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THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

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Rabbi Mark Golub, z"l A Visionary Remembered

Mark S. Golub, a trailblazing Rabbi and Jewish media icon who created the first national Jewish television network, died on January 31 at Weill Cornell Medical Center in New York City. He was 77 years old.

Rabbi Golub was the founding president, CEO, and Executive Producer of JBS (the Jewish Broadcasting Service), a 24/7 Jewish cable network serving 70 million households representing every major cable system in the United States. JBS is devoted



Rabbi Mark S. Golub

to strengthening Jewish identity, inspiring Jewish commitment, and fostering meaningful conversation to reach individuals across the spectrum of religious denomination, affiliation, and observance.

Rabbi Golub was ordained by Hebrew Union College in 1971, and was a pioneer of the chavurah movement. He founded Chavurat Aytz Chayim in Stamford, Connecticut in 1972 and Chavurat Deevray Torah in

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Celebrate Israel@75

BY SHARON LEWIS, JCRC DIRECTOR

United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien will host a week of activities to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of Israeli independence, April 19 through April 26. With a theme of "Beyond the Dream: Finding Yourself in the Israeli Mosaic," the festivities promise something for everyone. Come explore, taste, hear, learn, and connect to Israel during this community-wide celebration.

"I am thrilled that Federation can convene the community on the occasion of Israel's milestone birthday. It shows the strength of our community when we work together," said UJF CEO, Diane Sloyer.

Beginning on Wednesday April 19 at 7:00 pm, enjoy an Israeli art show at

the Stamford Jewish Community Center featuring contemporary and classical Israeli work. A wine and cheese reception will kick off the exhibit and the week of Israel@75 festivities.

On Thursday, April 20 at Temple Beth El at 7:00 pm, experience the "art of movement" with Israeli dance teacher Leng. In addition, there will be special programming for all teens in the area at Temple Sinai. Activities will include Israeli dancing, pita-making, and a middle-eastern dinner.

On Friday, April 21 in conjunction with UJF's PJ Library program, children will enjoy a pre-Shabbat Kabbalat Shabbat featuring activities and crafts at Emmet's Playground at Temple Beth El starting at

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Commemorating Yom HaShoah

(Courtesy of UJF) Join United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien in commemorating Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) on Sunday, April 16 at 4:00 pm at Temple Beth El, 350 Roxbury Road in Stamford. The program will feature a presentation by Julie Kohner, founder and CEO of Voices of the Generations, a non-profit organization dedicated to bearing witness as a second generation,

preserving the memory and personal stories of Holocaust survivors.

Julie Kohner is the daughter of a Holocaust survivor and a trained educator. In 1990, after the passing of her mother, she felt compelled to share her mother's Holocaust story with others in the hope that many could learn from this story of love



Julie Kohner

overcoming hardship, racism, deprivation, and the pain of war. Her story of growing up as the child of a Holocaust survivor has motivated other children of survivors to share their stories too.

Please RSVP to ujf.org/YomHaShoah2023. For further information, contact Sharon Lewis at slewis@ujf.org or call UJF at 203-321-1373.

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Finding Spirituality in Nature

Under a crystal blue sky on February 13, sixth-grade students from Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy traveled to Bear Mountain for a Tiyul b'Teva (Nature Walk) experience. The students, led by Rabbi Joshua Rosenfeld, hiked the Major Welch Trail to the top of Bear Mountain. (see additional photos on page 19)

From UJF's Chief Executive Officer

Impact Through Collaboration

United Jewish Federation is turning 50! And, what has become so well-defined to me is the importance to adapt and re-imagine all organizations based on communal needs. Every local organization has done so over the years, and this speaks to our ability to look to the future while remembering and honoring our past.

UJF continues to be the driving force behind communal initiatives that unite the entire community. It does so through the *New Jewish Voice*, our community newspaper which highlights events and successes of all our agencies and synagogues. It does so by leading the efforts related to the Harold Grinspoon LIFE & LEGACY program (see page 18). It does so by employing a Community Security professional through our partnership with Secure Community Network (SCN). It does so by sending over 525 free books to Jewish homes every month through our PJ Library program. It does so by distributing grants annually to strengthen and grow our local and global Jewish institutions. I could go on and on!!

