyer@ujf.org).

## ORT: Impact Through Education

United Jewish Federation recently hosted Mikhail (Misha) Libkin, national director of ORT Russia, at two events in Stamford. Local supporters spent time with Libkin at the home of Nancy and Gadi Mimoun. Members of UJF's Next Gen cohort joined him for dinner later that evening.

United Jewish Federation is a supporter of World ORT, a non-profit global Jewish organization that promotes education and training in communities worldwide. The ORT education system around the world is a beneficiary of UJF's overseas al-

locations. ORT is 139 years old and continues its mission to strengthen Jewish communities through education. Its schools seek to transform lives by providing 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and by investing in progressive educational models.

Libkin came to his current role in July 2018, but his involvement with ORT began in high school. He graduated from the ORT High School in Moscow in 2000 and has been an employee of ORT's operations in the former Soviet Union since college. In addition to his work at ORT, Libkin has been called a

young, charismatic Jew who is helping to bring back Jewish life and culture in the FSU, while leading a world class network of schools.

"We visited an ORT school on the UJF mission to St. Petersburg and interacted with a very talented group of students. It was inspiring, as a fol-

low-up, to meet Libkin who himself is a graduate of an ORT school" shared Nancy Mimoun, UJF Campaign chair and past president.

For more information on UJF's overseas impact, contact Diane Sloyer at 203-321-1373, ext. 105, or [dianesloyer@ujf.org](mailto:dianesloyer@ujf.org).

## JCC Honors Leaders at "Grace and Gratitude" Gala

On March 23, the Stamford Jewish Community Center held its Annual Spring Gala at Rockrimmon Country Club.

With more than 250 people in attendance, the JCC honored Lisa and Jeff Popper, and conferred the Emerging Leader Award upon Blake Bueckman. Arlene and Irwin Ettinger also presented the inaugural Arlene and Irwin Ettinger Legacy Award to Sandi Waldstreicher.

The Annual Spring Gala is the Jewish Community Center's largest fund-raiser of the year. Proceeds from the event help underwrite the \$120,000 in scholarships that the JCC awards annually to enrich the lives of children,



L-r: JCC Board President Joy Katz, Larry Katz and Zoe Schwartz.

families and seniors so that they can access programs they would otherwise be unable to afford.



L-r: Gala committee members Risa Goldblum, Co-Chair Jenny Fuchs, Co-Chair Liz Barron and Jeannie Kriftcher.

## Meet Your Legislators!

Join United Jewish Federation and JFACT

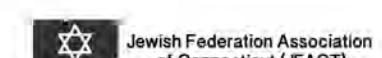
May 1, 2019 from 8:30-10:00am

and hear from your area legislators.

\$15 per person, breakfast included.

The event will be held at Congregation Agudath Sholom, 301 Strawberry Hill Ave., Stamford, CT 06902. RSVP at [www.ujf.org/breakfast](http://www.ujf.org/breakfast).

For questions contact Diane Sloyer at 203-321-1373 ext. 105/[dianesloyer@ujf.org](mailto:dianesloyer@ujf.org)



Next Gen leadership shared dinner with Mikhail (Misha) Libkin, who like them is working to build the next generation of Jewish Leadership.

Visit [www.ujf.org](http://www.ujf.org) or [facebook.com/stamfordFederation](https://facebook.com/stamfordFederation)



A Program of United Jewish Federation

## Free Jewish Books Provide Opportunity for Engagement

United Jewish Federation is proud to partner with private donors and the Grinspoon Foundation to provide free Jewish books to over 350 homes on a monthly basis through PJ Library and PJ OUR WAY.

In addition to books, UJF's PJ Library and PJ Our Way holds engaging monthly programs for the community that include family friendly activities.

Elise Feldman, Shira Fischer, Adam Furmansky, Liat Kochavi, Jonathan Ostroff and Shushannah Yasgur serve on a parent committee and their ideas and input are helping to shape the future.



Collaborative events with area institutions has allowed PJ to broaden its reach and work better to integrate and interact with the community. February, March and April have been fun filled exciting months for PJ.



In February, over 30 families gathered together for PJ Library's "Jewish Food Scavenger Hunt" held at Fairway Market. Children enjoyed breakfast and decorated a re-usable fabric grocery bags and participated in a supermarket

scavenger hunt by solving clues that led them around the store leading them to traditional foods including lox, challah and matzah to name a few. Thanks to



Fairway Market for sponsoring the breakfast.



PJ celebrated Purim in March. Kids made Purim packages (mishloach manot) and decorated masks.

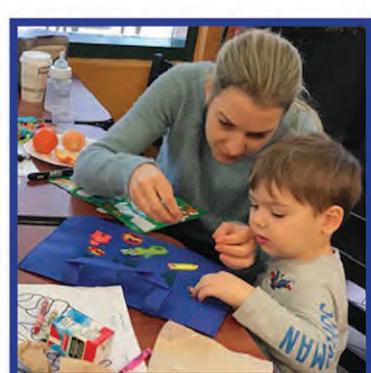
April's Supper and Song featured the musical entertainment of Bobby Doowah and Jonathan Cahr. In addition, participants made their own afikomen bags.



