



# THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

A PUBLICATION OF UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION

## Moishe Pod Comes to Stamford



Moishe Pod Stamford holds an outdoor bagel brunch.

(Courtesy of UJF) Moishe House, which provides a place for young adults in their 20's to come together to create vibrant Jewish communities, has opened Moishe Pod Stamford in Harbor Point, with the support of United Jewish Federation.

Jessica Herrman and Rebecca Heaps, who have been friends since temple preschool,

founded Stamford's "Pod", which is a two-person Moishe House. They are excited to create a meaningful community for Stamford Jewish young professionals. The two want to create a space where folks can be their authentic, Jewish selves through a variety of programs,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## UJF Honors Long-Time Donors At 2020 Campaign Kickoff

BY NANCY SCHULMAN

During these challenging times, drive-in movies bring fun and a feeling of community to everyone who attends. With that in mind, United Jewish Federation (UJF) invites the entire community to the UJF Drive-In movie event to kick off its 2020 campaign. The event will take place on Wednesday, September 9 at 7:30 pm in the JCC parking lot, 1035 Newfield Avenue (with a rain date of September 10) and will honor donors who have supported UJF for 18 or more years. In the comfort and safety of their own cars, attendees will enjoy a feature presentation highlighting donors and special guests, live entertainment and refreshments delivered directly to them.

David Gordon, UJF President, states, "The fact that over 640 donors have given a gift to UJF Stamford, New Canaan and Darien for 18 years or more speaks volumes for both our UJF and our donors. I want these donors to know how much we appreciate their long-time support and how they serve as a role model for others in keeping our Jewish community vibrant."

Elissa and Philip Klapper have been UJF donors since 1994. Elissa shared, "There are many values in the Jewish tradition: an emphasis on Jewish education, respect for elders, redemption of captives, and building of the Jewish state, the list goes on and on. Living in a society which reflects these values requires involvement and money, and coordination. We cannot demonstrate for domestic social justice alone. We need to work together. This is what United Jewish Federation of Stamford is. It is the structure for us to come together as a community, reach out to others and make a difference in their lives."

According to Rhonda Schaffer-Marion, chair of the UJF Grants and Allocations committee, "Our new, donor-directed campaign model was very successful last year, and in 2020 we will continue to give our donors the opportunity to select which community programs they would like to support with their UJF contributions. However, recognizing the impact COVID-19 has had on many of our agencies and their programs, this year's campaign will also provide donors with the option

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Arlene and Carl Rosen



Claudia Kraut



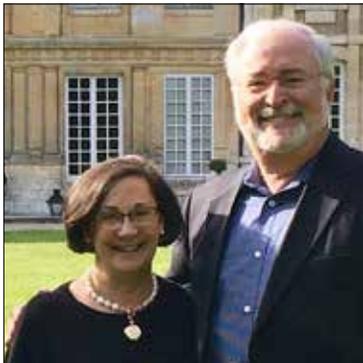
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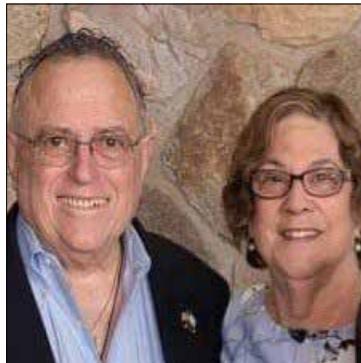
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Nan and Paul Gordon



Rochelle and Harold Schwartz



Sandy and Fred Golove



Susan Wrubel



Barbara and Harry Webski

Several donors of 18 years or more to be honored at UJF's campaign kickoff on September 9<sup>th</sup>.

FULL LISTING ON PAGES 14-15

## UJF President's Message

# Counting Our Blessings

BY DAVID GORDON

Rosh Hashana is coming! Yes, really! Rosh Hashana is coming! And for me that is good because it is making me take stock of where I am and how fortunate I am. On a day-to-day basis, like many others, I am frustrated and almost depressed that I am still stuck at home and can't go about business as normal, with no apparent end in sight. I can't get together with my friends, hug and kiss my grandchildren, have my children and Mom come for Shabbat dinner, and so much more. On the other hand, deep down, I know that I am very fortunate. First and foremost, T"V, my family and I are healthy. In addition, I have a house with a roof over my head, my home office more than suffices, my professional work continues, and I Face-Time with my Mom, children and grandchildren regularly. And I feel even better when I see that Wall Street is optimistic



David Gordon,  
UJF President

and the stock market has rebounded.

I hope that you have been as fortunate as I have been through these difficult times. For those who haven't been, I hope that you have called us (United Jewish Federation) or your synagogue or one of the Jewish agencies for assistance. That is why your United Jewish Federation is here,

and that is why UJF helps support all of the Jewish agencies and synagogues in our area. If you are feeling isolated, I hope that you have been availing yourself of the many programs that UJF and the agencies it supports have been providing via Zoom. And, if you haven't figured out how to use Zoom, I hope that you will ask someone to help you do so.

On the other hand, if you have been fortunate through this pandemic, I humbly request that you share some of your good fortune by significantly increasing your annual gift to UJF, as my wife Meryl and I will do as UJF kicks off its annual campaign. The Torah (Lev. 27:30 - 34) says that tithing is an obligation. But, when a person has been fortunate, the Torah also provides for a voluntary thanksgiving offering or "korban todah" (Lev. 7:12; 22:29) which extends beyond one's usual obligations. As you will read elsewhere in this issue of the New Jewish Voice, the UJF annual campaign kick-off event will be a socially-distanced drive-in movie and dinner event being held on September 9. We will be honoring the over 640 (amazing!!) donors who have given to UJF for eighteen years or more. Please venture out of your homes and join us in thanking our donors. And, if you have been as fortunate as I, please consider showing your thanks by being even more generous than you usually are in these difficult times. Please think of it as a "korban todah" on top of your

usual gift. Our community greatly needs and greatly appreciates your generosity.

Thank you and Shana Tova - Happy New Year!

### CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

August 28.....	7:14 pm
September 4.....	7:03 pm
September 11.....	6:51 pm
September 18 (Rosh Hashanah).....	6:39 pm
September 19 (Rosh Hashanah).....	after 7:36 pm
September 25.....	6:27 pm
September 27 (Yom Kippur).....	6:24 pm
October 2 (Sukkot).....	6:16 pm
October 3 (Sukkot).....	after 7:13 pm
October 9 (Shemini Atzeret).....	6:04 pm
October 10 (Simchat Torah).....	after 7:01 pm
October 16.....	5:53 pm
October 23.....	5:43 pm
October 30.....	5:34 pm

## From UJF's Chief Executive Officer

# Federation Was Built for This Moment

BY DIANE SLOYER

No one knows yet how we are going to look in a year or even next month from now.

But a responsible approach to Jewish communal leadership is going to look at our institutions and buildings and say, where are the needs going to be met, who isn't yet around the table and needs to be heard, and how do we do this together. I am proud of United Jewish Federation and its leadership for bringing the community together during this uncharted and challenging time.



Diane Sloyer, UJF CEO

We are facing incredibly challenging times. But we continue to meet the challenge because Federations Never Close.

As we launch our 2020 campaign for communal needs, we are thankful to have raised over \$170,000 for emergency relief to support our agencies and synagogues during these trying times. Our 2020 campaign will provide opportunities to direct your

annual gift and support initiatives that are important to you. The campaign will also allow for support of increased needs due to the covid-19 pandemic.

But it is not just about raising money. Federation was built for this moment.

To care for those in need. To build community. And to save the world - one person at a time. At a time of deep crisis around the world, UJF's fundraising efforts have meant more food for the hungry, more aid for the needy, more support for those suffering, and more connections for those isolated.

The world as we know it now has impacted each of us in a different way. For people who were already engaged, some of this lockdown has been terrific. I have spoken with friends and colleagues who have loved participating in synagogue services from around the globe, listening to amazing lectures and learning from world-class teachers. The Zoom life we are living is a door into new experiences.

But for others, it is not a door, it is a wall.

It is even harder now to go to a service, to connect, to feel part of something if you were not emotionally and socially connected to it before the lockdown. And that wall is something we must confront and learn how to help people scale.

With Rosh HaShana rapidly approaching, we enter a new year of challenges and uncertainty. But as always, we pray for health, peace, happiness, and joy. Our community is blessed with wonderful communal leaders both lay and professional and I am confident we can face the future and come out better on the other side because of our partnership.

Wishing you and your families a Shana Tova.

### UJF Honors Long-Time Donors at 2020 Campaign Kickoff

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to direct their donations toward more generalized relief for local agencies and synagogues based on common community needs."

"Our community and country have faced such challenges and sorrow over the past few months because of COVID-19, so we wanted to do something to kick off our campaign that would be both informative and fun," says Ellen Weber, 2020 Campaign Chair. "I am honored to be campaign chair and to be working on this year's kickoff event. I have an incredible and creative committee including Robin Fischel, Nan Gordon, Jill Kaplan, Aviva Maller,

Tara Shapiro, Nancy Schulman and Sherry Steiner, who are all working hard to produce a meaningful event."

Tickets for the event are available at [www.ujf.org/drivein](http://www.ujf.org/drivein). All honorees are invited as our guests. The covert for others is \$36/pp through 8/31, \$50/pp after. A light boxed dinner and refreshments will be delivered to your car. Event sponsorships are available for \$180 and \$360, and include priority parking and a program listing. Cars will be appropriately distanced when parked, and masks will be worn by all volunteers and staff. For additional information, contact Diane Sloyer at 203-321-1373 ext. 105.



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# New Community Leadership



**Toby Schaffer**  
President,  
Congregation  
Agudath Sholom

Jewish Communal involvement has been part of my life since my earliest years, beginning with synagogue youth groups, Torah Leadership Seminar, then moving on to the board of United Jewish Federation. I served as President of the PTA of the then Bi-Cultural Day School. It is my greatest honor of all to be entrusted to head the lay leadership of Congregation Agudath Sholom. It has served as a model of what a modern Orthodox synagogue should be throughout its history, and now, in this historic time of trial and tribulation, it continues to rise to the occasion and find every possible way to serve its congregants. It is a privilege to serve under our most wonderful Rabbi Daniel Cohen, and to move forward with our newly arrived assistant Rabbi Moshe Kurtz. They join me in wishing the entire Stamford community a happy and healthy New Year, in which we will go from strength to strength.

Institute, which helped me understand not only excellent leadership practices, but also gave me a better understanding of the Stamford Jewish community. I've been honored to serve on the Boards of United Jewish Federation, Center Women, Carmel Academy, and the UJF Young Leadership Board. I believe that I've learned something unique from each of these organizations that will allow me to truly embrace my role at Temple Beth El. Even more important, I've created relationships in all of those groups that have enriched my life and shaped my leadership style.

I look forward to working with other leaders of Jewish organizations to strengthen our Jewish community and share in each other's joys and challenges.



**Stephen Davidson**  
President,  
Young Israel  
of Stamford

The Young Israel of Stamford is a special place, but it's a bit of an accident that I'm here at all. I grew up in Queens, and I lived in Jamaica Estates for a long time, and I really didn't think I'd ever leave. Shortly after moving to Stamford, it was a simcha that first brought me into Young Israel's little building. I was drawn immediately to the feeling of community and togetherness; to the davening, to singing "achenu kol beit Yisroel" ("our brethren, the whole house of Israel") together, to the warmth of hakafot on Simchat Torah, and to weekly kiddush. Pretty quickly, Young Israel became our home. Soon after, I was on the board. And here I am now.

So I'm excited and admittedly nervous to assume the presidency in these uncertain

times. Missing in-shul davening, in-person learning and socializing with each other at kiddush and events has driven home all too clearly what an outsized role our shul plays in our lives. What can we hope for in the coming twelve months? Of course, a return to shul and community life just as soon as safely possible. But most of all, I'd like to help ensure that the feeling of community and togetherness that we first experienced here is there for everyone — for longtime members and for young families new to Stamford and for anyone in between. That is where we excel and that is how we will continue to thrive.

Jewish Community Endowment Foundation and Temple Sinai, I still found the draw of SJFS was enough to motivate me to continue my involvement in this great Jewish community.

Today SJFS is at a unique crossroads. The demand on our food insecurity programs these past several months has been at a level never even contemplated. And the expected influx of unfortunate victims of the economic and psychological consequences of the pandemic will place an ever-greater demand on our counseling, case management and emergency assistance services.

I am looking forward to working with the entire community to meet these challenges.



**Paul Gordon**  
President,  
Schoke Jewish  
Family Service

I was thrilled and flattered to be asked to assume the role of president of Schoke Jewish Family Service. My first in depth exposure to SJFS came during the years I spent on the Allocations Committee of UJF. The appeal of an organization focused strictly on helping people who struggle to help themselves struck a chord with me. After years of volunteer service in leadership roles at the JCC, UJF, the

### DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES

The deadlines for the next issues of

The New Jewish Voice are:

October (Sukkot): September 4

November: October 9

December/January: November 6

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.



**Lisa Manheim**  
President,  
Temple Beth El

Is there ever a good time to step into the role of President? Probably not, but regardless, I am thrilled to serve as Temple Beth El's President. The path I've taken to arrive at this moment is paved by wonderful opportunities and experiences I've had in the Jewish community in Stamford. I was lucky enough to participate in the Behrend Leadership

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## BCHA Upper School Graduation



(l-r) Top Row: Rabbi Shimmy Trencher, Douglas Herman, Justin Krebs  
Middle Row: Andrew Yakebovich, Nate Herman, Kovi Bodek  
Bottom Row: Brandon Rosenthal, Sarah Hanna, Zoë Jaffe-Berkowitz

In June, students in the 12th-grade class at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy Upper School held their graduation ceremonies online. Here, the students celebrate this milestone in their academic life with BCHA Upper School Principal, Rabbi Shimmy Trencher.

## Moishe Pod Comes to Stamford

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whether it's lighting Shabbat candles, volunteering to clean up the Long Island Sound, or a paint and sip night. They strive to host innovative programs that speak to their community.

UJF CEO Diane Sloyer stated, "United Jewish Federation is proud to welcome and support Moishe Pod Stamford. Thanks to a generous anonymous donor, our financial support of this innovative initiative will enable an organization with a proven track record of engagement around social action, education, Jewish leadership, philanthropy, to reach the growing Jewish Young Adult population in Stamford."

## THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

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

David Gordon ..... President  
Diane Sloyer ..... CEO

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## Opinions

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

## Letters

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

## Kashruth

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

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Jessica is the Director of Experiential Education at Temple Shaaray Tefila in Westchester. She shared, "When I moved to Stamford, I was eager to become part of the young Jewish professional community. I struggled to find a community where I could express my Judaism through holidays, learnings, and social action. While I was in graduate school, I lived in the DC Moishe House. It was clear to me that Stamford would be the perfect place to open a Moishe Pod, not only for my own selfish needs but more importantly for the larger community. I called my friend Heaps and she was on board. Moishe House gives us the support to provide programming that brings our 5,000 year old religion to life and connects it to our lives as young professionals. We are excited to not only build community but connect to the larger community."

Rebecca is an optometrist and is currently doing her residency in vision therapy and head trauma rehabilitation at SUNY Optometry. "We are so excited about the UJF sponsorship and looking forward to working together. We are so glad that you share the same vision and passion for strengthening the Jewish young professional community in the area," she said.

Moishe House was started in California in 2006 by a group of Jewish young adults who wanted to more actively engage in the Jewish community, but were too old for Jewish life on campus and too young for traditional young adult and family programming. One Shabbat dinner turned into a wide variety of peer-led Jewish programs, and the first Moishe House was born. It was a simple concept: a group of young Jewish adults, living together in a house, hosting Jewish programming for their friends and community. Now, fourteen years later, the Moishe House network spans 38 countries and reaches more than 70,000 young adults around the world every year.

"Moishe House is so excited for Moishe Pod Stamford to open its 'doors' to the Stamford Jewish young adult community. During these challenging times, community is more



Jessica Herrman and Rebecca Heaps settle into Harbor Point as the first residents of Moishe Pod Stamford, funded in part by United Jewish Federation.

important than ever and Moishe Pod Stamford offers just that: a warm, welcoming, pluralistic Jewish community for so many Jewish young adults. We are grateful for the sponsorship from United Jewish Federation and cannot wait to see all the great programs that

transpire throughout Stamford," said Lander C. Gold, Associate Vice President of Advancement at Moishe House.

To learn more, follow the Moishe Pod Stamford Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/moishepodstamford/>

## Chief Rabbi of South Africa to Address Community

BY MICHAEL FELDSTEIN

Rabbi Dr. Warren Goldstein, Chief Rabbi of South Africa, will give a pre-Rosh Hashana lecture via Zoom on Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am. The program is being sponsored by Congregation Agudath Sholom in Stamford. His topic will be "The Journey of Personal Transformation."

Rabbi Goldstein became the youngest person ever to be appointed as the Chief Rabbi, when he assumed that position in 2005. In addition to his rabbinic ordination from Rabbi Azriel Chaim Godfein, he qualified as a dayan (rabbinic judge) through the Eretz Chemda Institute in Israel and received his PhD in human rights and constitutional law.

Rabbi Goldstein is well known for being an advocate for those who are most



Rabbi Dr. Warren Goldstein

vulnerable in the community, and he has championed civil rights throughout his rabbinic career.

Thabo Mbeki, who served as President of South Africa from 1999-2008, said the following at Rabbi Goldstein's induction ceremony:

"We salute Rabbi Goldstein as a true South African patriot...

he champions the very values which government would like to instill in our society. By their personal example, and through the wisdom of their teachings, religious leaders such as Chief Rabbi Goldstein can imbue our country with values of honesty, compassion and self-discipline that are so vital in establishing a truly just and moral society. Indeed, we are blessed to have a Chief Rabbi who is a formidable Torah scholar

and whose doctorate is in human rights and constitutional law."

Sitting on the executive of the National Religious Leaders Forum, Rabbi Goldstein engages with leaders of all faith communities on a regular basis. The forum hopes to achieve "poverty alleviation" and bring about "moral regeneration" in South Africa.

Rabbi Daniel Cohen, spiritual leader of Congregation Agudath Sholom in Stamford, CT, said: "It's rare that we have the opportunity to hear words of Torah from someone as distinguished as Rabbi Goldstein. I'm sure his talk will be very inspiring as we approach the High Holidays. I urge everyone to attend."

To sign up and receive information on how to log in via Zoom, please visit the Congregation Agudath Sholom website at [www.agudathsholom.org](http://www.agudathsholom.org).

## JCC Run/Walk Benefits Children With Disabilities

(Courtesy of the JCC) The JCC's 13th Annual Give a Child a JumpStart 5K/10K Run/Walk is scheduled for Labor Day, Monday, September 7. This event has consistently received the generous support of Auslander Kasindorf Group/Keller Williams Realty.

Participants of all ages will raise funds for JumpStart, a therapeutic early childhood classroom experience for two-year-olds with disabilities; Hand in Hand (Yad B'Yad), an inclusion camp and division of Day Camps@The J, offering a unique summer experience for children with a variety of needs; Recreate & Relate, social groups that provide youths with a structured and safe environment to develop social skills and build relationships; and a variety of music, movement, sports and arts programs and classes for youths with disabilities.

In light of the COVID-19 health crisis, the Run/Walk may be converted to a fully virtual event in order to comply with CDC, local health department, and City of Stamford guidelines. If in-person participation takes place, in order to safely limit the number of individuals on the JCC property at one time, participants can choose one of three options: check-in at 7:30 a.m. and begin running at 8:00 a.m. (runners only in this group); check-in at

9:15 a.m. and begin running or walking at 9:45 a.m.; or participate virtually and submit your running time by noon on September 7. Walk-ins will not be permitted for in-person participation. The in-person portion of the event is certified by USA Track & Field, and any in-person runners will be professionally timed.

"Whether in-person or virtual, the Run/Walk will help provide the funding necessary to continue and expand the JCC's much needed programs for our individuals with disabilities in our extended community, and will enable the JCC to continue to provide substantial scholarships for those with financial need," said Nancy Schiffman, the JCC's Associate Executive Director of Development & Signature Programs. "We believe that each individual enriches our JCC community, and this belief upholds the Jewish values of welcoming guests, kindness, respect and communal responsibility."

In-person participants will leave from the JCC, located at 1035 Newfield Avenue, for a family-friendly route in the Pepper Ridge section of Stamford. Strollers are welcome, and there will be water stations along the way. For the safety of all participants, no animals (other



Runners and walkers of all ages and abilities take off at last year's Give a Child a JumpStart 5K/10K Run/Walk. Photo taken pre-COVID-19. (CREDIT: SHANNON JACOBS)

than service animals) are permitted. Bikes and scooters are permitted only for participants with special needs. Virtual participants will run or walk 5K or 10K wherever they choose, and runners will submit their times to be included in the results.

Online registration for the JCC Run/Walk is available at [www.stamfordjcc.org](http://www.stamfordjcc.org), or contact

Sheryl Young at [syoung@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:syoung@stamfordjcc.org) for more information. The fee to enter the Run/Walk is \$36 per adult/\$18 per child ages 6 to 18. Children 5 and under are free. Families and local businesses can also support JumpStart and the inclusion programs at the JCC by becoming sponsors of this community-wide event.

## Yiddish Language, Hebrew Poetry and Jewish Holocaust Money

BY ELISSA KAPLAN

The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County wishes you "Shanah Tovah," and offers you sweet holiday programming to find ways to thrive and survive in the New Year 5781.

**Yiddish Language:** What could be sweeter than the virtual hug of a Yiddish Coffee Klatch (BYOC – Bring your own coffee). Join JHSFC virtually on Friday, September 4th at 10:00 am. The "Two Judys" – Judy Liebeskind and Judy Altmann welcome you with open arms. Even if you don't speak one word of Yiddish, the sound of the language itself can bring a smile to your face: "Chutzpah gilt - Nerve succeeds" might just get us through the next year.

**Hebrew Poetry:** On Wednesday September 16th at 10 AM, Yael Yael Stalarsky, former Israeli Emissary, will "Zoom in" live from Israel to join Richard Schwartz, JHSFC's resident poetry guru. What a treat to get the poetry "dynamic duo" back together. They will demonstrate how Israeli Poetry and Music, when blended together, are a perfect antidote for combating the isolation, loneliness, anxiety and depression that are inherent in today's virulent pandemic crisis. The Biblical poet Isaiah might just help us get through the next year with his famous words: "Nachamu, nachamu ami", "Comfort, comfort My people."

**Jewish Holocaust Money:** On Wednesday, September 30th at 7:00 PM, join in virtually to learn about "The Little-Known Story of Jewish Holocaust Money," presented by Robert Messing. Messing

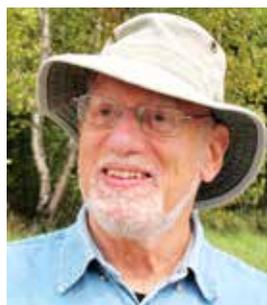


Richard Schwartz and Yael Stalarsky.

explains the various currencies the Nazis put into use at the different concentration camps and ghettos during World War II to use as a tool to demoralize and further subjugate the Jews. Actual examples of this rare money will be on virtual display. Messing, who spent 51 years working in the computer automation industry, has become a self-taught expert on ancient, modern and Holocaust Jewish money. The courage of the Holocaust survivors might just get us through the next year.

If you want to taste JHSFC's "programming apples dipped in honey," or have any questions, please contact The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County, *Bridging Yesterday and Tomorrow*, by phone (at the Archives): 203-359-2196, by email: [info@jhsfc-ct.org](mailto:info@jhsfc-ct.org), or on-line: <http://jhsfc-ct.org/>.

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



Robert Messing

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## Bits & Pieces

BY SANDY GOLOVE

To submit information, please call (203) 912-9945 or email sandy@ujf.org.



Sandy Golove

MAZEL TOV TO GROWING FAMILIES:

**Alexa Kwartin Alexander and Zach Alexander** on the birth of a daughter, Hannah Sage Alexander; and to great grandmother **Ruth Kwartin**.

**Ayala & Shaun Azari** on the birth of a daughter.

**Xia & Gabriel Banschick** on the birth of their daughter, Kiara Shoshana Helen Banschick.

**Natalie & Neal Behrend** on the birth of a daughter, Zoey Mira Behrend; and to grandparents **Stephne & Kerrin Behrend**. **Dina Green & Greg Celniker** on the birth of a son; and to grandparents **Jill & Arthur Green**.

**Rae Wyse & Sam Ginsburg** on the birth of a daughter, Lucy June Ginsburg; and to grandparents **Fran & Rabbi Gerry Ginsburg** and **Lois & Al Wyse**.

**Grace Gould & Jon Goldberg** on the birth of a daughter, Remy Rebeck Goldberg; and to grandparents **Joanne & Marshall Goldberg**.

**Marcy & Marc Kurzman** on the birth of their granddaughter, Olivia James Kurzman. **Liatte & David Lasher** on the birth of a daughter.

**Shari & Ari Levine** on the birth of a son; and to grandparents **Betty & Irwin Keller** and **Laya & Buzzy Levine**.

**Judy Liebeskind** on the birth of her great-granddaughter, Noa Isabelle Fedewa. **Leah & Greg Miller** on the birth of a daughter; and to grandparents, **Sam Fischel and Alan & Charlotte Miller**; and to great grandmother **Guta Fischel**.

**Marion Milrod** on the birth of her grandson, William Alexander Tyler.

**Sharon & Burt Rubin** on the birth of a grandson.

**Rachel & Michael Sackman** on the birth of a son; and to grandparents **Gayle & Howard Rothman**.

**Kara Schiff & Joseph Feuerstein** on the birth of their son, Noah Lee Feuerstein; and

to grandparents **Jayne & Bud Schiff**.

**Lindsay & Corey Shulman** on the birth of a daughter, **Bret Eliza Shulman**; and to grandparents **Rhonda & Evan Goldenberg**.

**Brenda & Bruce Smith** on the birth of a grandson.

**Amy & Sam Sroka** on the birth of a son; and to grandpar-

ents **Elaine & Ilya Kohen and Rochelle & Louis Sroka**; and to great grandparents **Larry Gochman, Anene Kohen and Lilian Neidich**.

**Shelley Taylor & David Swerdloff** on the birth of a granddaughter, Alice Rose Remlin.

**Navah & Rabbi Naftali Wolfe** on the birth of a daughter.

MAZEL TOV TO: Engagements/Marriages

**Judy and Bob Amster** on the marriage of their daughter, **Hillary Amster, to Gabriel Pontones**.

**Rochel & Hecky Attar** on the engagement of their son, **Meir Attar to Tova Pollak**, daughter of **Nechama & Daniel Pollak**.

**Diane & Rabbi Daniel Cohen** on the engagement of their daughter, **Michal Cohen to Yishai Zwiren**, son of **Cheryl & Jeff Zwiren**.

**Denise and David Greenman** on the engagement of their daughter, **Michelle Greenman to Ari Weiss**.

**Helene & Harvey Kaminski** on the engagement of their son, **Philip Kaminski to Stacy Stern**, daughter of **Cheryl & Alan Stern**.

**Lieba & Steven Lander** on the marriage of their daughter, **Karen Lander to Kevin Lafferty**.

**Randie Katz & Larry Cryer** on the marriage of their daughter, **Sarah Cryer to Zachary Shapiro**.

**Wendy & David Lewis** on the engagement of their daughter, **Alex Lewis to Michael Tringali**.

**Kori & Bill Meyers** on the marriage of their daughter, **Deborah Meyers to Michael Feuerstein-Rudin**.

**Kori & Bill Meyers** on the engagement of their son, **Sam Meyers to Emma Seligson**, daughter of **Sara & Ben Seligson**.

**Joan & Robert Rosenthal** on the engagement of their son, **Benjamin Rosenthal to Stacy Newman**.

**Sharon & Burt Rubin** on the marriage of their son, **Marty Rubin to Sarah Baumgarten**, daughter of **Layne Spielman & Stephen Baumgarten**.

**Eileen & Fred Springer** on the engagement of their daughter, **Ilana Springer to Danny Borkenstein**.

**Cathy & Steve Zales** on the engagement of their son, **Greg Zales to Mackenzie Garrity**.

MAZAL TOV TO Other

**Zoë Jaffe-Berkowitz** recipient of the Edward J. Kaplin Memorial Scholarship given by the Temple Beth El Men's Club.

**Katie Kaplan** on her appointment as Cantorial Soloist at Temple Beth El.

**Ethan Moskowitz** recipient of the Edward J. Kaplin Memorial Scholarship given by the Temple Beth El Men's Club and the Temple Beth El Teen Volunteer Award.

**Lauren Redniss** on the release of a film based on her acclaimed book, "Radioactive." **Russell Roloff** recipient of the Fred Weisman *Tikkun Olam* Award.