One year ago, Federation fulfilled one of its vital roles by jumping into action when the war in Ukraine broke out. Through emails and briefings, we kept our community educated about the ongoing needs of the Jewish community. As a collective group, led by UJF, our community raised over \$400,000 and sponsored four planes bringing Jews from Ukraine and Russia to Israel. And our Federation system collectively raised 85 million dollars! Just think - because we came together, the impact was amazing. In fact, three lay leaders traveled to the border to bear witness along with me, transporting hundreds of pounds of medical supplies. And, a local Russian and Ukrainian-speaking volunteer traveled with us to assist on the ground for a few weeks.

Approximately 13,500 olim



Diane Sloyer, UJF CEO

(new immigrants) have arrived in Israel from Ukraine, and about 28,500 new immigrants have arrived from Russia and Belarus. To get Ukrainians out of harm's way, we organized 455 buses that rescued 13,742 people from dangerous zones, taking them to the Romanian, Polish, Hungarian and Moldovan borders. True to the collaborative efforts, The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) focused on rescue, *aliyah* (immigration to Israel), and absorption. So in total, we've helped welcome more than 40,000 people to Israel. Once rescued, these new immigrants received support not just from this emergency campaign, but from funds received through our Annual Campaign. UJF is in business to help people, and our efforts surrounding the war in Ukraine is just one example of that!

But, a year into the devastating crisis, Ukraine's Jews are still in distress. A deteriorating economy and brutal winter temperatures have led to a surge in humanitarian needs. The American Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) has continued its life-saving care for tens of thousands of Ukraine's most vulnerable Jews. Leveraging deep expertise in crisis response built over more than a century, we are providing aid to Jews remaining in Ukraine, those still seeking to evacuate, and the thousands of refugees that now span across Europe and other countries.

JDC continues supporting vital needs as European Jewish communities absorb those who have fled Ukraine, including food, medicine, and accommodation, alongside workforce opportunities and refugee integration into local Jewish institutions and programs with the support from UJF's Annual Campaign.

One communal organization coming together to raise funds to make a meaningful impact. That is what collaboration is all about!

UJF President's Message

Reflections of a New President

It's been almost 3 months since I was "installed" as the new UJF president. In Corporate America, it's common for new leaders to offer a formal assessment after their first 90 days. Adjusting to somewhat different expectations in Not-For-Profit America, I'm going to defer such a report for now and instead try to describe the experience of becoming UJF president. The new role has exposed me to frequent, relatively brief conversations about UJF with new acquaintances and old friends alike.

I have sorted these conversations into three categories. First, many have simply thanked me for assuming the role. These expressions of thanks have been genuine and heartfelt, often punctuated with a refrain like "Federation's work is important." The well-wishers in this category, particularly as a group, convey in their seriousness an implied message "don't screw this up" (or at least I infer that message!). They express themselves in abstract terms about the Jewish community of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien. While they may care more or less about any particular UJF service or initiative, they mostly want our Jewish community as an entity to thrive, and they associate Federation with ensuring that outcome.

Second are the jokers, who in stereotypically Jewish fashion say "Mazal Tov, or should I offer my condolences?" (There are a few variations on this



Michael Schlessinger, UJF President

theme, but my favorite is "what were you thinking?") I initially enjoyed this group uncritically, presumably because I am afflicted with the same Jewish sense of humor. However, as these "jokes" accumulated, I came to realize they were really conveying the same message as their counterparts in category one. The reason I am to be consoled is that the role involves some headaches, and these are the worst kind of headaches because they are too important to be blown off.

Finally, and I think this category is the smallest in number but largest in total conversational time, there are those with suggestions. In contradistinction from the abstract thinkers in category one, these well-wishers tend to express themselves very concretely. We have too many typos in our emails, we have too many emails, we don't have enough emails, we should rely more (or less) on social media, we need to be more sensitive to minority views within the community, we handled one community crisis poorly, and so on. Congratulations if you're sensing a theme because, yes, this final group is also conveying the message that Federation is important, so important in fact that they want to help us course correct and improve.

A heartfelt thank you to all my well-wishers -- I've gotten the message and I agree!

Rabbi Mark Golub, z"l A Visionary Remembered

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Greenwich, Connecticut in 1973. He served as rabbi of both congregations for over 50 years. His visionary approach to Jewish learning, which emphasized adult education, Torah study, and deep engagement with Jewish identity was a model for revitalizing Jewish communities.