PJ Library's goal is to enrich the lives of Jewish and interfaith families with stories that teach Jewish values and holidays. To find out about upcoming events go to our website at [www.ujf.org](http://www.ujf.org).

To sign up to receive a monthly PJ Library book (ages 6 months to 8 ½ years of age) or for PJ OUR WAY (ages 8½-11) go to [www.pjlibrary.org/stamford](http://www.pjlibrary.org/stamford). Contact Sharon Franklin for more information, [sharon@ujf.org](mailto:sharon@ujf.org)

203-321-1373/109. Names withheld at parents request.



# UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION

# Your Community

United Jewish Federation is committed to building and safeguarding our Jewish community and strengthening connections to Israel and World Jewry by mobilizing our community to invest in Jewish life for today and future generations.

# Your Money

Through your annual support, our partners and recipients will continue to transform lives and deliver hope, dignity and comfort to millions of people in our local community, in Israel and around the globe.

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- Donor-driven fundraising
- A new transparent menu-driven fundraising campaign
- Initiatives rising to the top of Federation's philanthropy that are passionately supported by the community

Federation's annual campaign will raise money to fill gaps in the Jewish community here, in Israel and around the world!



**United Jewish Federation**

[www.ujf.org](http://www.ujf.org) 203-321-1373

THE **STRENGTH** OF A PEOPLE. THE **POWER** OF A COMMUNITY.

## A Tradition Renewed

The sunlit atria of Greenwich Reform Synagogue was the setting for the 2019 Women's Education Symposium, which was held on March 27.

After a manyyear hiatus, the Greater Stamford and Greenwich Federations once again joined together for this event. More than 75 women enjoyed breakfast and the wisdom of three women authors.

Angela Himsel, author of "A River Could Be a Tree: A Memoir," Susie Orman Schnall, author of "The Subway Girls," and Dawn Raffel, author of "The Strange Case of Dr. Couney," were the guest speakers and participants enjoyed hearing their stories.

"I am so proud that our communities are working together again. Not only are we close geographically but our



*Stamford women gathered before the Women's Education Symposium began.*

shared values for the work we do makes us so much stronger together. We look forward to more shared opportunities in the months and years ahead," said Tara Shapiro, UJF Women's Philanthropy president.



*The packed room at UJF and UJA-JCC's joint Women's Education Symposium.*

## Friendship Circle Dads Escape the Room!

BY LENORE FOGEL

On February 7, 15 men gathered at trap't Escape Room Adventures for a night of comradery. The men are all fathers who have children with special needs and participate in the Friendship Circle of Fairfield County. The Friendship Circle works to not only serve the individual with special needs, but also offers programming for siblings, mothers and fathers.

In an effort to further understand and cater to the fathers' needs, Dr. Jonah Schrag, a licensed clinical psychologist, led a focus group at the beginning of the evening. He explored with the fathers what it means to them to be the dad of a child with special needs. He also asked the fathers to discuss what kind of activities and support the Friendship Circle could offer them. The dads had many different thoughts and suggestions, and had a conversation focused on support and friendship.

After the focusgroup discussion, those attending enjoyed meal from Soosh and then split into two teams to compete to escape the room. Both groups made it out with moments to spare.



*Friendship Circle dads escaped the room! Top row (l-r): Greg Goldstein, Marc Shafer, Dahni Nisinweig, Dave Schneider, Greg Wachsman, Isaac Kleshelski, Roger Lob and Eric Falkenstein. Bottom row (l-r): Josh Shamsi, Jason Goldstein, Todd Parker, David Radin and Brian Horsburgh.*



*L-r: Jill Kaplan, Nancy Schulman, Dinah Miller-Marlowe, Sheila Schleier and Diane Cohen caught up over breakfast.*

## Women's Seder at Temple Beth El



*More than 200 women – young, old and intergenerational – attended the fourth annual Women's Seder at Temple Beth El led by Cantor Magda Fishman. The seder recognized the role of women throughout Jewish history and sought to infuse the Passover narrative with a feminine perspective. Guests took home a haggadah that underscored the seder's theme and underlying messages. The haggadah was designed by the TBE Women's Seder Committee under the leadership of Susan Greenwald and Irma Ross, co-chairs.*

## Schoke JFS Passover Food Drive Visits Greenwich



*The Greenwich Reform Synagogue volunteers encouraged shoppers at the Stop and Shop in Greenwich to donate non-perishable food items to the Passover Food Drive for the Freedberg Family Kosher Food Pantry. The items collected included matzah, gefilte fish, horseradish, matzah ball soup mix, grape juice, macaroons and kosher for Passover canned fruits and vegetables. This will help Schoke Jewish Family Service to give clients who are less fortunate the assistance they need with food for Passover. To donate grocery or pharmacy gift cards to the Kosher Food Pantry, contact Rebekah Kanefsky at 203-921-4161, ext.128, or rkanefsky@ctjfs.org, or visit www.ctjfs.org/kosherfoodpantry.*

# UJF's Cardozo Law Society Holds Ethics Program

BY SHARON FRANKLIN

On April 8, United Jewish Federation's Cardozo Society held a program titled "Ethics Training – Ethical Challenges and Pitfalls for Attorneys." The evening included dinner and networking, followed by a panel discussion featuring Judge Gary White, who sits on the Stamford/Norwalk District Superior Court, and Judge Lynda Munro, a retired Connecticut Superior Court judge, who currently practices law at Pullman & Comley. Cardozo Society committee member Cathy Satz moderated the program. Guests had a chance to learn first-hand about how attorneys are guided in their conduct and what is involved in the attorney discipline process.