**Michael Rose** recipient of the Temple Beth El Teen Volunteer Award.

**Marlene Wilden** on her new position as Head of Communications for the NAACP, Stamford branch.

MAZEL TOV TO B'NAI MIZVAH:

**Brendon Harmon**, son of **Stacey & William Harmon**.

**Brandon Nadel**, son of **Jill & Mitchell Nadel**.

**Samantha Neer**, daughter of **Amy & Jason Neer**.

**Brett Shaulson**, son of **Beth & Joseph Shaulson**.

WE MOURN THE LOSS OF:

**Ruth Caprio**: sister of Ken White.

**Evelyn Clement**: mother of Betsy Herold.

**David S. Cohen**: husband of Judy Cohen and father of Rachel Beaumont and Sarah Kass.

**Sarah Dorfsman**: mother of Michael Dorfsman.

**Steve Eisenstein**: father of Jon Eisenstein. **Eli Eisner**: brother-in-law of Bill Wagner. **Dorothy Fields**.

**Rabbi Manny Gold**: cousin of Debra Pollack.

**Florence Heyison**: mother of Joseph Heyison.

**Michael Himelstein**: husband of Robin Himelstein.

**Dan Karsch**: husband of Carol Karsch; and father of Hannah Hochner, Benjy Karsch & Mordy Karsch.

**Steve Eisenstein**: father of Jon Eisenstein.

**Jerry Fishman**: husband of Judy Fishman and father of David Fishman, Merri Kapiloff & Shari Weinberger.

**Irwin Gerber**: father of Pamela Tinkham. **Aleksandr Gershman**.

**Marilyn Kinzelberg**: grandmother of Eytan Sosnovich.

**April Ladden**: niece of Jayne & Bud Schiff.

**Sheldon Lang**: father of Jay Lang.

**Phyllis Ruth Lapin**: wife of Seymour Lapin; mother of Paul Lapin; and sister of James, Larry & Mark Lapine.

**Vincent Lioni**.

**Honorable Edward Maron**: father of Janice Maron and Jeffrey Maron.

**Robert Romanow**: brother of John Romanow.

**David B. Rubin**: father of Jonathan Rubin.

**Mark Rothberg**: son of Susan Mark and son of Harvey Rothberg; stepson of Len Mark and brother of David Rothberg, Michael Mark, Naomi Rothberg FioRito and Sara Mark.

**Anita Lee Sabin**: mother of Debbie Nemchek.

**James Schoke**: grandfather of Lesley Levenson.

**Joseph Siev Schwartz**: wife of Michel Schwartz; and mother of Len Schwartz.

**Sylvia Shapiro**: mother of Barbara Shapiro.

**Lester Sharlach**: husband of Elaine Sharlach and father of Debra Sharlach Rosner, Brian Sharlach, and Jeffrey Sharlach.

**Sydell Spiesman**: mother of Michael Spiesman.

**Jordan Stanger**: brother of Hope Stanger

**Shirley Stopek**: grandmother of Erica Quamily.

**Betty Tarr**: mother of Lisa Tucker and sister of William Sklar.

**Frances Terr**: mother of Adam Terr.

**Howard W. Truss**: father of Helen Kweskin.

**Jon Wolff**: brother of Glenn Wolff.

## Columnist Dan Haar Updates the Community on COVID-19

BY SHARON FRANKLIN

On Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, United Jewish Federation held a virtual program entitled "An Update on Connecticut's COVID-19 Crisis and the Effects on Our Economy" featuring columnist Dan Haar. Haar is a columnist and associate editor at Hearst Connecticut Media, which produces newspapers across the state of Connecticut, including the Stamford Advocate. His focus is on writing about the intersection of business, public policy and



Dan Haar

politics and how the issues affect the people of the state. Shushannah Walshe, Editor at Large at Independent Journal Review and previously the Deputy Political Director at ABC News, moderated the program.

Haar talked about how the state was opening up (retail, restaurants, salons and other businesses), how hospitalizations and positive COVID-19 results were low, and how the state of Connecticut was one of the top several states ranked in terms of controlling

the virus and lowering numbers. Also covered was the issue of school openings, the availability of testing, and how Connecticut's healthcare system is handling the crisis.

Haar discussed how COVID has ravaged the economy nationwide, and how Connecticut is doing, specifically Fairfield County. One aspect of the economy that is doing well, according to Haar, is the real estate industry. Haar talked about the current exodus from New York City to the Connecticut suburbs of Fairfield County, and how this has created a boom for real estate brokers and lawyers.

"Just following the economy in a single state, Connecticut, or a single part of the state is complicated enough. Adding in Covid, in which we can't predict the next outbreak let alone where we'll be in a year or two, makes the whole picture impossibly murky. But there's a lot to talk about as everyone pulls together. Or, some people at least," commented Haar.

UJF continues to provide regular quality virtual programming for our community. For more information about upcoming programming contact Sharon Franklin at sharon@ujf.org.

# JCC Provides an Unforgettable Summer for Children



Campers enjoyed playing outdoor sports, such as soccer, all summer long. (CREDIT: NICOLAS MANCHENO)

(Courtesy of JCC) What began as a summer full of uncertainty, turned into a fantastic summer at Day Camps@The J. The Stamford JCC's summer program offered our community of over 200 campers, eight weeks of archery, swimming, arts & crafts, tennis, boating, sports and lots of *Ruach!* Day Camps@The J took place at both the Newfield Avenue and JCC Sara Walker Nursery School campuses.

From June to August, children were able to attend both traditional and specialty camps at the JCC.

"Children were inside their homes for months so it was a great opportunity to re-engage our community at the JCC," said Marshall Kurland, JCC Chief Executive Officer.

Specialty camps focus on a specific area of interest — What A Production! theater program powered by Mainstages and Stamford J Basketball Clinics.

What A Production! is a 3-week theater specialty camp where campers experience all aspects of theater production, from choreography to set and costume design in a supportive environment where all are encouraged to use their creativity and imagination. This summer's production was *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* which was performed virtually over Zoom for friends and family.

Stamford J Basketball Clinics ran for 6 weeks in the Legacy Gymnasium at the JCC. Groups were broken down into two sessions, Middle school and High School, where they worked on strength and conditions and skill development.

Jason Samuel, Director of Day Camps@The J, said the programs are following all safety guidelines with physical distancing and children being in small pods broken up by age group. He said the children stay in their group and do not interact with other groups.

The Stamford JCC is excited to continue to answer the needs of the community by offering KidsPlace (full-day program for children



Chaverim Unit Head, Roxanne Coppola, taught the youngest campers how to plant flowers. Camper Jacob Samuel is ready to plant some impatiens. (CREDIT: NICOLAS MANCHENO)



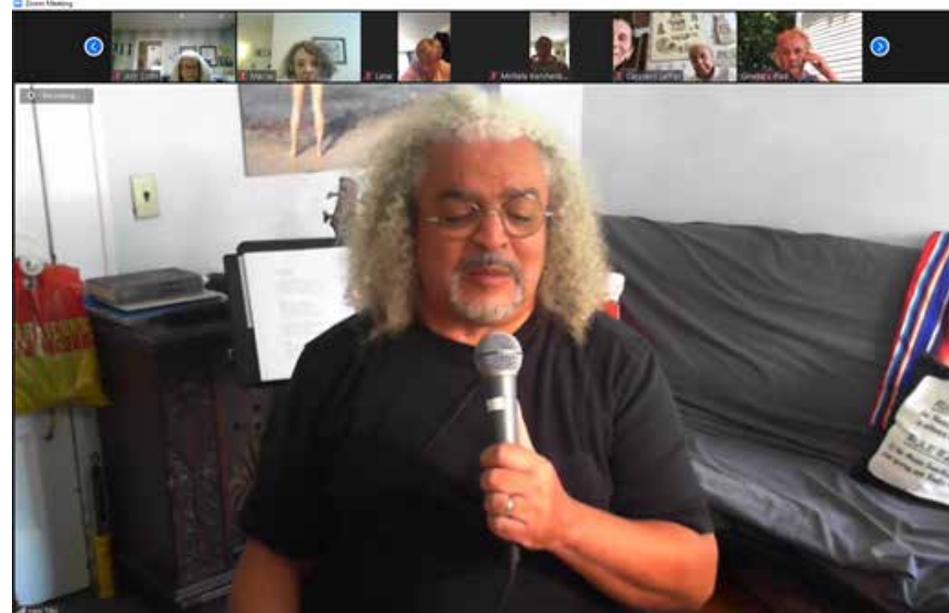
Day Camps@The J's theater program, *What A Production!*, performed *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* with *Willy Wonka* being played by Adele Forman. (CREDIT: NICOLAS MANCHENO)

to complete their virtual learning), a new Kindergarten program and enrichment, sports and aquatics classes this fall. Visit [www.stamfordjcc.org](http://www.stamfordjcc.org) for details.

# Survivors Connect Through Music



Tibi leads the participants on the Zoom concert in sing-along songs.



Holocaust survivors join the Zoom concert with Israeli performer Tibi.

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) The Anachnu Program for Holocaust Survivor Care at Schoke Jewish Family Service hosted a virtual singalong concert with Tibi, Israeli entertainer, via Zoom. An all-time record attendance of thirty-seven participants for the program were able to join online and sing along. Tibi played the guitar and performed popular songs as well as Israeli favorites. Sara and Howard Tichauer, first-time participants in the Anachnu program, said, "We loved the concert and can't wait for the next one!"

To view the schedule of upcoming events, please visit [www.ctjfs.org/anachnu/](http://www.ctjfs.org/anachnu/). To attend

an online event, please contact Marina Sapir, Director of Anachnu, at 203-921-4161 or email [msapir@ctjfs.org](mailto:msapir@ctjfs.org).

The Anachnu Program for Holocaust Survivor Care is funded through a grant from the Jewish Federation of North America Center for Advancing Holocaust Survivor Care and the Claims Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, as well as the United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.

Thank you to the Federation for Jewish Philanthropy of Upper Fairfield County for co-sponsoring this event.

We are so fortunate to live in such a wonderful community.



Judy & Howard Goldstein



## NEW AROUND TOWN

## Tracy Daniels, Case Manager At Schoke Jewish Family Service

Prior to joining Schoke JFS, Tracy Daniels was Director of Women's Philanthropy and PJ Library of Greenwich at UJA-JCC Greenwich. Working closely with colleagues, lay leaders and community partners, she coordinated Women's Philanthropy events, social action projects, Newcomers Welcome and the PJ Library program involving an active Parent Planners board, community collaborations, public-space events, and JBabies programming. Tracy is excited about being a Case Manager at Schoke JFS. "Joining this dedicated team to serve people who are hungry, homeless, unemployed, and



Tracy Daniels

uninsured is an opportunity - and a privilege - to grow professionally and personally and to have meaningful work that's consistent with my Jewish values and aspirations. I look forward to being part of a support system that helps those in need and to working within a collegial network of social service agencies serving this population."

Before becoming a Jewish community professional, Tracy enjoyed a career in trade business and technology publishing. She is a graduate of Lehigh University and lives with her husband, Nahum, and sons Asher and Gil in Stamford.

## Rabbi Moshe Kurtz, Assistant Rabbi Of Congregation Agudath Sholom

Rabbi Moshe Kurtz recently began serving as the Assistant Rabbi of Congregation Agudath Sholom. He holds a B.A. in Psychology from Yeshiva College, where he received the Steven Gladstein Memorial Award for Service to the Jewish People, and an M.S. from the Azrieli Graduate School of Jewish Education and Administration. During his time at the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS), Rabbi Kurtz studied under and learned one-on-one with Rabbi Dr. Moshe D. Tendler, a preeminent authority in Jewish medical ethics.

From 2018-2020, Rabbi Kurtz served as the Rabbinic Intern for the Young Israel of Plainview on Long Island. In the summer of 2019, he worked as the Rabbi for Aryeh



Rabbi Moshe Kurtz

Adventures Up North, a travel program for teenagers with special needs and their mainstream peers. Rabbi Kurtz is an alumnus of fellowships organized by the UJA-Federation of New York, 92nd Street Y, and AIPAC.

Rabbi Kurtz is married to Marisa Pollack-Kurtz, who is a practicing speech language pathologist.

Rabbi Kurtz's audio recordings can be found on YUTorah, and his writing can be found in publications such as The Forward, Lehrhaus and Torah Musings. Since starting at CAS, Rabbi Kurtz teaches a well-attended Contemporary Issues class on Monday evenings which explores Jewish approaches to topics such as intellectual theft, abortion and freedom of speech.

## Erica Quamily, Temple Sinai Religious School Director

Temple Sinai has appointed Erica Quamily as the new head of their religious school effective June 1. In addition to her new role, Quamily will also continue in her position as Youth Group Director, which she has held for the past six years.

She has created a master plan for safely managing student and staff needs through the ongoing pandemic. This plan includes beginning the school year with remote learning opportunities and then reassessing at the winter break with options at that time for continuing with remote learning or moving to an in person or hybrid approach based on safety for all as well as Jewish values.

Quamily received a master's degree in Social Work from Hunter College and her Bachelor of Arts from Rutgers University.



Erica Quamily

Most recently, Erica oversaw professional development opportunities for web-based learning and in person educational conferences as well as the management and compliance of grants with the Union for Reform Judaism. As Manager of Network and Community Mobilization for Feeding Westchester, she skillfully developed

new programs based on community needs. "Erica is skilled at developing programming, planning events and building relationships with community members, parents, youth and organizational partners. Her strong organizational, communicative and interpersonal skills with proficiency in digital and traditional outreach make Erica a perfect fit for Temple Sinai," states Nan Gordon, VP Torah, Temple Sinai.

## Mazal Tov to Gan Yeladim Graduates



The Cik family walks down the red carpet to receive their graduation certificate from Morahs Irene Okun and Danielle Schrag.

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Graduation at Gan Yeladim is an annual tradition which saw many changes this year. Many thanks to the teachers, parents and community members who helped make the Pre-K graduation a unique and meaningful celebration.

**Happy New Year  
Shanah Tova**



**Caroline Simmons**

State Representative, 144th District, Stamford, CT  
Connecticut General Assembly

**Shana Tova**

from Gan Yeladim of Stamford



**Leah Shemtov  
& Hillary Isaacs**



## Holiday Inspiration From The Vaad of Fairfield County



Rabbi Daniel Cohen



Rabbi Eli Kohl



Rabbi Moshe Kurtz

(Courtesy of Rabbi Moshe Kurtz) Have you ever wondered, who are the people that work tirelessly to ensure that your restaurants and food establishments are provided with superlative kosher supervision? Join the Zoom session on **Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 - 9:00 pm** where you will have the opportunity to meet and learn from the members of the Vaad HaKashrut of Fairfield County (VKFC).