The late Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel described Rabbi Golub as "a committed and passionate television professional who has enhanced Jewish understanding in the general Jewish community through programming he has created," saying that there was "no one more suited to head the first national Jewish channel in America than Mark Golub."

As a member of Chavurat Aytz Chayim from its inception, Edith Samers shared, "Rabbi Golub was an exciting, dynamic, and gifted teacher with the unusual ability to explain the genius of the Jewish tradition and its unique values. At the heart and soul of the Chavurah was adult study. Rabbi Golub led dynamic and enlightening presentations that provided an adult understanding of Judaism. The sessions offered a rare opportunity for thought-provoking discussions related to relevant social issues, personal Jewish identity and the challenges facing the State of Israel."

"Every Yom Kippur," Samers continued, "Mark would talk about the importance of tzedakah and that if there is only one charity you can give to, it

should be United Jewish Federation. He called it 'not a fund-raising organization but a distribution charity' that helped Jews in greater Stamford and all around the world. Rabbi Golub was also an active member of Stamford's Board of Rabbis for many years."

Rabbi Golub, who was named one of *Newsweek's* "50 most influential rabbis" in 2009, and was the recipient of an honorary doctorate from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York, which described him as an "Innovative Rabbi" whose "gifts as a communicator have helped disseminate the meaning of Judaism, whose commitment to Torah has inspired and enlightened the Chavurot he founded and sustains, whose experience and creativity have earned him a position of leadership in Jewish broadcasting, and whose spirit finds expression in his religious conviction and in his artistic talent."

Outside his work and family, Rabbi Golub had a passion for the theater. With his brother, David S. Golub, he produced Broadway plays and won three Tony Awards. Rabbi Golub was also an avid softball player, managing and playing for the Four Corners for over 40 years, winning five state and one national championships.

Rabbi Golub is survived by his wife, Ruth, their five children, Sarit, David, Jill, Darah, and Ari, and five grandchildren.

Temple Sinai's Annual Gala, Building Our Future

(Courtesy of Temple Sinai)

The Temple Sinai Gala, "Building Our Future," will be held on Saturday, April 22, at Temple Sinai. This year Temple Sinai will honor congregant and past-president, Marc Friedman, for his many contributions to Temple Sinai. The Temple will also celebrate the Pardo family for all they have done for the synagogue.

The evening will include an in-person event with cocktails and dinner, as well as a virtual option. Entertainer Jenny Jurek will delight everyone with music and song.

Marc Friedman describes his relationship with Temple Sinai as one of belonging and part of his spiritual journey. Marc is a proud member of the LGBTQ+ community and is grateful that Temple Sinai is an inclusive and welcoming synagogue. Over the past ten years he has immersed himself in congregational life. Marc has been president of the congregation and has served as chair for the Development, Nominating and Ritual Committees. He has participated in many other committees, such as LIFE & LEGACY, Rabbi's Design



Marc Friedman

Team, Finance Committee and Brotherhood.

Marc is the Chief Development Officer at buildOn, a global non-profit organization based in Stamford. He has also served on the advisory council for Goodcircle and as a board member at the Volunteer Center for SE Connecticut.

Jeff and Sharon Pardo found their niche in both the religious and social aspects of Temple life, and their children, Kyle, Moriah and Eli, have followed in their footsteps. Jeff has been the unofficial Temple Sinai Construction Manager for the past ten years. He was a Temple Sinai Circle leader, former co-president of Brotherhood and has acted as a liaison between the Temple and the Boy Scouts for Mitzvah Day projects.

Sharon is a founding member of the Temple Sinai annual Women's Retreat. She was Sisterhood co-president for four years and previously served as Sisterhood reporting secretary and vice president of Ritual. She has led the Torah Nerds Sinai Circle.

Kyle attended Crane Lake Camp, participated in Birthright and is currently living in Tel Aviv completing an apprenticeship program. Moriah served as an officer for SoSTY (Sinai of Stamford Temple Youth) and attended Camp Eisner, as both a camper and counselor. Eli attended Camp Eisner, Heller High School in Israel and was an active member of the Boy Scout troop that meets at Temple Sinai. All of the Pardo children attended Temple Sinai religious school through confirmation.

"Vibrant, 21st century sacred communities like Temple Sinai are only possible through the dedication and generosity of a great many individuals. Marc Friedman and the Pardos embody the absolute best of our *kehillah kedoshah* – our Sacred Community, and we could not be more proud to honor them," said Temple Sinai Rabbi Jay TelRav.