The Cardozo Society thanked

sponsors Wiggin & Dana, which provided one CLE credit in ethics, and Workpoint, which provided the event space. Workpoint is a new 15,000 square foot shared office facility and co-working space in Stamford on the Long Island Sound.

The Cardozo Society is an affinity group of United Jewish Federation. The society is comprised of members of the legal community, including lawyers, professors, judges and others, and provides educational, leadership and networking opportunities with the objective of benefiting both the local and global Jewish communities.

For more information about the Cardozo Society, contact Sharon Franklin at 203-321-1373, ext. 109, or at sharon@ujf.org.



L-r: Josh Esse, Jeff Cunningham, Jason Lewis and Maya Sparks (Cardozo committee member).



L-r: Jack Scherban, panelist Judge Lynda Munro (ret.), Mel Lowenthal (Cardozo committee member) and panelist Judge Gary White chatted with program moderator Cathy Satz (Cardozo committee member).



Law professionals from the Greater Stamford area listened to an educational program at UJF Cardozo Society event.

## Carmel Presents "Romeo and Juliet: The Comedy!"



*Carmel Academy's Theater Troupe presented its production of "Romeo and Juliet: The Comedy!" The play was directed by Carmel Academy teacher Maayan Loewenberg, who is a trained thespian and wrote the comedic interpretation of the classic Shakespeare drama. The production was the culmination of Carmel Academy's after-school theater program in which the students learned*

*various theatrical techniques and methods, mainly focused on the Meisner Technique, which stresses the actor's ability to do instead of act, work together with the scene partners and live from one unanticipated moment to the next on stage. Shown are Carmel Academy eighth-graders Sophie Citron and Ela Dynner acting out a scene with seventh-grader Eva Specter in the school's production of "Romeo and Juliet: The Comedy!"*

## Carmel Student Heads to State Geography Bee

*For a third consecutive year, one of Carmel Academy's middle school students has qualified for the National Geographic GeoBee State Competition. Seventh-grader Micah Taffet's near-perfect score earned him a spot at the State Bee, one step away from reaching the National Championship, which will take place in Washington, DC, in May. The annual competition, organized by the National Geographic Society, is designed to inspire students' curiosity about the world. "Geography is very interesting, I really like learning about new places, especially cities," said Taffet, adding that learning about geography spans politics, science, history, nature and culture.*



## Living Wax Museum at Carmel Academy

*Carmel Academy's lower school was filled with some of the world's most famous people – both past and present – at the school's Living Wax Museum. Jane Goodall, Neil Armstrong, Harriet Tubman, Albert Einstein, Amelia Earhart and Nelson Mandela were present, just to name a few. As part of their biographies study, Carmel's second and third grade students chose a famous person to research. They then turned their new knowledge into a speech, written from the perspective of the person they researched. Dressed in character, students transformed themselves into a living wax statue and delighted their guests with their biographies. Shown at right (in front) is second grade student Ariella Young, who participated in the school's living wax museum as Ruth Bader Ginsburg.*



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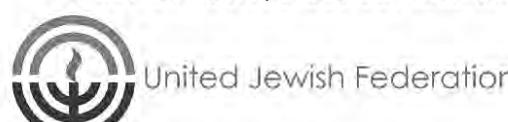
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# Carmel Academy Hosts Seder Plate Basketball Tournament

BY JULIE LAPIN

Carmel Academy capped off its basketball season by hosting its annual Seder Plate Basketball Tournament on February 10 at its Greenwich campus.

The five-school tournament included Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy, Ezra Academy, Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Hartford and Southern Connecticut Hebrew Academy. More than 70 varsity athletes competed in games throughout the day.



Members of Carmel Academy's girls' basketball team celebrated after their first place tournament win.

Carmel Academy's girls varsity took the first place trophy, winning all of their tournament games, including a game that went into triple overtime. Carmel's boys varsity team also placed in the tournament, taking home the second place trophy.

"There was a wonderful sense of community, with athletes throughout Connecticut congregating on our campus," said Carmel Academy Athletic Director Phil Goldberg, who also organized the tournament.

"Our students were filled with such pride to be the tournament host. Our young athletes worked hard throughout the season and played with tremendous heart, compassion, pride and spirit. They showed exemplary sportsmanship and respect for one another and their guests."

Each year, on the Friday prior to the Seder Plate tournament, the entire school gathers for a pep rally and the annual faculty vs. student basketball game.