Throughout this Zoom event, you will hear a 5-7 minute Torah teaching for the High Holidays by each of the members of the Vaad:

- Rabbi Daniel Cohen, Senior Rabbi of Congregation Agudath Sholom (Stamford, CT)
- Rabbi Fred Hyman, Rabbi of The Westville Synagogue (New Haven, CT)

- Rabbi Eli Kohl, Young Israel of Stamford (Stamford, CT)
- Rabbi Moshe Kurtz, Assistant Rabbi of Congregation Agudath Sholom (Stamford, CT)
- Rabbi Jacob Mendelson (Bridgeport, CT)
- Rabbi Alex Ozar, Co-Director of OU-JLIC of Yale University (New Haven, CT)
- Rabbi Chagie Rubin, Rabbi of Agudas Achim Synagogue (West Hartford, CT)
- Rabbi Greg Wall, Rabbi of Beit Chaverim Synagogue (Westport, CT)

For more information, contact Rabbi Daniel Cohen [rabbicohen@cas-stamford.org](mailto:rabbicohen@cas-stamford.org) or Rabbi Moshe Kurtz [rabbikurtz@cas-stamford.org](mailto:rabbikurtz@cas-stamford.org)

To join the program: Zoom Link: [zoom.us/j/8514043665](https://zoom.us/j/8514043665) | Zoom password: 1234613  
Dial in: (646) 568-7788, code: 8514043665#

## Chabad of Stamford's JWC Summer Soiree



(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Chabad of Stamford's Jewish Women Connected program ended its year on a high with its annual summer soiree. Attendees came together to connect in a safe and stunning outdoor setting to enjoy food, words of inspiration and a fun mosaic and herb planting project in keeping with the outdoor theme of the evening.

May the new year bring with it the promise of peace, the blessing of good health, and the sweetness of our tradition.

**Shanah tovah u'metuka!**



**Our comprehensive STEAM-based curriculum encourages critical thinking, nurtures creative expression and builds self-esteem. Our Judaic studies program instills in students the Jewish values that serve them on every step of life's journey.**

To learn more::

For Lower School, contact Miriam Sperber  
203-329-2186 or [msperber@bcha-ct.org](mailto:msperber@bcha-ct.org)

For Upper School, contact Sarah Rich  
203-883-8970 or [srich@bcha-ct.org](mailto:srich@bcha-ct.org)



2186 High Ridge Road, Stamford, CT 06903

## From the Therapist How to Maintain Mental Health In a Pandemic

BY EVE MOSKOWITZ, LCSW

According to the World Health Organization, mental health is a state of well being in which every individual realizes her or his own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to contribute to her or his community.

The journey to optimum mental health, during these trying times, is confronted with several obstacles. Illness and death, creating loss and grief for so many, is the most obvious and impactful. For those who are lucky enough to remain in good health and to maintain financial stability, the major challenges to mental health can be feeling the loss of control, isolation, and fear of the unknown. It is difficult to imagine that under these circumstances, while in self-isolation or socially distancing, it is possible to realize one's potential, work productively and fruitfully, and make significant contributions to the community.

More specifically, the need for social distancing and segregation increases people's anxiety, stress and depression, as does the fear of getting sick and economic downturn. This is all exacerbated by the fact that there appears to be no end date in sight and no consistent guidelines implemented throughout the country for risk management. Additionally, worldwide dread seems to add to people's despair, many expressing a sense of hopelessness regarding a future return to "normal".

Nonetheless, people are resilient and when the need for coping and adaptation are

present, people find their strength and ways in which to persevere. Support from family and friends continues to be a major source of comfort for many, the Zoom gathering having replaced many social events. The guidance of professional therapists or counsel of clergy remains an ever-present resource, again, with adaptations and creativity, being provided in alternate venues and by alternate means.

Many insurance companies have taken the opportunity to certify all licensed professionals for teletherapy and waived co-pays and high deductibles in order to ensure their members can receive much needed services. In addition, most social service agencies are offering support groups free of charge to build fortitude and find resilience.

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) is providing additional resources to the public during the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing free services with a Crisis Text Line (text HELLO to 741741) a Disaster Distress Helpline (800-985-5990) and the National Suicide Prevention Helpline (800-273-TALK).

Finally, we at Schoke Jewish Family Service, continue to provide mental health counseling through teletherapy, as well as a Bereavement Support Group, a Divorce Support Group, and a free COVID-19 Support Group, offered on Thursdays at 4 PM. All major insurance providers are accepted and a sliding fee scale is available.

For further information contact Eve Moskowitz, LCSW, Director of Clinical Services at 203-921-4161, ext. 122.

## Emmet's Playground at TBE



Drawing of Emmet's Playground at Temple Beth El, opening September 2020.

(Courtesy of TBE) Emmet Manheim loved things that went fast. First it was slides, then it was skateboards, skiing, and roller coasters.

When he passed away last year of a rare blood disorder, just shy of his 11th birthday, his parents decided that they wanted to honor that passion and find a way to memorialize their son.

They decided that a playground at their synagogue, Temple Beth El, would be a fitting tribute.

"A playground made sense to us. Emmet loved playgrounds, especially the slides and the monkey bars," his dad, Jeff Manheim, said.

Temple Beth El donated the land to build Emmet's Playground on a space where a smaller playground had been. Emmet's parents set out to raise the money to expand the space and build a cutting-edge, accessible playground. Through Facebook posts, email, soliciting local businesses, selling magnets, and running Bingo games during the height of the pandemic, they raised over \$300,000.

"Each time someone gave a donation, it felt like a hug," said Lisa Manheim, Emmet's mom. "This is a place that was built by love."

A committee of Emmet's friends was assembled to help envision and design the playground. They met at Temple Beth El twice, the first time to imagine playground layouts and the second time to choose the equipment. An ABC News team came and

covered the story of the Kids' Committee helping to build a playground in memory of their friend.

"We wanted a huge slide that goes really fast. Emmet would love that," said Gavin Cooper, a friend of Emmet.

The playground itself will reflect Emmet's interests, with much of the equipment revolving around the theme of roller coasters, Emmet's greatest passion. One special piece of equipment that the kids chose was the Gravity Rail, a roller coaster-type zipline that spans the length of the playground. The playground equipment will be done in natural colors to blend in with the environment and give it a campy feel, another one of Emmet's passions.

"He always said that camp was his happy place," Lisa said.

On June 28, after months of preparation, meetings, town hearings, and revisions of the original plans, the groundbreaking of Emmet's Playground took place at Temple Beth El. Speakers included Rabbi Joshua Hammerman (Emmet's Rabbi), Senator Richard Blumenthal (Emmet's buddy), Charlie Staub (Emmet's cousin) and Lisa and Jeff Manheim. Emmet's cousin, Oliver Staub, broke the ground officially as Emmet's friends set butterflies free.

The excavation for the playground is almost complete and the equipment should arrive by late August. A dedication is planned for late September. To learn more about Emmet's Playground, go to [www.emmetsplayground.com](http://www.emmetsplayground.com)

## Summer Fun With the Gan



Gan Yeladim summer campers enjoy a special visit from the Turn of River Fire Department. (COURTESY OF CHABAD OF STAMFORD)

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Gan Yeladim summer campers were excited to be back with friends in a safe and social way, enjoying outdoor activities and fun projects including STEM classes, gardening, shabbat parties, cooking and much more. The Gan also offered children not enrolled in the camp the opportunity to take part in various programs ranging from "Parsha and Art", STEM classes, Little Chefs cooking classes and special outdoor family Kabbalat Shabbats.



Bodhi Soffer enjoys an outdoor STEM class this summer.

(COURTESY OF CHABAD OF STAMFORD)

# Friendship Circle Moms Get Creative at Paint Night

*(Courtesy of Friendship Circle)* On Monday night, August 3<sup>rd</sup> the Friendship Circle of Fairfield County hosted a Zoom Paint Night for mothers of children with special needs. Up until recently, Friendship Circle moms would gather in person for social events and educational workshops throughout the year, but with the COVID-19 Pandemic this was no longer possible. Instead, the moms have had different opportunities to connect virtually, and while it's not the same as being together in person, it gives them a nice boost of friendship and support.

Over twenty women joined the Paint Night. Each participant received a bag hand delivered to their home by a volunteer, which included paint brushes and palettes, paint and a canvas. Also included in the bag were special snacks to enjoy while painting. The art session was facilitated by a professional art instructor.

The evening began with some socializing and words of Torah. The moms had a chance to talk and reconnect. The instructor then explained how the paintings would be created, and guided the moms step by step. The

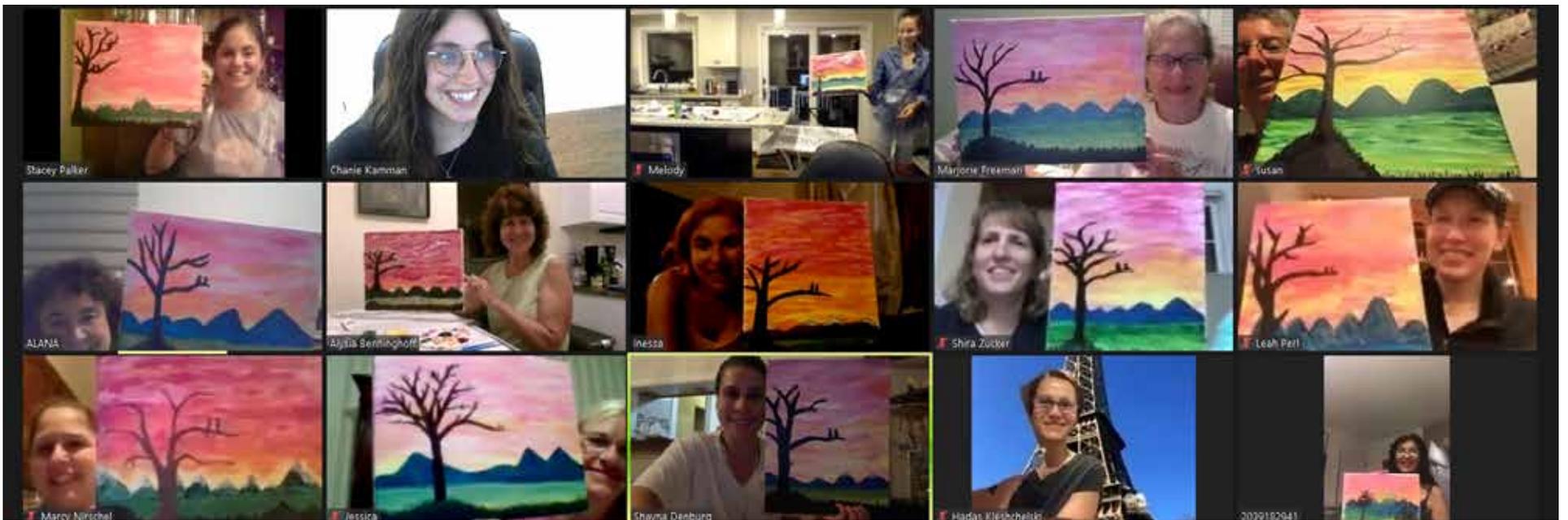
moms were concentrating deeply and created beautiful masterpieces- even those who were skeptical of their artistic abilities!

Stacey Palker expressed what many of the moms felt. "I had the best time hanging with an amazing group of moms via Zoom. It's been a long overdue moms night out. It was so incredible to see everyone and actually feel like we were painting together. It was the first time in awhile I had some time reserved for me and it felt so good to paint and feel creative. It was amazing to see how beautiful everyone's work turned out- each unique

in its own way, just like us."

Chanie Kamman, Friendship Circle Family Coordinator, agreed saying "The message of the differences in these paintings were very relevant to this special group of moms. We are all created in the image of G-d, each one of us in our own unique way. While there may be differences between us, our similarities are greater."

In order to learn more about The Friendship Circle, please email Malya Shmotkin at [malya@friendshipct.com](mailto:malya@friendshipct.com) or call 203-409-1543.



Friendship Circle moms lift up their paintings at the end of the Paint Night-In.

## New Year, New House!



Stamford, Connecticut



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## Shalom Stamford and Shalom Baby Experience a Boom!



(l-r) Jack, Mark, Caroline and Dylan Svartz, who recently moved to Stamford from Brooklyn, receive a gift bag and socially distanced visit from UJF's Sharon Franklin.

(Courtesy of UJF) United Jewish Federation's Shalom Stamford and Shalom Baby programs offer a welcome bag filled with gifts, coupons, and information about our local community for people new to the area, or for parents who have recently had a baby. Over the past several years, the number of individuals and families moving to the area has greatly increased, with a surge happening in the past five months. Some have moved because they have heard about the warm and welcoming community, others to escape large cities that make living during the pandemic difficult. With the influx of new families, Shalom Baby visits have increased as well. Sharon Franklin, Managing Director of Campaign and Community Engagement commented:

"I usually hear about new people and new babies regularly, but the numbers have increased significantly in the past several months. Before the pandemic I would visit inside people's homes to talk to them about what the community has to offer, or to let them know what is available to new parents. To keep up with the changing times, I still do a personal visit, but do so safely and socially distanced at a recipient's door."

UJF's Shalom Welcome gift bags are a wonderful way to make new residents or new parents feel a part of the community and informed. If you or someone you know is new to town, or has a new baby, please reach out to Sharon Franklin at [sharon@ujf.org](mailto:sharon@ujf.org), to schedule a welcome bag.



The Wolfe family is growing! Navah, Ronen, Naftali and Eliora receive a UJF Shalom Baby bag to welcome baby Mira.

## In Loving Memory of Lester Sharlach (1929 – 2020)

BY ELISSA KAPLAN

Lester Sharlach, esteemed co-founder and the second president of The Stamford

Jewish Historical Society, (now known as The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County/JHSFC) passed away after a brief

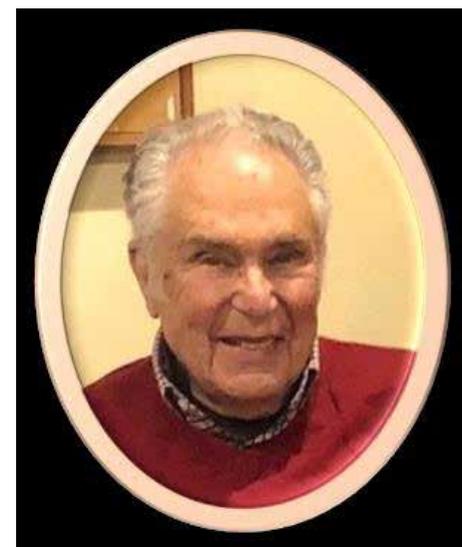
illness on July 16th, one week before his 91st birthday.