Pardo Family

The evening will include a silent auction that will be held virtually in the week leading up to the Gala and peak in-person that evening. All donations support the spiritual, educational and social programming at Temple Sinai.

To register or to place a tribute ad, please RSVP at TempleSinaiStamford.org. For more information, contact Shelly Welfeld at 203-322-1649 or Shelly@templesinaistamford.org.

An Evening with Schoke JFS

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) Schoke Jewish Family Service invites you to its annual gala, "An Evening with Schoke JFS" – Feeding the Community, on Sunday, May 21 at 5:30 pm, at the outdoor tented pavilion at the Italian Center of Stamford, 1620 Newfield Avenue.

Mimi Cohen and Rhoda and Avram Freedberg are the recipients of the 43rd Annual Mitzvah Award, United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien and Jewish Federation of Greater Fairfield County are recipients of the Community Service Award, and the Mitzvah Match Families including the Bradley, Fischel, Gradman, Katz, Sperber, Speter, Tobin, Yasgur, and Zizmor families

are recipients of the Volunteer of the Year Award.

The evening will begin with appetizers, cocktails, followed by dinner, presentation of awards to the honorees, a paddle raise and dessert. There will also be an online auction. The Host of Ceremonies is David Price, weather anchor for NBC 4 New York. The event is co-chaired by Connie Freeman and Jillian Klaff with Jeri Appel as auction chair and Meryl Japha, Liz Kitay, and Ronnie Sichel serving as advisors. General tickets include dinner and dessert for \$250, purchase your ticket at www.ctjfs.org. Contact Lisa Rich at 203-921-4161 or lrch@ctjfs.org to place a journal ad.

Introducing SpringFest

(Courtesy of JCC) SpringFest is an adults-only festival that is set to take place on Saturday, May 20, 2023, from 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm at Mill River Park in Stamford. Hosted by Stamford JCC, this highly anticipated event features food trucks, exciting games, and activities like bull-riding and axe-throwing, providing attendees with an unforgettable experience.

More than just a fun-filled evening, SpringFest is also an important fundraiser for the Stamford Jewish Community Center's vital programs. The festival supports programs such as early childhood education

for children with special needs, inclusion programming, summer experiences, and youth sports, allowing The J to continue providing these services to the community.

Through SpringFest, attendees can support their community while enjoying great food and entertainment. It is an opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals while supporting a good cause. To become a sponsor of this event, view sponsor tiers and benefits, or to register, visit www.stamfordjcc.org. For questions, please contact Rebecca Isenstein at risenstein@stamfordjcc.org.

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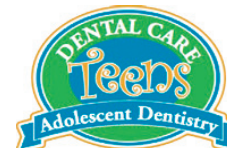
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Mental Health and Jewish Law

(Courtesy of Agudath Sholom) Congregation Agudath Sholom is pleased to welcome Rabbi Yoni Rosensweig, the spiritual leader of the Netzach Menashe community in Beit Shemesh, Israel, who will deliver a lecture on "Modern Jewish Approaches to Mental Health Challenges" at the synagogue on Monday evening, April 17 at 8:00 pm.



Rabbi Yoni Rosensweig

Rabbi Rosensweig is also an instructor at Midreshet Lindenbaum, a seminary for women in Jerusalem, and is the founder of Maaglei Nefesh, an institute addressing mental health issues in Jewish law. He received his rabbinic ordination at Yeshivat Birkat Moshe in Maale Adumim, through

the Chief Rabbinate in Israel and from Rabbi Nachum Eliezer Rabinovitch. He has degrees in education, history, and philosophy. Rabbi Rosensweig is the author of several books, including *Yishrei Lev*, a 3-volume set of responsa published in 2015; *Conversations in Essence*, imaginary conversations with great Jewish thinkers of the past; and the soon-to-be-published *Nafshi Beshe'elati*, on Jewish law and mental health.

Rabbi Daniel Cohen shared, "We plan on focusing mental health awareness in the year ahead with the hope of removing stigmas from the conversation and offering support to families and our community."

"Rabbi Rosensweig is one of the foremost experts on dealing with mental health issues as they intersect with Jewish law," said Michael Feldstein, a member of the Adult Education Committee at Congregation Agudath Sholom. "We are privileged to be able to bring him to our community, as he is extremely sensitive to the mental health challenges that many families are facing while trying to maintain their adherence to halachic practices."