Carmel Academy faculty and eighth grade students at the school's annual faculty vs. student basketball game.

## Carmel Academy's Students Delve into Black History Month

BY JULIE LAPIN

In celebration of Black History Month, Carmel Academy's students delved into learning about the contributions and achievements of African Americans throughout U.S. history.

Each morning, as students entered school, they were greeted with an informative slide and video presentation featuring a famous black American, including choreographer Alvin Ailey, Olympic athlete Jesse Owens, jazz musician Duke Ellington, medical researcher Dr. Charles Drew, abolitionist Harriet Tubman, Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson and writer Zora Neale Hurston, to name a few.

After watching the morning video, students learned more about each featured person in their classrooms. While in music class, students were introduced to musical genres from black culture including blues, jazz and soul.

"In these times, it is really critical for all students to recognize the unique contributions that people of all races and backgrounds have made on this wonderful country, and the lasting legacy these activists, scientists, writers, artists, athletes, choreographers, musicians and scientists have made on American culture. Our students have also recognized the bravery many of these historical figures exhibited," said Jennifer Gensior, Carmel's director of general studies curriculum.

"It's never too early to learn about the important influence African Americans have had on the country we are today," Gensior said.

"In fact, Carmel Academy's youngest students in transitional kindergarten learned about Ella Jenkins, a children's educator and musician who is famously known for her use of call-and-response singing," said transitional kindergarten teacher Diane Holsten.

"We not only do the musical sounds, but we combine it with movements. While we use this technique often, we took this opportunity to teach the students who Ella Jenkins was and her role in our country's history," Holsten said.

Fifth-grader Eden Citron said learning about black Americans who influenced history is an important lesson for her and her classmates: "There is not a lot of racial diversity at school, so this is so important to learn about African Americans. I am really thankful to have this opportunity."

"I am so happy that our school is taking Black History Month so seriously," said fifth-grader Arielle Seligmann. "We are very privileged with the opportunities we have and we need to remember that most of the people we are learning about faced a lot of challenges."

"There are so many things wrong with history and we need to learn about that so those same mistakes

aren't made today. We can make a change in our own way," Seligmann said.

*Carmel Academy is a recipient agency of United Jewish Federation.*

*At right: Carmel Academy's transitional kindergarten students sang and acted out a song by Ella Jenkins, who they learned about during Black History Month. L-r: Cole Litwak, Ryan Bednarsh, Jordie Farstrup and Noah Ferst.*



## Medical . . . . .

to run tests at home, receive lab-grade results within minutes and instantly share them with their physician.

"We have shown that our image-analysis software can detect bacteria as accurately as a high-end lab microscope that costs over \$100,000," says Livne.

The optics add-on would be a disposable chip device sold at a pharmacy for less than \$20. You'd put the relevant biological liquid onto the chip—whether urine, saliva or a teardrop—"in a convenient way so it's not disgusting or unhygienic. The camera takes and analyzes the pictures, and sends you and your physician automatic results."

Diagnoz.me is not the only Israeli company pioneering the home diagnostics sector. TytoCare of Netanya and New York sells a home exam kit and app that lets people perform basic medical exams guided by a doctor. The device includes instruments to check ears, throat, heart and lungs, skin and body temperature, and transmits those images and sounds to the physician.

Healthy.io of Tel Aviv, which recently raised \$18 million in a Series B round, sells a smartphone-based home urinalysis kit and is starting a test-and-treat service in the United Kingdom for urinary-tract infections in collaboration with pharmacy chain Boots.

Livne explains that most home diagnostics developers are using PCR, a technology that identifies the DNA of specific bacteria.

Diagnoz.me uses a different technology, fluorescence microscopy, which has been around for more than 100 years, but it wasn't until around 2017 that smartphones had the right high-level specs to make it possible.

"The physician receives the same kind of information as from a lab, including bacterial count, to know what you have. If you need a prescription, that can be done electronically as well," says Livne.

The founders won an NIS 3 million (nearly \$830,000) prize at the dHealth 2018 Summit held in Rishon Letzion.

Livne and Epstein have decided that Diagnoz.me's

Continued from page 1



The Diagnoz.me prototype. (Photo courtesy of Israel21c)

first-use case will be vaginal infections. That's the most common gynecological problem, accounting for more than 10 million office visits per year in the United States.

"We looked at a number of different infections and vaginal infections stood out because they are very common, but unfortunately, most women don't go for treatment because it's so unpleasant," explains Livne.

"Possibly 80 percent of women do anything to avoid going to the gynecologist, so they try over-the-counter and home remedies instead. But they are in pain, and it lowers their quality of life. We can help these women because collecting the sample and running the test is very easy and done in private."

The technology can be adapted to detect each type of relevant bacteria, in this case those that cause vaginal infections.

Diagnoz.me is now raising seed funding. Livne estimates that it will take about two to three years for the product to reach the market.

Meanwhile, Livne and Epstein are seeking strategic partnerships and continuing to develop the product with a medical advisory board, including, among others, the former head of the Women's Health Department at the Lin Center in Haifa and an OB-GYN who heads Femicare VZW in Belgium.

# Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy Celebrates Joining “Together as One”



*At the 2019 Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy Celebration Dinner, the Morton G. Scheraga President's Award was presented to past treasurer and Finance Committee Chair Arthur Green (right) by David Pitkoff, president of the BCHA Board of Trustees (left). (Photos by Clive Salmon)*



*The 2019 Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy Celebration Dinner honorees and school leadership at the March 31 gala. Bottom row (l-r): Guests of Honor Jay and Rachel Jubas; Head of School Jacqueline Herman; Alumni Award recipients, Class of 2004 alumni Gabriella Jackier, Adina Adelman, Dana Russ, Brian Freilich and David Fogel; BCHA Dean Rabbi Tzvi Bernstein; and Jane Shoztic Memorial Award recipient Elana Trombka. Back row (l-r): President of the Board of Trustees David Pitkoff; Alumni Award recipients, Class of 2004 alumni Matt Knopf, Rob Soifer, Matt Greif and Ben Jubas; and Community Service Award recipients Mitchell and Jill Kaplan.*



*A record-breaking 450 guests were on hand to honor several leaders of the Fairfield County Jewish community at the Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy Celebration Dinner on March 31. The evening also celebrated the recent merger of Bi-Cultural Day School and the Jewish High School of Connecticut, which led to the formation of the Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy. L-r: Dinner co-chairs Drs. Ilya and Lisa Loeffler-Kaplan, and Amanda and Jasper Lewiton.*

## ► Bi-Cultural “Scientists” Excel at Statewide Science Fair

Seventh grade scientists at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy in Stamford participated in the 2019 Connecticut Science and Engineering Fair, bringing home several top awards from the statewide event, which was held at Quinnipiac University on March 16. Seven Bi-Cultural students were among the finalists taking home awards.

Students Charlotte Moreen and Jason Kwalwasser won first place in the Jackson Life Sciences Award for their project “Drought Tolerance of Herbs.” Taking home second place ribbons were Bi-Cultural students Ella Hecht and Nily Genger, for their project “Is Salt Beneficial for Plant Growth?,” and Teresa Wiener and Samuel Sendersky, for their project “Salt Tolerance of Plants.” Esther Goldstein won third place for her project “What Nutrients Help Azolla Grow? How Can We Use This to Fight Climate Change?”

Supported by the state’s academic and industrial organizations, the purpose of the fair “is to teach young people how science works and can be used to discover and predict,” said BCHA science teacher Christopher Graseck.

Head of School Jackie Herman lauded her students for their achievements. “These young scientists combined what they have learned in the classroom with their creativity and inquisitiveness,” she said. “Their incredibly hard work paid off and we could not be more proud.”

## Standing Together

*At right: Rabbi Jay TelRav spoke on behalf of the Jewish community at a rally in support of Stamford’s Muslim community and inter-religious understanding at the Islamic Cultural Center of New York-Stamford. The rally was organized by the Interfaith Council of Southwestern Connecticut on March 22 following the fatal shootings at a mosque in New Zealand. Hundreds gathered, including many from the Jewish community, in a show of support and solidarity.*



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## Bi-Cultural Student Inventors

*Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy fifth-graders brought their ideas to life at the school’s Invention Convention, which was held recently on Bi-Cultural’s North Stamford campus. An annual event, the budding inventors set out to devise inventions that would solve modern everyday problems. Students took their ideas through the design process, from conception to invention and implementation. A cross-curricular project, students were not only called upon to put their scientific know-how to use; the project was also tied into the fifth grade persuasive writing curriculum as students created commercials for their invention using persuasive tactics studied in writing class. Shown is fifth-grader Yoav Hochman, who displayed his invention, the Porta-Fan, designed to help people keep cool when things get too hot.*



United Jewish Federation



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Scott Chudnoff, MD, MSC, FACOG Chair, Department of OB/GYN

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# Bi-Cultural Teens Learn about Israel Advocacy at AIPAC

BY JUDIE JACOBSON

Now in its third year, the Israel Advocacy Club of Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy of Connecticut's upper school brought 17 students to the 2019 AIPAC Policy Conference held in Washington, DC, in mid-March.

In addition to listening to the remarks of a host of dignitaries,

including U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, the students had the opportunity to learn in depth about the efforts of AIPAC to support and strengthen the Israel-United States relationship. On the final day of the conference, students headed up to Capitol Hill to speak with members

of Connecticut's congressional delegation about the need for full support of Israel at the highest levels of the American government.

"The AIPAC Policy Conference was a great place to learn about the United States-Israel relationship," reported Bi-Cultural junior Andrew Yakubovich of Stamford, who serves as co-president of IAC with Sarah Hanna. "Through hearing House, Senate and other

influential speakers, I was happy to learn that the relationship has never been stronger."

Under the guidance of IAC advisor and Judaics teacher Ari Lieberman, as well as Hanna and Yakubovich, IAC members spent several months preparing for the conference. Now that they're back home in Stamford, members say they are already preparing themselves for next year's event.