Lester was a true visionary and a real mensch. He was one of the "magnificent seven" founders of our organization, which was incorporated in 1984 and today encompasses all of Fairfield County, with over 340 members. Over the course of his 36 years of tireless organizational leadership, in addition to serving as our president, Lester also served as our mover, "shlepper," and all-around handyman. In 2017, he was presented with the JHSFC's highest honor, the Pioneer Heritage Award, in recognition of his pioneering work and dedication. When you think of the JHSFC's exhibits, think of Lester Sharlach; when you think of our oral histories, think of Lester Sharlach.

Think of him, too, when you see his final "dream project" come to fruition. For the past several years, Lester remained the driving force behind *Remembering the Family Store*, JHSFC's historical retrospective of Stamford's diverse and vibrant community of merchants. Originally a slideshow, this visual presentation is currently being produced as a documentary film that is scheduled for completion later this year. We are dedicating the documentary and its premiere event to the memory of this "family store" owner--our own Lester Sharlach.

Indeed, Lester himself was a mainstay of Stamford, the city where he was born and lived out his long and accomplished life. He operated Roven's Curtain Shops and was one of the co-founders of Liberty National Bank. He lived with his wife, Elaine, in the Turn of River section of Stamford, on a tract that was formerly Geriak's Dairy Farm, where they celebrated Elaine's "Sweet 16" together in 1948.

The Sharlachs were co-founders of the Southwestern Connecticut Chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG),



Lester Sharlach

and in 2017 were honored by the Triangle Community Center in Norwalk for "35 years of making Fairfield County a better place for the LGBT community." They accompanied their dog, Harry, a certified therapy dog, on weekly visits to the Jewish Home for the Elderly and Waveny Center.

In addition to Elaine, his wife of 69 years, Lester is survived by sons Jeffrey Sharlach and Brian Sharlach, daughter Debra Sharlach Rosner, three grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, Harry (who does not think he is a dog), and a community of many friends and admirers. A private graveside burial was held by the family and plans will be announced for a memorial service at a later date.

Contact The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County, *Bridging Yesterday and Tomorrow*, by phone: 203-359-2196 (The Archives), by email: [info@jhsfc-ct.org](mailto:info@jhsfc-ct.org) or on-line: <http://jhsfc-ct.org/>.

Elissa Kaplan is president, The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County.

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- Saturday, Sept. 19 - 10:00 am

#### ■ Yom Kippur Services:

- Sunday, Sept. 27 - 7:30 pm (Kol Nidre)
- Monday, Sept. 28 - 10:00 am

For more information and how to participate, check our website [www.chavurah.org](http://www.chavurah.org), email [services@chavurah.org](mailto:services@chavurah.org), or call (203) 249-4509 or (203)847-6032

# BBYO Becomes Leader in Safe In-Person Programming

*(Courtesy of BBYO)* Summer 2020 was unlike any before but that did not stop BBYO from bringing teens together. When BBYO made the decision to cancel summer travel and leadership camps, Regional Staff began working on ways for teens to engage safely in-person.

BBYO Connecticut Valley Region was able to run 5 offerings of Summer Programs for teens in Fairfield County. Each program met outside with no more than 10 teens and focused on different program areas. Programs

included leadership skill building art, music and sports.

“We wanted to give the teens an opportunity to connect and be with one another,” said Jen Kruzansky BBYO Connecticut Valley Region Regional Director. “From virtual school to summer plans being canceled, our goal was to provide some sort of normal and emotional enrichment.”

The small sessions allowed for teens to build relationships and collaborate with one another while also maintaining proper



Music and Summer Jams session 1 taught teens basic guitar where teens learned camp song classics.



BBYO teens display paintings of the Western Wall that they made during session 1 of the 'Arts and Chillax' programming session.

social distancing to create a safe and supportive environment for teens and staff leading the programming.

“Our goal for the fall is to allow for in-person meetings as much as we can,” said Josh Cohen, Senior Regional Director. “We recognize information changes daily and as long as

it’s safe, and we are able to maintain social distancing, we’ll continue to be the necessary outlet so many teens come to BBYO for.”

For more information on BBYO programming this Fall, email Regional Staff Josh Cohen and Jen Kruzansky at [JCohen@bbyo.org](mailto:JCohen@bbyo.org) and [JKruzansky@bbyo.org](mailto:JKruzansky@bbyo.org)

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The Cannondale approach to health, well-being and creating a joyful environment remain second to none. Be it our “Peace of Mind” move in process or our wellness initiatives to manage chronic conditions, we encourage you to contact us if you or someone you know is in need of senior living.

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**Our “Peace of Mind” Process includes three simple steps:**

- 1** New residents must receive a Covid-19 test prior to move in. Move-in date must be within 72 hours of negative test results.
- 2** New Residents will receive a 14 day “Peace of Mind” Stay and receive added care and concierge services at no extra charge.
- 3** All residents receive daily temperature and Oxygen level checks. Wellness visits from health specialists to ensure optimal balance, strength, nutrition and well-being are provided to give “Peace of Mind” to all our residents.

*“My Mother is so fortunate to be in your care. Thank you to every single person who leaves home each day and goes to work at The Greens in this unprecedented pandemic. I know your family and friends are concerned for you, and those of us in the wider Greens community are too. I am enormously grateful for your dedication and commitment.”*

— GRATEFULLY, SALLY L (GREENS FAMILY MEMBER)



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- Listen to live entertainment and enjoy light dinner delivered to your car.
- View an original UJF movie highlighting donors and special guests.
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## Tzedek Committee Forms at TBE

BY JULIE ROSENBERG

Temple Beth El's Tzedek (Justice) Committee, a group passionate about racial justice, was formed organically in the weeks following the death of George Floyd. Many congregants at Temple Beth El needed a safe space to process the injustices witnessed, to be vulnerable and honest, and to use faith as fuel for individual growth, community connections, and Tikkun Olam--a central tenet of both Judaism and of the mission of Temple Beth El.

Within hours of a congregant request, Rabbi Hammerman secured Dr. Reverend Michael Christie from the Union Baptist Church in Stamford to speak at a Zoom Kabbalat Shabbat Service. Congregants prayed and sang together, and then listened as Dr. Christie explained the difference between "not being a racist" and being an "anti-racist." Recalling the "No Hate. No Fear" rally held in our sanctuary, where neighbors of all faiths and colors gathered in solidarity against anti-semitism, members gathered together now in solidarity against racism and the Tzedek Committee was born.

Since that time, the Tzedek Committee has begun to educate themselves, to connect with Black neighbors, and to take action to achieve justice. They have attended over 15 Zooms related to racial justice; read *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America* by Dr. Ibram Kendi; virtually hosted Guy Fortt, the Stamford Chapter's Head of the NAACP, and his inspiring colleagues; and engaged in the first virtual dialogue with the congregants of the Union Baptist Church. Listening to the stories of



Temple Beth El Dialogue on Zoom with Union Baptist Church.

their own Stamford neighbors, some of whom lived both through segregation and desegregation, took their efforts from an academic exercise to an empathy-building experience.

The Tzedek Committee is planning to view *13th*, a documentary examining the history of our prison system and high rates of incarceration and join the AJC for a discussion with Reverend Doris K. Dalton, Chair of the Westchester County Human Rights Commission. They will learn how to combat voter suppression through the Common Grounds postcard project, writing and mailing postcards to typically underrepresented voters--primarily those of color in rural

southern communities--to encourage them to vote. They will also be exploring the impacts of systemic racism on housing, education, and healthcare access in the Stamford community and will continue dialogues with Union Baptist Church and look forward to involving their youth.

The Talmud states, "When the community is immersed in suffering, a person may not say: I will go to my home and I will eat and drink, and peace be upon you, my soul." (Talmud *Taanit* 11a)



Dr. Reverend Michael Christie, speaker.

The Tzedek Committee is committed to working with the Black community to reduce suffering and to ensure justice--one mindset, one vote, and one policy at a time. "Tzedek, tzedek, tirdof" - justice, justice shall you pursue? (Deuteronomy 16:20)

For further information on the TBE Tzedek Committee, contact Julie Rosenberg, Chair of the Tzedek Committee, via e-mail at julierosenbergsjp@gmail.com.

## Chabad of Stamford's 'Challah Dough for a Cause'

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) "Challah Dough for a Cause" took on an extra special meaning since the pandemic started as a way for Chabad of Stamford to keep people connected through acts of chesed and tzedakah in the community.

Every Friday, Chabad sells various types of baked challah or dough and uses the proceeds to fund its "Loaves of Love" project which brings a "Taste of Shabbat" to those who could use it most. Since the spring, "Challah Dough for a Cause" has raised funds for various projects. These have

included a special thank you Shabbat meal or packages to our local Jewish community leaders, celebrating recent graduates and nominating hero dads in the local community to receive special packages on Father's Day.

Every few weeks Chabad also distributes its "Loaves of Love" packages to the Jewish patients at Silver Hill Hospital. If you'd like to volunteer to deliver the packages or find ways to support "Challah Dough for a Cause" please contact [programs@stamfordchabad.org](mailto:programs@stamfordchabad.org) or visit [www.stamfordchabad.org](http://www.stamfordchabad.org)

## Jewish War Veterans Meeting Schedule

(Courtesy of JWV) The Fred Robbins Post # 142 of the Jewish War Veterans generally meets the first Sunday of the month at 10:00 am. Meetings usually consist of a short business session followed by a speaker and discussion. Until further notice, meetings will be held via Zoom. All veterans are invited to join.

Mark your calendar for the following dates: October 4, November 1, December 6, January 3, February 7, March 7, April 11, May 2 and June 6.

For further information and to be on the JWV mailing list, contact the organization at [www.stamfordjwv.org](http://www.stamfordjwv.org) or email [stamfordjwv@gmail.com](mailto:stamfordjwv@gmail.com).

## Holiday Cooking and Baking With Chabad

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Chabad's pre-Rosh Hashanah Mega Challah Bake and JWC Cooking Club are being reimaged to be safe and socially distant while continuing to be fun and meaningful.

Following their hugely successful Mega family challah bake last year, which saw close to 900 participants, Chabad will mark the 11<sup>th</sup> year of its Mega Challah Bake by preparing challah baking "Kits to Go" for families to pre-order. All Jewish families in Stamford are invited to join and be part of keeping the community connected. Pre-orders will be picked up by September 11, and on Sunday September 13, everyone can prepare, shape and bake the challahs together on Zoom. Kits will come in various options from pre-measured to deluxe versions which include various extra 'swag' items.

"We may not be together as planned this Rosh Hashanah, but through the mitzvah of challah, we can be at each other's holiday tables in a different but connected way this year," said Leah Shemtov, co-director of Chabad of Stamford. In this way, the High Holidays can be celebrated and enjoyed by many "together", even if they are apart.

Chabad's Jewish Women Connected (JWC) programming is also being reinvented to adapt to new circumstances. After the resounding success of its Zoom cooking classes this past spring, Chabad is finding creative and innovative ways to adapt and change by introducing its new "JWC Cooking Club".

Before every holiday, JWC will hold special cooking programs virtually (or in person when circumstances allow). Starting on September 15<sup>th</sup> with its annual 'Rosh Hashanah Ready' program, women in the community will be able to come together to prepare challah, desserts and side dishes to share with family and friends in honor of the holiday. Other programs will include donut making for Chanukah, hamentashen and kreplach making for Purim, a special Shavuot program, as well as their popular annual international cookoff which this year featured delights from India, Mexico, Yemen, South Africa and Morocco.

To be part of the pre-Rosh Hashanah Mega Challah bake, join Jewish Women Connected or for more information, please contact Vered Links at [programs@chabadstamford.org](mailto:programs@chabadstamford.org) or visit [www.StamfordChabad.org](http://www.StamfordChabad.org).



**Wishing you and your families a happy, healthy and sweet New Year!**

**Shanah Tovah and Ketivah VeChatimah Tovah!**

Join us for the holidays and beyond!

To learn more, visit [www.cas-stamford.org/membership.html](http://www.cas-stamford.org/membership.html) and reach out to us. We would love to welcome you to our CAS family!

Rabbi Daniel Cohen, Senior Rabbi

Toby Schaffer, President

Rabbi Moshe Kurtz, Assistant Rabbi

Matt Feinberg, Executive Director



United Jewish Federation

*From Our Family to Yours...*

*Best Wishes for a Shana Tova*

*May 5781 bring us*

*health, blessings, peace and joy for all!*

David Gordon, President

Diane Sloyer, CEO



Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut (JFACT)

***Best Wishes for a Shanah Tovah.***

***May 5781 be a year of health, blessings and peace for all.***

Michael Bloom, Executive Director, JFACT

Gary Jones, President, JFACT

Sydney Perry, Chairwoman of the Board, JFACT

*May the year 5781 bring peace and harmony to the community of Stamford and the family of Israel*



JCC Stamford

[www.stamfordjcc.org](http://www.stamfordjcc.org)

Michael Gold, President

Marshall Kurland, Chief Executive Officer



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- Age-appropriate, hands-on activities that educate and inspire
- Small class sizes with emphasis on community-building
- Flexible schedules for Pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade.
- Interfaith families welcome

**ENROLLMENT IS OPEN FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR!**

For more information, contact David Cohen, Director of Schools, at 203-869-7191 or [david.cohen@templesholom.com](mailto:david.cohen@templesholom.com).



*Shana Tova*

May the coming year be filled with health, goodness, growth & sweetness.

Rabbi Moshe & Leah Tzemach, Mussie, Shternie, Levi, Yisroel, Shaina Rivka & Gavriel Shemtov

*Chabad of Stamford*



**HAVE A SWEET YEAR**

**FROM ALL OF US AT**

**TEMPLE BETH EL**

350 Roxbury Road, Stamford, CT 06902

203.322.6901 [www.tbe.org](http://www.tbe.org) TBESTamford

From the Leadership, Membership, Clergy and Staff of Temple Sinai,  
 We wish the entire community a very happy & healthy New Year.  
 May 5781 be filled with growth, safe interactions with friends  
 and many joyful moments in each other's lives.

L'Shanah Tovah u'Metukah ~ לשנה טובה ומתוקה  
 A Good and a Sweet New Year

 Temple Sinai ♦ 458 Lakeside Drive ♦ Stamford, CT 06903  
 203.322.1649 ♦ [www.temple sinaistamford.org](http://www.temple sinaistamford.org) 

*Happy New Year*

*Shana Tova*

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 Director – Connecticut Region

203.780.0206

ELAYNE & JAMES SCHOKE  
**JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE**  
 OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY

Shanah Tovah!