The program is free and open to the entire community.

Get Ready to Laugh

(Courtesy of JCC) Gianmarco Soresi is a name that is synonymous with comedy in the entertainment industry. As an actor, stand-up comedian, and writer based in New York City, he has won critical acclaim for his performances, including his stand-up special and documentary *Shelf Life*, currently streaming on Amazon Prime. Soresi is also the host of the popular podcast *The Downside with Gianmarco Soresi*.

On Monday, May 13, 2023, from 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, fans of Soresi's work and comedy enthusiasts alike will have the opportunity to see the acclaimed performer live in action at a special event. The event is open to both members and the community, with ticket prices set at \$20 for members and \$40 for non-members. The presale for members will begin on Monday, March 6, while ticket sales for the community will begin on Sunday, March 26.

Soresi's work is no stranger to the limelight, having appeared in



Comedian Gianmarco Soresi
(PHOTO CREDIT: WWW.INNOVATIVECOMEDY.COM)

several notable productions, including the Billy Crystal/Tiffany Haddish film *Here Today*, as well as roles on Netflix's *Bonding*, *Deception*, *Blue Bloods*, and the feature film *Hustlers*, opposite Jennifer Lopez. With such an impressive resume, it's no wonder that Soresi has gained a reputation as one of the most talented and versatile comedians in the industry today.

For questions, please contact Eli Schaffer at eschaffer@stamfordjcc.org.

THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

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Exploring the Legacy of Justice Felix Frankfurter

(Courtesy of JCC) On Sunday, April 16 from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm, Brad Snyder will lead a thought-provoking discussion on his book, *Democratic Justice: Felix Frankfurter, the Supreme Court, and the Making of the Liberal Establishment*. This in-person Book & Author event at The Stamford JCC, 1035 Newfield Ave, is a unique opportunity to gain insight into the life and career of one of the most influential Supreme Court justices in American history.

Frankfurter's journey from a non-English speaking immigrant to one of Franklin D. Roosevelt's most trusted advisors is a testament to the American Dream. As a champion of liberal democracy, Frankfurter helped shape the legal landscape of the United States by advocating for racial equality and helping the Court achieve unanimity in landmark cases like *Brown v. Board of Education*. Brad Snyder, a professor of constitutional law and American legal history at Georgetown University Law Center, will provide a fascinating glimpse into the life and times of this remarkable individual.

Admission is free for members and community tickets are only \$10. To purchase tickets, please visit www.stamfordjcc.org. For questions, please contact Joy Serata at jserata@stamfordjcc.org.

The Secret of the Light

(Courtesy of Agudath Sholom) The Stamford JCC will host a Book & Author conversation with Rabbi Daniel Cohen, senior rabbi of Congregation Agudath Sholom, about his latest book and first novel, *The Secret of the Light*, on Thursday, April 20 at 7:30 pm.

In the face of tragedy and torn between the pressure of his father and the temptations of a mysterious woman, Caleb Uriel is unanchored and lost. A chance meeting with a street sweeper and hidden mystic named Elijah in Times Square, though, proves to be the spark to set him on a path for personal discovery and renewal. He discovers that loved ones are ever present and that no time, person or place is devoid of God's light. In a world filled with despair and darkness, *The Secret of the Light* ignites hope and light. Discover an ancient and timeless road map to deepen faith in God, in ourselves, and in humanity.

Event admission is \$15 for JCC members and \$20 for non-members. To register, sign up at www.stamfordjcc.org.



Rabbi Daniel Cohen

Dance the Night Away

(Courtesy of the JCC) The Stamford Jewish Community Center invites families of all ages to get ready for a fun-filled afternoon at their upcoming "Family Prom." The event promises to be an unforgettable experience with a DJ, photo booth, and refreshments for all attendees. Guests can start planning their attire for this special occasion and mark their calendars for Sunday, April 16 from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Check www.stamfordjcc.org for more details to come. For questions, please contact Reyenne Neal at rneal@stamfordjcc.org.

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

March 31	7:00pm
April 5	7:05pm
April 6	8:06pm
April 7	7:07pm
April 11	7:12pm
April 12	8:13pm
April 14	7:15pm
April 21	7:22pm
April 28	7:30pm
May 5	7:37pm
May 12	7:44pm

Medieval Jewry Illuminated

(Courtesy of Congregation Agudath Sholom) Dr. Chaya Sima Koenigsberg, an up-and-coming, highly respected Judaic Studies scholar, will be this year's featured speaker at Congregation Agudath Sholom's four-part spring scholar series.