## Color War Brings Bi-Cultural Students "Together"



*Some say that the quintessentially American tradition known as "Color War" began in 1916 at Schroon Lake Camp, a Jewish boys' camp in the Adirondacks. That fact cannot be confirmed. However, the students at Bi-Cultural Day School in Stamford poured their energy and spirit into the school's 2019 Color War event for three days of competition and camaraderie – mostly camaraderie, given that this year's Color War theme was "yachad" (together). Which team won? The red, white and blue.*



Members of Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy's Israel Advocacy Club at the AIPAC Policy Conference in Washington DC, in March with Principal Rabbi Elisha Paul and teacher Ari Lieberman (back row, far right).

### ► Summer Day Camps@The J

The Stamford JCC's Day Camps@The J staff are planning this year's summer camp season from June 24-August 16. Day Camps@The J is located on Newfield Avenue at the intersection of Vine Road in Stamford.

Children of all faiths, ethnicities, abilities and backgrounds are welcome. Programs are designed and intended to impart a sense of fulfillment and excitement to children, and seek to lead them on a path toward an active, social and healthy future.

Interested families have the flexibility to choose which weeks work best for them. Campers have daily swim lessons and the freedom to select their own electives. For further information on this year's summer camps, visit [www.daycampsatthej.org](http://www.daycampsatthej.org) or contact Director Jason Samuel at 203-487-0973 or [jsamuel@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:jsamuel@stamfordjcc.org).

## UJF's Women's Philanthropy and Chapter Two

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Join local women and our friends from Afula/Gilboa  
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United Jewish Federation



CHAPTER TWO

# SAVE THE DATE

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# A NIGHT OF HEROES

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WESTCHESTER AND CONNECTICUT ANNUAL GALA



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# VOICES AND VIEWS

## WHY I CARE...

*"Blessed are they that observe justice and do righteousness at all times!" – Psalms (Tehillim) 106:3*

### Focus on Cathy Satz

BY SHARON FRANKLIN

Cathy is originally from Queens, NY, and relocated to Stamford upon graduation from law school. Her husband David, also originally from Queens, moved to Connecticut when they married. She is a corporate attorney in Stamford and is happy that she never commuted to New York City for work. Cathy and David raised their two children, Adam and Rebecca, in Stamford, and are relatively new to the world of the "empty nesters." She enjoys cooking, running and riding her bicycle, hiking and relaxing on the beach.

#### Describe your involvement with UJF and how long you have been associated with the organization?

My involvement with UJF dates back to my move to Stamford in the late 1980s. I remember meeting Sheila Romanowitz, Federation's then executive director, for coffee in the JCC Café and discussing opportunities for a 20-something with no family or ties to the area to get involved. Currently, I am on the planning committee for the Cardozo Society – Federation's affinity group for the legal community. I helped develop the program and



Cathy Satz

I am the moderator for the Cardozo April program. I am also on the 2019 dinner committee for the Women's Philanthropy Group's spring dinner and I am a Reading Partner volunteer. Some of my prior activities include participation in a year-long young leadership training program with my husband and making Super Sunday phone calls.

#### Have you been involved with other Jewish organizations/non-Jewish organizations?

Yes! I have always supported and been active in the Jewish community – starting with joining the JCC shortly after I moved to Stamford and joining Temple Beth El when I was pregnant with my first child. My children both went to Jewish preschools (Gan Yeladim and KinderPlace) and participated in the JCC after school activities and other programs. My community involvement began with Corporate Volunteers in Action, part of the United Way that provided volunteers to staff events for local non-profits – and joining the Board of Directors of the local bar association, although most of my involvement has been with my children's schools and Jewish organizations. Recently, for three years I served as co-chair of the JCC's annual 5K/10K walk/run to support Jump Start and other inclusion programs, and I was also on Temple Beth El's Sisterhood board and chair of Sisterhood Shabbat for three years. Since I am not a fan of meetings, I prefer to be a worker-bee and participant at events, but I have held numerous roles on committees at Temple Beth El, served on committees for both the 2006 and 2016 Maccabi games in Stamford, and hosted a Tzahal Shalom soldier in 2009.

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

It is important for me to give back to help make the community and the world around me a better place! Some contributions make participating in events more enjoyable, some contributions make the events possible and some contributions enrich the lives of others who need something extra. It is particularly important to me to contribute to the Jewish community to keep it vibrant and active, and to help it support others around us. It is also important to me to be a role model for my children, and to teach them to get involved in the community around them, as my parents did for me.

BY GEORGIA BAER

When I was approached with the opportunity to be a part of UJF's Kuriansky Teen Tzedakah Corps, I was skeptical at first, but decided to apply. When the first meeting arrived, I was thrilled to have been reunited with past classmates. We learned about non-profit organizations and what giving circles are. For those of you who don't know what a giving circle is, it's a form of philanthropy where a group of individuals donate their own money or time to a fund. They decide together which organizations and non-profits to allocate the funds to. In doing so, we increase our awareness of issues throughout our community. This past year, I have made phone calls for the UJF call night and babysat to donate my money toward the Kuriansky Fund.