A Happy, Healthy & Sweet New Year

The Board and Staff of Schoke Jewish Family Service

Paul Gordon, President  
 Matt Greenberg, CEO

# Federation Impact

## JFNA gets \$5M to help survivors

(Courtesy of UJF) On August 6, 2020, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living/Administration on Aging awarded a \$5 million grant to The Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) to expand Person-Centered, Trauma-Informed (PCTI) care to Holocaust survivors, other older adults with a history of trauma, and their family caregivers. This grant relies upon annual Congressional appropriations and \$1.6 million in philanthropic contributions.

“We are grateful to the Administration for Community Living for having the confidence and trust in our ability to continue to serve this vulnerable population,” said Mark Wilf, JFNA Chair of the Board of Trustees. “Holocaust survivors are our teachers and our heroes. Now, they are teaching us how to help other older adults who have survived trauma, and their caregivers. We are honored to partner with the federal government to lead this initiative.”

In addition to aiding Holocaust survivors, the grant will help bring PCTI practices to other older adults with a history of

trauma and their family caregivers. PCTI care is an innovative type of service delivery, spearheaded by JFNA, that promotes trust, dignity, strength, and empowerment of all individuals by incorporating knowledge about trauma into agency programs, policies, and procedures. Some estimates suggest that up to 90% of older adults in the United States have experienced a traumatic event during their lifetimes, which can affect the aging process. And the problems of this group have become even more acute with social distancing and the threats posed by COVID-19.

UJF’s CEO Diane Sloyer stated, “United Jewish Federation is proud to be part of the global Federation movement and thankful that our local Jewish Social Service agency, Schoke JFS, has received generous grants from this fund for the past two year to start the Anachnu program, benefitting Holocaust survivors in our community”.

In partnership with the Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies, the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany and others, JFNA will provide subgrants and technical assistance to local

community service providers. To learn more visit [www.holocaustsurvivorcare.org](http://www.holocaustsurvivorcare.org).

JFNA is proud to partner with the U.S. Administration for Community Living to lead the field of PCTI care for older adults and to serve Holocaust survivors, other older adults with a history of trauma, and their family caregivers. This builds on the work done by JFNA to catalyze a nation-wide culture shift towards PCTI care, elevating the importance of PCTI care across older adult populations.).

JFNA represents 146 Jewish Federations and over 300 Network communities, which raise and distribute more than \$3 billion annually for social welfare, social services, and educational needs. The Federation movement, collectively among the top 10 charities on the continent, protects and enhances the well-being of Jews worldwide through the values of tikkun olam (repairing the world), tzedakah (charity and social justice), and Torah (Jewish learning). To learn more about how Federations advance Holocaust Survivor Care, visit [www.holocaustsurvivorcare.org](http://www.holocaustsurvivorcare.org).



*the communal*

# Kvell

Join us for a day of Kvelling and Comedic Relief

with

## The Levy Family from Schitt's Creek!

**Wednesday, September 16**  
 UJF community gathering from 1:00pm-1:25pm  
 followed by The Community Kvell from 1:25 - 2:15 pm

You are invited to join Jewish communities from around North America in this rare celebration. Connect with like-minded people from across the Federation Movement and hear about the impact you've had through your local Federation, especially during the current crisis. And it wouldn't be a party without our celebrity guests — the Levy family from Schitt's Creek.

### Get inspired

### More kvelling?

While you've been quarantined, your gift has gone around the world, impacting countless lives. During this program, you'll hear more about where your dollar has gone and why you are such a critical piece of our shared Jewish community.

### Give it up for

Hear stories from Sarah, Dan, and Eugene Levy of the Emmy-nominated Schitt's Creek.

### Looking to dance?

It wouldn't be a party without music — and it's been ages since we've heard music from a band performing together in the same space! Let's kvell together to special live performances!

**To Register, go to: [www.ujf.com/Kvell](http://www.ujf.com/Kvell)**

*Wishing You and Your Family  
a Happy & Healthy New Year!*

Shanah Tovah U'metukah  
שנה טובה ומתוקה

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**WISHING YOU A HAPPY &  
HEALTHY NEW YEAR!**

Shanah Tovah U'metukah  
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Bar/Bat Mitzvah Preparation  
Family Jewish Education  
Adult Learning and Torah Reading  
(You can read Torah at your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah, too!)

**Wishing the entire  
community, a happy  
and healthy New Year!**

Fondly, Brenda and Bruce Smith



*Wishing you a New Year  
filled with good health,  
abundant joy and peace.*



L'Shanah tova,  
The Handler Family  
Wendy, Jordan, Simon,  
Sophie & Ian

*Wishing all my family and  
friends to stay healthy and  
safe for the coming new year.*

Shana Tova  
Helene Zimmerman, LCSW

*L'Shanah  
Tova!*

From Gloria & Sheldon Levine & Family

MAY YOU BE INSCRIBED  
IN THE BOOK OF LIFE  
FOR GOOD HEALTH, PEACE,  
AND PROSPERITY.

Marhsa Kaiser Shendell  
& Family

Wishing everyone a good,  
sweet, and healthy new year



Mezyl  
and  
David Gordon

Wishes for health,  
prosperity and  
happiness  
in the New Year.

Shana tova,  
Nancy  
and Gadi Mimoun

**L'Shana Tova! Happy and  
Healthy New Year to All!**



Best Wishes, Nan and Paul Gordon

Wishes for peace, health and  
joy for all Israel, while ensuring  
that happens by speaking out  
against anti-Jew and  
anti-Israel hate.

**L'Shanah Tova!**  
Norine Krasnogor

We hope the holidays will  
continue to be meaningful  
for everyone now and into  
the future.  
Stay safe and well.

Shana Tova  
Edith Samers and Ed Smith

May the coming year  
bring you all good  
health, peace and joy.

Shana Tova,  
Sandy & Fred Golove

Warm Wishes  
for a New Year  
Filled with Health,  
Peace, Love and Joy!



Shana Tova,  
Diane and Elliot Sloyer  
Rebecca, Yoni, Coby, Leora and Zimrat



Wishing you and your family  
a happy and healthy New Year.  
Shana Tova.



Ellen and Richard Weber



Tzimmes Chicken

# Roasted Tzimmes Chicken

BY RONNIE FEIN

Although younger generations may think of it as old-fashioned, tzimmes is basic Ashkenazi comfort food. And now — when we're discomfited by a pandemic, feeling insecure about our health, our economic well-being and our future; when many of us are feeling sad that we can't get-together with our loved ones — is the exact time for comfort food.

In Yiddish, the word tzimmes means “a big fuss,” and surely, preparing tzimmes, which is a mélange of many ingredients, can be just that.

But despite its colloquial meaning, a good tzimmes recipe doesn't have to be a big fuss. It's a very forgiving dish, in fact, there's no actual recipe. Tzimmes is whatever grandma used to make. Sometimes with meat, but not necessarily. Probably with fruit (fresh or dried) and maybe a vegetable or two.

Old school tzimmes simmered for hours, but in my opinion, that's what turned so many people off this dish. Too much cooking and you wind up with mush. Meatless versions, or the ones with chicken don't take long at all.

My Roasted Tzimmes Chicken recipe is festive looking and suitable for the holiday table. It's not much fuss at all. Chicken may be untraditional, but the recipe includes familiar holiday ingredients such as dried fruit and honey. And the bonus is it takes less than an hour to cook from start to finish.

This tzimmes is no tzimmes!

## ROASTED TZIMMES CHICKEN

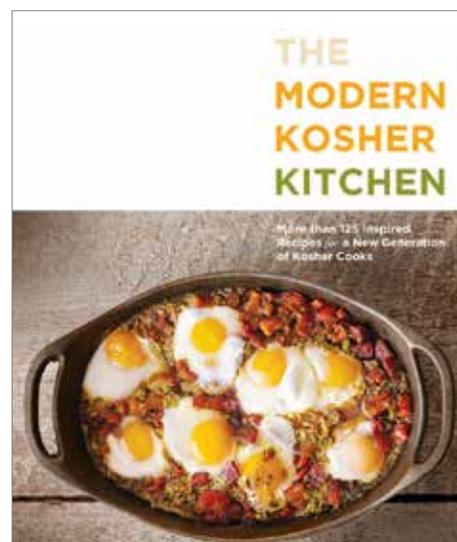
- 3 1/2 to 4-pound chicken, cut into 8 pieces
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
- 1 medium onion, sliced
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 16-18 dried apricots
- 12 large Medjool dates, pitted
- 1 teaspoon grated fresh orange peel
- 1 teaspoon chopped fresh rosemary
- 3 tablespoons Balsamic vinegar
- 2 tablespoons honey

Preheat the oven to 450 degrees. Place a large oven-proof sauté pan in the oven (cast

iron if you have it) for 15 minutes. Dry the chicken using paper towels. Rub one tablespoon of the olive oil over the pieces and season to taste with salt and pepper. Place the chicken pieces, skin down in the hot pan and place the pan in the oven. Roast for 10 minutes. While the chicken is roasting, combine the onion, garlic, apricots, dates, orange peel, rosemary, Balsamic vinegar, honey and the remaining 2 tablespoons olive oil in a bowl. Toss the ingredients to distribute them evenly. After the initial 10 minutes of roasting, turn the chicken pieces. The skin should be browned, if not, return to the oven for another 3-4 minutes. Scatter the fruit mixture on top of and between the chicken pieces. Return the pan to the oven. Turn the heat to 350 degrees. Roast for another 20 minutes or until chicken is cooked through (a meat thermometer will read 160 degrees). Baste 2-3 times during roasting. Let rest for about 10 minutes before serving.

Makes 4-6 servings

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

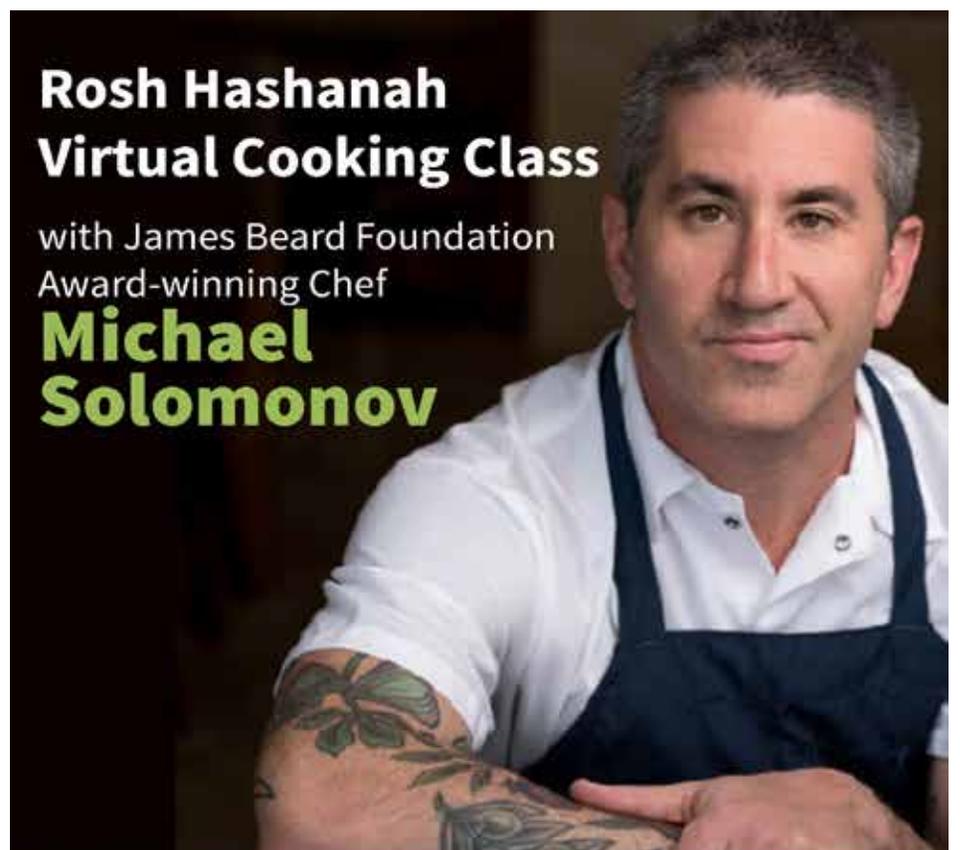


The cover of Ronnie Fein's newest cookbook, "The Modern Kosher Kitchen."

## Rosh Hashanah Virtual Cooking Class

with James Beard Foundation Award-winning Chef

**Michael Solomonov**



Monday, September 14 • 8:00 pm

### Michael Solomonov is:

- Executive Chef and Co-owner of **zahav**, the 2019 James Beard Foundation award winner for Outstanding Restaurant, the first Israeli restaurant to ever win the award
- 2017 James Beard Foundation Outstanding Chef along with 4 other James Beard Awards, one of the most decorated chefs in the history of the awards
- 2014 Eater National Chef of the Year
- Zahav was named by Food & Wine as one of the “40 Most Important Restaurants of the Past 40 Years”

### Gabriella Gershenson is:

- James Beard award-nominated food journalist based in NYC
- She has been an editor at *Saveur Magazine*, *Rachael Ray Every Day*, and *Time Out New York*, and is a contributor to *The Wall Street Journal*
- She is an editor of the recently published books *The 100 Most Jewish Foods* (Artisan) and *Hummus* (Magica), and moderates a series of food talks at Symphony Space and Temple Emanuel's Streicker Center

### Menu:

- Kale, Apple, Walnut and Sumac-Onion Tabbouleh
- Honey Glazed Chicken
- Apple Cake

Recipes and ingredient list will be sent before the event

To Register, go to:  
[www.ujf.com/solomonov](http://www.ujf.com/solomonov)



## UJF LIFE & LEGACY TESTIMONIALS

BY BEVERLY & DAVID STEIN

We moved to Stamford in 1990 with our two daughters. We immediately became involved in the United Jewish Federation and shortly after that Beverly became involved in Schoke Jewish Family Service.

Schoke JFS is where individuals and families in our community turn to when they are in need, or in crisis. They deliver essential services with compassion and respect and give people the tools they need to build healthier, more stable lives.

United Jewish Federation helps Jews at home, in Israel and overseas in a way no other organization does. We have traveled to Israel and been to visit Jewish communities (and former Jewish communities) Europe. We can't imagine a world without Israel, and we have seen what a world without some of our destroyed communities looks like. If we as Jews don't support Jews around the world, no one else will.

We are leaving Legacy gifts to Schoke JFS and UJF. A legacy gift is a lasting investment in our Jewish community. It helps to ensure that the Schoke JFS and UJF will be viable for future generations.