She will give a class on four consecutive Wednesday evenings: May 3, 10, 17, and 24. Each class will begin at 8:00 pm, and will be held at Congregation Agudath Sholom.

Her theme will be "Illuminating Medieval Ashkenaz: Studies in Text and Imagery." This lecture series will focus on the history and customs of the Jews of medieval Ashkenaz (Germany and Northern France). In addition to textual study of primary sources, the series will examine Hebrew illuminated manuscripts produced in medieval Germany in the 13th and 14th centuries. These manuscripts are among the treasured artifacts that have survived the trials of Jewish history and whose imagery provides a window into the worldview of the Jews that commissioned them hundreds of years ago. To understand the significance of these vibrant images and the texts they adorn, the class will trace the origins and outlook of the Jewish communities of medieval Germany, and their intellectual and artistic creativity in the face of calamity.

May 3: The Jews of Medieval Ashkenaz: History and Torah Scholarship

May 10: Crusades and Creativity: Understanding Ashkenazic Customs Related to Sefirat ha-Omer

May 17: Dolce of Worms: A Medieval Matriarch Lost and Found

May 24: Honey on your Tongue:



Dr. Chaya Sima Koenigsberg

Transmitting Torah to Sons and Daughters

Dr. Koenigsberg is an Assistant Professor of Judaic Studies at Lander College for Women, The Anna Ruth and Mark Hasten School. She was a Resident Scholar at the Straus Center for Torah and Western Thought at Yeshiva University and an instructor at Stern College for Women. She received her BA in psychology from Yeshiva University's Stern College for Women and MA and PhD in Jewish philosophy from Yeshiva University's Bernard Revel Graduate School of Jewish Studies.

While pursuing her graduate studies, Chaya Sima served as a member of the Judaic Studies faculty at Manhattan High School for Girls in NYC and Shevach High School in Queens, NY. She holds a teaching certificate from Michlalah Jerusalem College for Women in Israel and completed the Educational Leadership Advancement Initiative program through the Lookstein Center at Bar-Ilan University.

The synagogue has sponsored a scholar series during the spring for more than a dozen years now, and it is always a highly anticipated part of the shul's adult education program.

"We are excited to bring a major scholar to our synagogue once again for a four-part series," said Rabbi Daniel Cohen, spiritual leader at Congregation Agudath Sholom. "This is an opportunity for our community members to hear a very talented young woman give a series of meaningful Torah classes. I urge everybody to attend."

The program is free and open to the entire community.

Conversation with Art

(Courtesy of JHSFC) The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County (JHSFC) is pleased to present Helane March Rheingold, a well-known art educator, as the featured speaker at the JHSFC Annual Meeting on Wednesday, April 19, 7:00 pm at Temple Sinai, Stamford, CT.

Peter Lilienthal, President of JHSFC said, "I am extremely excited to have Helane join us this year as our special guest speaker, and I look forward to listening to and learning from her."

A believer in having a "Conversation with Art," in her 30 years of teaching she has taught children and adults at schools, museums, libraries, and private senior residences throughout Connecticut, Westchester, New York and California, as well as working as a docent at the Neuberger Museum of Art, SUNY Purchase.

Rheingold states, "My program, which the name implies, begins with a conversation—one with which I use handouts and slides, and always ends up with me learning something as well as the group."

Born in Brooklyn, New York, Helane Rheingold attended Brooklyn College where she received a BA in Education and History, followed by attending the University of Massachusetts where she graduated with a Master's Degree in Art History. She also has a degree in Interior Design from the University of Massachusetts and a certificate in Museum Education from SUNY Purchase.

The program is available to all participants free of charge. For more information and RSVP, please contact JHSFC via email at info@jhsfc-ct.org or 203-359-2196 and check out www.jhsfc-ct.org.

The Importance of Gen Z: A New Summer Program

(Courtesy of UJF) The North American Jewish Community is investing a great deal in Gen Z, those born between 1997 and 2013. The Jewish Education Project, with the support of major philanthropists, is looking at how to engage and strengthen the Jewish future. Education experts have learned that Jewish teens have a strong sense of self and feel a sense of pride about being Jewish, and they value learning experiences as well as strong friendships.