Our first speaker was a woman from Domus who spoke about human services in the public school system. The students involved in Domus' programs are provided with academic support, social-emotional skill building, and personal and practical connections to guide them through their high school

## TEEN VOICES

### Out of My Comfort Zone



Georgia Baer

career, and to further their contributions toward society.

The speakers at the next meeting were two people who have board positions on school and synagogue boards. For the warm-up activity, we tracked our own personal philanthropic journeys by writing our leadership roles and experiences on sticky notes, and pasting them along a timeline on the wall. After, we split into two groups and performed mock board meetings. Executive Committee positions were assigned and made-up scenarios were discussed, solved, or left up for discussion. Through this activity, I've learned the impact board members can make on their community because they represent the best interests of their organization.

The month of March arrived, and the director of development from Inspirica, the homeless shelter in Stamford, came to speak to us. We explored Inspirica's mission, impact and what daily life at the shelter is like. At Inspirica, the focus is to break

See "Zone" on page 19

## Take a Dive for the Environment — We Did!

BY BENJAMIN MARCUS

The Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy Upper School Environmental Club participated in a fascinating learning project over winter break. Members of the club traveled down to Key Dives, in Islamorada, FL, to join a group in an environmental cleanup dive.

The cleanup dives are made possible by the Marine Sanctuary Foundation, and are run by Key Dives and Project Aware, an organization founded by PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) to promote environmental conservation. Many scuba divers and marine enthusiasts participate in this organization, which has created the world's only underwater marine debris cleanup survey. In so doing, the organization has rallied ocean lovers to clean up more than one million pieces of trash and has raised awareness throughout the areas they have impacted.

As founder and president of the Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy Upper School Environmental Club, I arranged the Florida outing to raise awareness of the dangers facing the aquatic system – specifically, biomagnification caused by various kinds of debris left in the



Ben Marcus (right) and his brother, Josh Marcus (left), on an environmental cleanup dive in Florida. Ben is a sophomore and Josh is a freshman at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy's upper school in Stamford.

ocean. Underwater, club members saw various plastics, ropes, metals, anchors

See "Dive" on page 19

## Temple Sinai Goes to Africa

BY LARRY STOOGENKE

Three thousand years ago, the Jews were stuck on the African continent laboring to build structures from handmade bricks under the hot sun, which was very different than what took place in February 2019. That time, they were slaves; this time, they were free men. That time, they built to satisfy man's ego; this time, they built to raise up a generation in one of the most impoverished communities on the planet. That time, they couldn't wait to get out; this time, well... they were pretty glad to get out, too.

Twelve men from Temple Sinai traveled to the country of Senegal through a program of the Stamford-based, inter-



The group received the warmest of welcomes when they arrived in the village of Nerane Diarrere. (Names held on request.)

the villagers, a primary school for the children of that community. Without it, the rate of illiteracy would have been nearly 100 percent, but, based on the metrics acquired by buildOn over the last 28 years it's been doing this, hundreds of thousands of lives have been changed for the better – opening doors with education. (The organization has completed 1,499 schools in seven countries at the time of writing.)

The men who traveled together, most having come to know each other through the annual Sinai Men's Retreat, raised the funds necessary to underwrite the cost to build the school. The villagers committed to providing

See "Africa" on page 19

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# Purim in the Airport at Chabad



*At left, l-r: Emma Lasher and Yoni Warmflash dressed up for Purim at Chabad of Stamford.*

*Below: Purim revelers enjoyed themselves at Chabad of Stamford.*



## Africa. . . . .

the unskilled labor and together with that \$30,000, the men broke ground and laid the foundation during the days they were there. Staying in the very simple homes of their grateful hosts, each morning the men would begin the work day standing in a circle with the villagers, led in prayer by the village's imam, Assan Diouf, and then by the congregation's rabbi, Jay TelRav.

Each afternoon, when the day grew too hot to continue to work safely, the men participated in cultural activities with the village, including dance celebrations (in which they learned traditional dances and taught the village the *hora*) and communal wrestling matches, a Senegalese tradition. There was time to sit with the students in their current classroom and to speak with the men of the community to compare the experiences of masculinity in their differing environments. Ultimately, one after another, the travelers from Temple Sinai noted just how similar were the hopes and dreams of the villagers. On paper, these Jews and

Africans could not have been more different when comparing them by race, ethnicity, religion, nationality, education, wealth and social structures, but they could not have been more alike in the hopes that their children would grow to enjoy a meaningful life unlimited by the circumstances of one's birth.

Temple Sinai President Marc Friedman has been with buildOn since it was founded. In all the treks he has taken over those 28 years, this one was the most personally meaningful yet: "It was an incredibly powerful thing to take the two most important efforts in my life, buildOn and Temple Sinai, bring them together, and then to see both organizations emerge better for it." Friedman has also met with Rabbi Rick Jacobs, the president of the Union for Reform Judaism, to explore the possibility of sharing this experience with other congregations around the world.

Sinai members are already beginning to form a group to go build another school – this time in Nepal!