Beverly & David Stein

We are a community of individuals, but it is the institutions that are the beating heart of the community. Beverly is immediate past President of the Schoke JFS board and we are both past Executive Committee members of UJF. It seems to us to be a no-brainer. We believe it is our responsibility to ensure that both organizations are able to continue their work into the future. We also want our children to know how much we value helping Jews in need everywhere.

## UJF Convenes Community To Secure Our Future

BY LENORE FOGEL

The Greater Stamford Jewish Community has just completed the first quarter of Year One of the Harold Grinspoon LIFE & LEGACY® initiative. United Jewish Federation is spearheading the local LIFE & LEGACY effort which involves eleven Jewish organizations working collaboratively to make legacy giving an integral part of our community's philanthropic culture. Participating organizations provide a wide range of services and cover a broad spectrum of Jewish life in the Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien communities.

Participating organizations include United Jewish Federation and Bi Cultural Hebrew Academy, Chabad of New Canaan, Chabad of Stamford, Congregation Agudath Sholom, Friendship Circle, Schoke Jewish Family Service, Stamford Jewish Community Center, Temple Beth El, Temple Sinai and Young Israel of Stamford.

Each organization has a legacy team who is reaching out to involved and committed members who are invested in the organization's future. The legacy teams receive training through United Jewish Federation and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation.

"By signing a letter of intent, community members make a powerful statement about the importance of Jewish life and their desire to secure our Jewish community's future. The Letter of Intent is a straightforward and meaningful way to promise a future gift, without an added financial burden in the present," shared UJF CEO Diane Sloyer who was responsible for securing UJF's participation in

the program.

Despite the pandemic, members of our Stamford, New Canaan and Darien community have rallied around this effort and already signed over 100 Letters of Intent. At the conclusion of the first quarter, UJF was recognized as the best performing community in LIFE & LEGACY's "Cohort 8".

LIFE & LEGACY provides incentive grants to each organization who secures a specific number of legacy commitments each year. This money may be used by the organizations to help with operations. In this way, those who commit to leaving a legacy are helping to secure the future, while they are also helping valued organizations secure funds they greatly need now.

"The Stamford Jewish Community is off to an incredible start," said Arlene D. Schiff, National Director of LIFE & LEGACY. "The Harold Grinspoon Foundation is delighted to have the Stamford, New Canaan and Darien community join LIFE & LEGACY at a point in time when we have reached the 1-billion-dollar milestone mark in legacy commitments nationwide. We know United Jewish Federation and the ten other participating organizations will play an integral role in helping us secure the second billion as we continue towards our goal of making legacy giving normative behavior in the Jewish community so there will be strong and vibrant Jewish communities across North America."

If you are interested in becoming a legacy donor, or joining a legacy team, please contact Lenore Fogel, LIFE & LEGACY Coordinator, lenore@ujf.org or 203-321-1373 X115.

## Life and Legacy Community Honor Roll

United Jewish Federation is excited to announce the first Legacy Society Honor Roll Listing. The following donors have ensured that they will be remembered forever by United Jewish Federation and the Jewish community with an after-lifetime gift. Members of the Greater Stamford, New Canaan and Darien Honor Roll have pledged their gift to local Jewish Organizations through the LIFE & LEGACY® program or other previous bequests. To find out more information about how to add your name to this list and create your own family's lasting legacy, please contact Lenore Fogel, Life and Legacy Coordinator, at lenore@ujf.org or 203-321-1373 X115

\*Of Blessed Memory

Anonymous (5)  
 Adrienne and Michael Alexander  
 Jeri Appel  
 Mark Appel  
 Erica Arbron  
 Suelyn Bache  
 Rabbi Tzvi and Darona Bernstein  
 Claude Bernstein  
 Judith B. Block  
 Amy and Henry Bubel  
 The Estate of Sheila Carmine\*  
 Andrea and David M. Cohen  
 Rabbi Daniel and Diane Cohen  
 Jeffrey S. Cohen and Malerie D. Yolen-Cohen  
 Judy and David S.\* Cohen  
 Mimi Cohen  
 Saul Cohen\*  
 Arthur Cramer\*  
 Stephen Davidson  
 Helen and Marty Donner  
 Fran and Bob Dorf  
 Dan and Debra Faizakoff  
 Michelle Fanwick  
 Jerry and Peggy Fensterstock  
 Richard and Rosalea Fisher  
 Dr Ilan and Lenore Fogel  
 Morton and Miriam Lavinsky Folb \*  
 Sharon Franklin  
 Connie and Alan Freeman  
 Marc Friedman  
 Lesley and Dennis Gehr  
 The Estate of Thomas Gilmartin\*  
 Carole Gladstone  
 Sylvia and Herb Gladstone\*  
 Robin Frederick and Michael Gold  
 Cyndy and Eric Goldberg  
 Caryl Goldstein\*  
 Meryl and David Gordon  
 Nan and Paul Gordon  
 Linda B. Gornitsky  
 Hank Green  
 Larry and Sharon Greenberg  
 Pam Ehrenkranz and Matt Greenberg  
 Grecia and Ron\* Gross

Estate of Ronald Gross\*  
 Scott Handelman  
 Dr. Shara and Rabbi David Israel  
 Meryl and Ron Japha  
 Jason Kaplowitz  
 Joy Katz  
 Judith and Sheldon Katz  
 Larry Katz  
 Marc and Liz Kitay  
 Elissa and Philip Klapper  
 Susan Kostin  
 Jeannie and Brian Kriftcher  
 Marshall and Jackie Kurland  
 David and Lorraine Kweskin  
 Helen and Ed Kweskin  
 Shelley Leibowitz  
 Lois D. Stark and Gary P. Lessen  
 Mark and Vered Links  
 Eleanor and Mort Lowenthal  
 Norma and Milton Mann\*  
 Chris Maroc  
 Melanie Massell  
 Rabbi Levi and Michal Mendelow  
 Nancy Zinbarg Mimoun  
 Enid Randall\*  
 Lisa and Harry Rich  
 Judy and Adam Rin  
 Betty and Dan\* Roberts  
 Arlene and Carl Rosen  
 Irma Ross  
 Jim and Sally Rothkopf  
 Bonnie Russo  
 Edith Samers  
 Sharyn and Richard Sarner  
 Hilde Scheraga\*  
 Jayne and Bud Schiff  
 Carol Ruth and Herman Shepherd\*  
 Nancy Schiffman  
 Elayne and James Schoke\*  
 Levi and Chaya Segal  
 Jessica and Laurence Sheinman  
 Stephanie and Bob Sherman  
 Malya Shmotkin  
 Ronnie Ness Sichel  
 Dr. Steven Sichel  
 Paula Simon  
 Diane and Elliot Sloyer  
 Greta Solomon  
 Fred and Eileen Springer  
 Beverly and David Stein  
 Betsy and Michael Stone  
 Gladys and Greg Teitel  
 Rabbi Jay and Dr. Julie TelRav  
 Ellen & Richard Weber  
 Linda B. Gornitsky and Harvey Weber  
 Carl and Dana Weinberg  
 Leon Weisburgh  
 Joan Zinbarg\*  
 Renee Zinn



**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2020**

7:00 PM EDT | 6:00 PM CDT | 4:00 PM PDT



# A NIGHT OF HEROES

A COAST-TO-COAST VIRTUAL CELEBRATION TO SUPPORT ISRAEL'S DEFENDERS

THE GLOBAL FIDF FAMILY UNITES VIRTUALLY FOR ONE UNPRECEDENTED NIGHT OF GIVING AND EXTRAORDINARY SOLIDARITY, SALUTING OUR IDF PROTECTORS.

**TO REGISTER GO TO [FIDF.ORG/TRISTATEGALA](https://fidf.org/tristategala)**



Anat Chavkin, Director of Westchester/Connecticut | Samantha Bryk, Development Associate of Westchester/Connecticut  
*For more information contact Samantha Bryk at [Samantha.Bryk@fidf.org](mailto:Samantha.Bryk@fidf.org) or (646) 274-9645*

**THEIR JOB IS TO LOOK AFTER ISRAEL. OURS IS TO LOOK AFTER THEM.**

## COMMUNITY NEWS

## Curbside Dining at TBE



(Courtesy of TBE) Because of the pandemic, TBE's regular BBQ and Barachu was a curbside pick-up with some enjoying their dinner on the grounds and in the parking lot of TBE. BBQ chicken, stuffed

peppers and schnitzel were prepared by 613 Restaurant and distributed at curbside by members of the TBE Board of Trustees. Services were held following the picnic on Zoom.

## Israeli Drinking Water Generator Donated to Gaza Hospital

BY ABIGAIL KLEIN LEICHMAN/ISRAEL21C

Children and staff at Gaza's only pediatric cancer hospital now have access to safe drinking water thanks to an atmospheric water generator (AWG) from Israel's Watergen.

Pulling water out of air is a remarkable feat. And so was getting the 780-kilo GEN-M machine to Gaza City from Israel via the Kerem Shalom border crossing.

Due to ongoing attacks launched from the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip, Israel carefully controls the transfer of materials through Kerem Shalom. And the coronavirus crisis has further limited cross-border activity.

But Watergen President Michael Mirilashvili was determined to help once he found out about the hospital's dire need from Fayez Hussein of Mayet Al Ahel, a Palestinian Authority

company that facilitates water and power projects in Gaza. (Mayet Al Ahel means "community drinking water" in Arabic.)

"When the Palestine Children's Relief Fund informed us of the water situation and how it is affecting the cancer ward, the project and timing were challenging," Hussein said.

"It came during the early global coronavirus lockdown; we did not know if we could find a partner to work with us and we were not sure if we could even move anything into Gaza as everything was shutting down," he continued.

"We knew that Watergen technology would work for our design but were not sure of the timing as the urgency was mounting. We needed a miracle, so we had no choice but to try to invent a solution to ensure the children had access to clean water as the



A PCRF official with the atmospheric water generator donated by Watergen and Mayet Al-Ahel to Musa and Suhaila Nasir Pediatric Cancer Department in Gaza City. (COURTESY OF MAYET AL AHEL)



The Watergen GEN-M atmospheric water generator was hoisted onto the roof of a pediatric cancer hospital in Gaza City.

coronavirus in Gaza started to spread. We met Watergen and two weeks later the machine was in Gaza."

Mirilashvili and Mayet Al Ahel decided to donate the machine due to the urgency of the situation.

"We are very proud of our partnership with Watergen to provide clean water and save lives," said Hussein. "This humanitarian mission overrode all issues and obstacles. We felt elated that this was done despite the odds."

The AWG on the roof of the hospital is powered by the hospital's electricity grid but will soon be connected to solar panels. It can produce up to 800 liters of clean water 24/7.

Watergen's patented heat-exchange technology creates water by cooling collected air at its dew point. The water goes through physical, chemical and biological treatment for optimum quality.

"With the drinking water crisis becoming worse every day, and the coronavirus plaguing those with compromised immune systems, the need for an innovative approach to addressing this issue has never been clearer," said Watergen Executive Chairman Maxim Pasik.

The hospital unit was not the first Watergen AWG sent to Gaza.

As we reported in February, the Kennedy Leigh Foundation sponsored the installation of a GEN-M machine at the municipal building in the Gazan neighborhood of Abasan al-Kabira.

This pilot project was a cooperative effort involving Watergen, Israel's Arava Institute for Environmental Studies, the Coordination and Liaison Administration (CLA) to the Gaza Strip, the Palestinian NGO Damour for Community Development, and the Abasan al-Kabira municipality.

"Responding in accordance with our belief that every human being, regardless of race, gender or religion has a fundamental right to clean-drinking water, we are helping some of Israel's next-door neighbors gain access to

freshwater, a resource that is lacking in Gaza," Watergen's management said at the time.

"We hope that our provision of an AWG will help solve the water crisis and serve as a step forward towards mutual collaboration in the Middle East."

Gaza's main source of water is its coastal aquifer, which has become polluted and over-extracted. The only alternative is to purchase desalinated water at a high price.

CLA director Major General Iyyad Sarchan therefore approved the shipment of the GEN-M units "to prevent any further deterioration to the humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip associated with the lack of freshwater."

"The introduction of Watergen into Gaza is not only a proof of concept for a cutting-edge technology but a proof of concept that Palestinians and Israelis can do more than launch attacks at each other," said David Lehrer, director of the Arava Institute.

"We can, instead, work together to improve lives, solve humanitarian problems, build trust, and restore hope."

A range of Watergen's AWG models are installed in dozens of countries, many in partnership with humanitarian organizations.

The home-scale GENNY can produce up to 30 liters of water per day, the medium-scale GEN-M produces up to 800 liters and the industrial GEN-L can make as many as 5,000 liters of water per day.

Watergen's GENNY was one of nine Israeli products to make TIME's Top 100 Inventions of 2019 list and won first prize at CES 2020 for electrical efficiency.

"Alongside the Gaza Strip, Watergen is working in more than 60 countries to guarantee drinking water security to all," Pasik said.

"We felt it was our duty to assist our own neighbors who are suffering from water shortages. Watergen will continue to place units in healthcare facilities around the world, in addition to rural location, schools, public areas, and residential towers."



Solar panels on the Gaza City pediatric cancer hospital's roof will power the Watergen atmospheric water generator.

# PJ Library Corner

BY SHARON FRANKLIN

- Interested in getting free Jewish books for your children? Sign up at [www.pjlibrary.org](http://www.pjlibrary.org) for books geared to kids 6 months to 8 ½ years of age. Go to [www.pjourway.org](http://www.pjourway.org) for chapter books for kids 8 ½ to 12 years old, or contact Sharon Franklin at [sharon@ujf.org](mailto:sharon@ujf.org). Now every Jewish child, 6 months to 12 years of age, in a household in the greater Stamford community, can sign up for a PJ Library book.
- Grandparents can get a PJ Library subscription as well! Go to <https://pjlibrary.org/beyond-books/grandparents> to sign up and to get helpful tips and activities for you and your grandchildren.
- Last year, UJF won a PJ grant to create “Play Together”- monthly family gatherings in Stamford, New Canaan and Darien for families raising Jewish children. Interested in meeting new families either virtually or in small groups? Contact Sharon Franklin.



Sharon Franklin

- Each week, UJF's PJ Library emails an original and engaging virtual program to PJ Library and PJ Our Way families. Also included in the mailings are craft ideas, recipes, parenting ideas and fun activities for the whole family. If you are not getting the email, contact Sharon Franklin to be added to the list.
- Are you on Facebook? Join UJF's PJ Library Facebook Group! This group is a great forum to share your ideas and connect with other like-minded parents. **Search PJ Library of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.**
- In July and August, PJ Library started holding small, in-person programs- safe and socially distanced. Be on the lookout for future programming, or if you have an idea for a program please let Sharon Franklin know!
- Rosh Hashanah is coming up- try making this healthy and tasty granola dish for



breakfast or snack. This apple and honey granola recipe is very simple to make and has just seven ingredients: 6 cups of rolled oats, 2 tsp. cinnamon, 2 apples (cored and diced), 1/4 cup raw honey (or another sweetener), 2 tsp. vanilla, 1/2-1 cup raisins, 2 tsp. tahini.