*At right: Todd Palker stood in the newly excavated foundation, adding cement to one of the first footers.*



*Shown in the Senegalese capital of Dakar, the whole group with buildOn staff were ready to head out to the village. L-r: Matou Diallo, Rabbi Jay TelRav, Aaron Stark, Todd Palker, Anthony Stark, Marc Friedman, Carl Rosen, Henry Bubel, Gary Gepner, Lee Bowbeer, Alan Cohen, Bob Dorf, Peter Epstein, Francois Dieng and Daouda Camera. Kneeling in front is Victor Gning.*

*More than 200 people attended two Chabad of Stamford Purim events, a Purim party themed "Purim in the Airport as we Travel around the World" on Purim evening and a Purim seudah (festive meal) the next evening, in addition to several megillah readings throughout the day and night. At right, l-r: Leah Shemtov, Izzy Kanefsky, Rebekah Kanefsky and Michal Kanefsky (front) enjoyed the Purim festivities. (Photos by Clive Salmon)*



## Rights. . . . .

Authority. He was arrested by Arafat, but released after 25 hours with the help of then-U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

In 1996, Eid founded the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group, which monitors abuses committed by the P.A. and also deals to some extent with Israel, in addition to supporting a democratic and pluralistic Palestine. In 2016, he became chair of the Center

**for Near East Policy Research.**

Eid lectures worldwide on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and is the author of numerous publications and a frequent contributor to *The Jerusalem Post* and *Times of Israel*. He is also the recipient of numerous international human rights awards and, in 2009, was profiled in the book "Next Founders" as the leading Palestinian human rights activist.

## Zone. . . . .

the cycle of homelessness using the "two generation" approach because it's extremely important to teach the younger generation skills in order to be successful. A significant aspect of the homeless shelter is that residents are given their own keys to their rooms, providing them with emotional safety and privacy, which is one of the unique qualities of Inspirica.

This philanthropic journey has opened my eyes to challenges that are

faced in my community. I'm so glad I was involved in this great learning experience, because I now feel more connected with my Jewish values as a young Jewish adult.

*The Kuriansky Teen Tzedakah Corps, a program of the United Jewish Federation, is a teen philanthropic leadership program designed to train the next generation of community philanthropists.*

*Georgia Baer is a sophomore at Westhill High School.*

## Dive. . . . .

and unidentified pollutants covering Florida's beautiful coral reefs.

At the end of the day, our group of about 20 scuba divers collected buckets full of trash.

Following the cleanup dives, Courtney Benson, Key Dives Marine Conservation coordinator, explained how the trash we collected harms local coral reefs. As a result of storms and human negligence, thousands of pounds of debris gets caught in Floridian reefs. The debris causes several problems for the local ecosystem. Reefs are bio-diverse nurseries for endemic fish, so their destruction negatively affects the health and size of local fish populations for many future generations. The destruction of the reefs is a problem, not just in the Florida Keys, but globally.

After completing their research, the Environmental Club traveled back

home armed with their new knowledge – and the wish to implement some sort of marine conservation environmental cleanup in Fairfield County, which would be the first of its kind in the area.

Though an underwater environmental cleanup can only be done during a very short period of the year in the Northeast, the club is looking into creating an annual underwater cleanup during the summer.

The Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy Environmental Club is thankful to Key Dives for allowing our team to participate in this amazing event. We look forward to joining them on an environmental cleanup dive in the near future.

*Ben Marcus is a resident of Westport and a sophomore at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy's upper school in Stamford.*

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**THE NEW JEWISH VOICE**



## United Jewish Federation Women's Philanthropy

# Spring Dinner with Siggy Flicker

**Wednesday, May 29, 2019 ~ 6:30 PM**

**Temple Beth El ~ 350 Roxbury Road, Stamford**

**6:30 PM Buffet Dinner, Tricky Tray and Silent Auction**

**7:30 PM Program**

**\$95 through May 15th, \$125 after**

**\$75 young women ages 13-18**

**\$360 Event Sponsor**

**"Tricky Tray" raffle/auction tickets- Purchase now and save!**

**\$72-100 tickets   \$54-65 tickets   \$36-36 tickets**

**All ticket packages will be \$10 more at the event.**

**RSVP: [WWW.UJF.ORG/SPRINGDINNER2019](http://WWW.UJF.ORG/SPRINGDINNER2019)**

**Questions: Contact Diane Sloyer 203-321-1373**

Siggy Flicker, born in Israel, served as the Honorary Grand Marshal in the 2018 Celebrate Israel Parade and is an outspoken advocate for Israel. Her dad survived the Holocaust and spent 20 years working for Yad Vashem and her mom served in the IDF and was a noted Scholar. Siggy is known for her messages of self-assurance and empowerment and her inspiration to create a life doing what one loves. Siggy is known for her role on The Real Housewives of New Jersey and has used this platform to make a meaningful impact in the Jewish world and has been a featured speaker at Jewish organizations such as Federations, Hadassah, StandWithUs and JNF.



*With gratitude and appreciation to our sponsors*

**The Louis J. Kuriansky Foundation**