#### Instructions:

- Pre-heat oven to 350 degrees. Place diced apples, cinnamon, vanilla, honey and tahini in a blender and puree until smooth. Set aside. Place parchment paper onto 2 baking sheets and spray with canola non-stick

baking spray, so the granola will not stick during baking. Pour the wet ingredients over 5 cups of oats in a mixing bowl and mix thoroughly using a spoon. Place mixture on one prepared baking sheet and spread over surface of tray.

- Bake for about 35-40 minutes, or until the mixture is light brown and toasty. Make sure to stir every 10-15 minutes, to avoid burning, and to make sure the granola is cooking evenly (pay special attention to the granola at the edges).
- Meanwhile, mix remaining cups of oats and raisins together, spread onto a second baking sheet and bake for 10 minutes or until slightly brown.
- When both mixtures are finished baking, mix all together in a large bowl and cool for 30 minutes. Store in an airtight glass container in the refrigerator.

For more information, contact Sharon Franklin, Managing Director of Campaign and Community Engagement, at [sharon@ujf.org](mailto:sharon@ujf.org) (203) 321-1373, ext. 109

# Face-To-Face With PJ Library

BY SHARON FRANKLIN

United Jewish Federation's PJ Library held several small in-person gatherings in July and August, allowing families to come together in a safe and socially distanced way.

On Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, PJ Library Parent Ambassadors gathered a handful of families each for an ice cream social, which was sponsored by UJF. Each group was visited by an ice cream truck, who served cold treats to both kids and adults, a relief on a hot summer day. It was a great opportunity for families to visit in a safe way and catch up in person. PJ Library Parent Ambassadors focus on different neighborhoods in Stamford, including North Stamford (Liat & Ori Kochavi), Central Stamford (Liat Lasher), and Harbor Point and downtown Stamford (formerly Mihal Aryeh, with Erica Safer the current Parent Ambassador). Added to the mix is a baby group, headed by Shira Fischer. Families



Local families come together for a safe and socially distanced dance class taught by local choreographer, Jensen Greif. (l-r) The Ostroff girls, Robin Fischel and family, Jensen Greif, and Shushannah Yasgur and family.

from New Canaan and Darien can be a part of any of the groups. Parent Ambassadors are sponsored by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, and are made possible by a grant won by UJF in 2019 and 2020.

PJ Library's Dance Class series, taught by local choreographer Jensen Greif, gave families another opportunity to gather in person during the months of July and August. Children enjoyed learning hip hop and other dance moves in a shady section of a local park in Stamford. The class size was limited, allowing for a safe and socially distanced setting.

UJF's PJ Library will continue to offer quality virtual programs, as well as socially distanced, in-person interactive opportunities for kids and adults to come together. If you would like to find out more about programming, if you have an idea for a gathering, or if you would like to join a Parent Ambassador group, please contact Sharon Franklin at [sharon@ujf.org](mailto:sharon@ujf.org).



Jessica Furmansky watches her kids learn some cool hip hop dance moves.



(l-r) PJ Library Parent Ambassador Shira Fischer and her daughters decide what to order, while Hannah Lefkovich passes out her kids' cold treats.

# Getting Crafty With PJ Library

BY SHARON FRANKLIN

United Jewish Federation's PJ Library helped kids get creative this past summer with two original craft kits, which were sold in July and August. The kits were priced at \$18 each, and all of the proceeds went to the UJF COVID Emergency Relief Fund, which benefits our local Jewish agencies and synagogues.

The kits included a DIY bird feeder and a critter canvas, and included everything a child would need to complete the craft. "With activities limited for my grandchildren during the pandemic, UJF's PJ Library craft kits were the perfect gift to mail them. Not only was it a fun activity for the kids to do, I was able to give back in the process! With so many in need of help, I was happy to give to the COVID fund in this way," said Lorraine Kweskin, grandmother of a six, an eleven and two nine year old grandchildren.



The Yasgur girls enjoy painting their PJ Library critter canvases, a project which benefited UJF's COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund.



Eliza Ostroff puts the finishing touches on her PJ library bird feeder craft.



Lorraine Kweskin does a safe drive through pick up for craft kits she bought for her grandchildren.

A special thank you to our hands-on Co-chairs, Liat Kochavi and Judith Bernstein.

If you are interested in purchasing a

"Heart Bird Feeder" or a "Critter Canvas" contact, they are still available at \$18 each. Delivery is available. Contact Sharon Franklin at [sharon@ujf.org](mailto:sharon@ujf.org).

## Gan Yeladim's Victory Garden Comes to Bloom

During the three-month period of distance learning from March, Gan Yeladim's students started the Gan "Victory Garden at home" planting project. The Gan teachers delivered beautifully packaged seeds and soil to each child's home. During project time over Zoom, each class decorated egg cartons and planted seeds which included cauliflower, broccoli, grass, radishes and more. The children watered their seeds and watched them grow for several weeks. Thanks to a generous donation from the Watman family, who sponsored materials and provided the labor, the Gan was able to construct raised garden beds. Many seedlings grown at home were successfully transferred to the Victory Garden when parents and children brought their small plants in over the summer.



Horticulturist and volunteer, Elayne Dener, helps the Gan children plant in the newly built "Victory Garden" (l-r) Fina Kooris, Judah Watman, Talia Kohl and Caleb Frager.

## PJ Library Feature Family: The Giver Family

(Courtesy of UJF) PJ Library books are an important part of Paula and David Giver's family library. Paula, a graphic designer, and David, Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy's Middle School Principal, and their two children, Sara (age 12) and Baila (age 1) love reading PJ Library books together.

**What is your family's favorite PJ Library book(s)?** Our two favorite PJ Library books are Purim is Coming and 3 Falafels in my Pita. Purim is Coming is a bright, colorful, and well-written book that goes through all aspects of the holiday, be it making hamantaschen, giving shalach manos, or hearing Megilas Esther. The illustrations are eye-catching and drew our youngest daughter into the story as we read about the holiday that was then upcoming. 3 Falafels in my Pita is a quick, enjoyable read bringing together early counting skills with a look at the variety of life in the State of Israel. These books are fun to read and begin to teach the love of Israel to our young daughter. We look forward to new books along these lines which will grow with our family!

Our daughter Sara has signed up for PJ Our Way books (for ages 8 ½-12 years of age), and looks forward to selecting a Jewish chapter book each month.

**What is your favorite PJ Library program?** We are very excited about the PJ Library Play Together Baby Group. It looks to be

great programming for young children, and as we both work a lot, it would give us a chance to take a break, see old friends, make new friends, and allow our youngest the opportunity to have an exciting time out with who we hope to be lifelong friends!

**Why is PJ Library important in your home?** Days are busy with a baby and you need to do so many things to give them the love and learning they need to thrive. Part of that is reading, especially at bedtime. Unfortunately, we don't often remember to buy new books, and the selection of available Jewish themed books is not plentiful, so to have new, thoughtful, and educational Jewish titles come right in the mail through UJF's PJ Library is a huge blessing!

PJ Library books also allow for a great sister bonding experience. Baila's big sister Sara reads PJ Library books regularly to her, creating a wonderful way for the girls to spend quality time together.

**What is your bedtime routine like? Does it include a PJ Library**



UJF's PJ Library Feature Family, the Givers, love reading PJ Library books as a family. (l-r) Paula, Sara, David and baby Baila.

**story?** No two days are the same at this age, but every night includes the reading of books, plural! There are go-to books; ones that make her (Baila) laugh, ones that slow her down, and ones that center us where we are in our lives. PJ Library books often help in that last category. If it's Shabbos or Purim or Pesach, there is always a meaningful and beautifully designed book that brings us into that moment and allows us to share those important occasions with our youngest, as we did years before with Sara.

**Anything else you would like to add?** PJ Library has always been a beautiful addition to our children's personal libraries. They become favorites to read, and sometimes a replacement teething toy, but they are never too far from reach. Now that our local group is adding so much in the way of family programming, we are excited to explore how much more of a resource PJ Library will become in our family's life. We are so happy to be a PJ Library family!



Besides loving PJ Library books, baby Baila Giver is UJF's newest "Future Philanthropist."

## WHY I CARE...

## Focus on Adam &amp; Jessica Furmansky

**“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”**

– Helen Keller

BY SHARON FRANKLIN

Adam and Jessica Furmansky met as law school students in New York. Adam, who is originally from Pennsylvania, and Jessica, who grew up in Rhode Island, moved to Stamford six years ago from New York City in an attempt to get more space with a one year old and another baby on the way. Since then they have seen exponential growth of the young families demographic and feel blessed to be a part of a community that has remained true to its diverse and welcoming origins. This is why they care:

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

We have been involved with UJF for the past 4 years. Although UJF has been a part of our extended families lives for some time, we were initially introduced firsthand to UJF through PJ Library books and events. We gradually increased our engagement over the years, chairing various

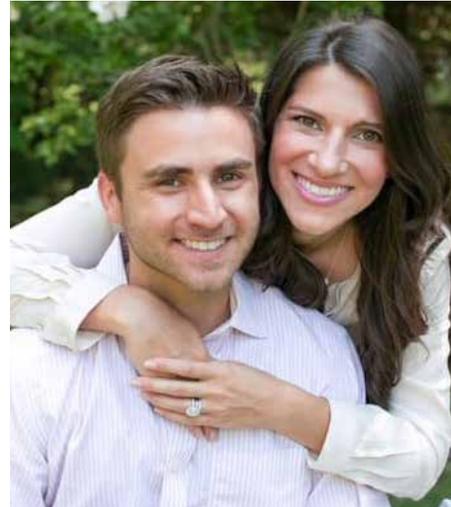
PJ library events and serving as PJ Library local ambassadors. Adam has taken a particular interest in the UJF Cardozo Law Society, facilitating a number of continuing legal education classes for lawyers. We also partake in UJF's NextGen division, which is geared towards singles and couples in their 20-s through early 40's.

**Have you been involved with other Jewish organizations?**

We are active supporters of our shul, Congregation Agudath Sholom, where Jessica is an executive board member and focuses on engaging young families in our community. Adam frequently plans young family programs and events for fathers and their kids. We feel strongly about supporting our local day school, Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy, where two of our three children are happily enrolled.

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

The answer is simple - because we can. All it takes is a small amount of effort and time to make an impact. We are privileged to be a part of a community where we can truly make a difference, through planning events and programming and helping to



Adam and Jessica Furmansky

foster relationships amongst young members. We both grew up having strong community-minded role models in our parents and the idea of giving back is ingrained in us. In particular, Adam's father has held leadership roles in UJF and the JCC in Pennsylvania and Adam saw the important role that UJF plays in a vibrant Jewish community.

**As a young couple, can you comment on how those in your age group can be inspired too.**

It is essential to actively support the local Jewish community and its institutions in any way you can in order to ensure that the community endures. Support can have many forms, and it is so important to be a model for your children so they too can learn by example how to be givers.

**How has your family done during the pandemic and has it changed the way you give your time to the community?**

We feel fortunate that we have been able to focus on the positive impact the pandemic has had within our family. Adam no longer has to commute hours each day to work and can spend significantly more time with the kids in a way he never did pre-pandemic. We recognize that it is a privilege to be able to focus on the positives and that many others are not in a position to do so. Since much of our community interactions are now virtual it is now more than ever so important to do what we can to creatively engage others and foster connections.

## TEEN VOICES

## Continued Connections

BY AVI GORDON

For 11 years, I attended Jewish schools, from Chabad preschool to Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy. I loved learning Hebrew, Torah, and about our heritage as a people. So when I made the switch to public high school, it was a slightly different experience, to say the least. Going from a grade of 34 of my lifelong Jewish friends to one



Avi Gordon

of 500 unfamiliar students, was a big shock. Everything was new to me, I had to make new friends, figure out how to get from class to class in the maze of hallways, all while adjusting to a new and larger academic setting. I became friends with people from diverse backgrounds and all corners of Stamford. Though I enjoyed being introduced to this new world, I knew I wanted to continue my involvement in the Jewish community and continue my Jewish learning. This was where the Jewish Cultural Club came in. Every Monday, in room 602, the Jewish Cultural Club met to talk about everything Jewish, from upcoming holidays, to Israel, to current events, both local and global. A Jewish Student Union advisor brought pizza and led the weekly discussion. My freshman year (2018-19), Yaakov Faratci came and enthusiastically led us each week and for the last school year, Tani

Polansky joined us and shared his Jewish music and meaningful programs. I looked forward to this time each week to get the chance to talk to other Jewish teenagers and continue learning and discovering about the Jewish world. Our club drew not only former day school kids, but also kids who were from a Hebrew school background or very little Jewish background

at all. Sometimes non-Jewish students were drawn to our room because they smelled the pizza from down the hall and followed their noses to the source. Our usual response was that they could have a slice if they joined the conversation. There was one instance in particular that stands out in my mind. We were having a typical Jewish Club discussion about Jewish immigration to America in the early 1900's, when a few kids poked their heads through the door. Surprisingly, these kids weren't looking for pizza. They were curious as to what was happening in the room and in the conversation. Instead of trying to take pizza and run, they sat down to join the conversation. They asked questions and listened carefully to the answers. The conversation evolved into an interesting discussion about Jewish involvement in the Civil Rights movement of the 1960's. A peculiar thing happened

in room 602 that day. I realized that these boys were practicing ve'ahavta lareacha kamocha- treat your neighbor as you would like to be treated. That day we all sat and talked and listened to each other. They helped me learn that it is important to be open and willing to learn about other cultures and religions as well as how to be welcoming to those who

are interested in learning about the world outside their own experience.

Avi Gordon is a rising junior at Westhill High School. His interests and hobbies include theater, Israel, and photography. He is very excited about joining the board of Stamford AZA (BBYO) this year. Avi lives in Stamford with his parents, older brother, and younger sister.



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## Dear New Year,

At this very moment, throughout our community, many of our sisters and brothers here at home and around the world are struggling.

Among our elderly there are thousands who feel alone and hope for the warmth of human connection.

There are children who are hoping for the day when they can once again safely hug their grandparents.

While we don't know what this year will bring, we do know that United Jewish Federation will continue to be there for all those in our community in need.

Whether you wish to provide support - or receive it - we are here.