With this in mind, United Jewish Federation, under the leadership of community Shaliach Yoav Yaron, will launch Camp Noded (wanderer) this summer.

If your teen is a rising sophomore, junior, or senior, this 6-session experience is for them! During the summer, teens will experience different activities while developing leadership skills, forming new friendships, exploring their Jewish identity and staying up-to-date about Israeli culture.

The sessions will include but not be limited to:

• Visit Ellis Island – Connecting with

My Jewish Identity. Exploring your family tree, learn about the "big" Jewish migration to the US and the culture adaptation.

• **Volunteering.** Learn about the importance of tikkun olam (repairing the world) starting with your own communities.

• **Israeli Culture Interactive Learning.** Experience Israeli culture through a variety of activities (scavenger hunt, escape room, and more.)

• **Leadership Training.** Every session will include a leadership learning component, focusing on Jewish leaders.

• **Overnight Trip – Program Capstone.** The culminating session will include nature hikes, campfire, cookout, and participant-led activities based on what the teens learned over course of the program.

The planning committee is working hard to plan a meaningful experience for all. Please visit UJF's website at www.ujf.org/noded or email Yoav Yaron at Yoav@ujf.org or call (203) 321-1373.

MOZAIC Concierge Living
Life with Community



A new Life Plan Community by Mozaic Senior Life
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Celebrate Israel@75

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

4:30 pm. This will be followed by a Mediterranean Musical Oneg Shabbat at 7:00 pm.

Taste buds will be treated to "Happy Birthday Israel" cakes at each synagogue over Shabbat. On Saturday, April 22 at 9:00 pm, UJF's NextGen group will celebrate Israel@75 with a Yom Ha'Atzmaut (Israel Independence Day) party at a private residence. For more information, contact NextGen Director, Melanie Vorm at melanie@ujf.org.

Another treat for the palette will be a rugelach baking demonstration with Instagram sensation Chaya Rapoport, on Sunday, April 23 at Chabad of Stamford at 11:00 am. Also on Sunday morning, a light breakfast and screening of the Israeli film *Wasserman the Rainman* will take place at Schoke Jewish Family Service beginning at 11:00 am. If you miss the screening, *Wasserman the Rainman* will be available to stream on Monday, April 24.

On Tuesday, April 25 starting at 12:00 pm at the JCC, bring your own lunch and join Rabbi Cohen for an hour of Torah thoughts on Israel. Beginning at 6:30 pm at Congregation Agudath Sholom, join UJF for a Yom HaZikaron (Israel Memorial Day) and Yom Ha'Atzmaut Ceremony – "A Knock on the Door". This moving program will commemorate Israel's fallen soldiers at sundown, as the day changes to Israel's Independence Day,

and the chance to celebrate Israel@75 together.

Finally, on Wednesday, April 26 at 5:30 pm, a Yom Ha'Atzmaut Festival will be held at the Stamford JCC and include a camel ride for children, bounce houses, contests, music for everyone and lots of fun.

There are sponsorship opportunities available for many of the planned activities so please reach out to Sharon Lewis at slewis@ujf.org or Yoav Yaron, Community Shaliach at yoav@ujf.org. A full list of Israel@75 events and individual registration pages are available at www.ujf.org/israel75.

This week of events is a true community collaboration including sponsorship by the Stamford JCC, Hadassah, Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy, Chabad of Stamford, AJC Westchester/Fairfield, Congregation Agudath Sholom, Temple Beth El, Temple Sinai, Young Israel of Stamford, Jewish National Fund, Israel Cancer Research Fund, Schoke Jewish Family Service and Friends of the IDF. Dinah Marlowe, UJF Board member and Chair of the Israel and Overseas Committee said, "This is going to be a fantastic week of celebration, and we hope that our community will feel closer to Israel as a result."

Sharon Lewis is the director of the Jewish Community Relations of United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.

Yom Ha'Atzmaut WRITING CONTEST

In honor of Israel@75, UJF is sponsoring a special creative writing contest, winner to be announced at the Yom Ha'Atzmaut Festival on Wednesday, April 26, at the Stamford JCC. There will be one winner per age bracket.

Writers are invited to write on one of the following prompts in 1,000 words or less (two pages, maximum)

- o To Think That I Saw It on Ben Yehuda Street
- o Pretend you are an Archaeologist—write about what will you find in your next dig under the Old City
- o Write about what you think Israel will be like when it celebrates its 100th birthday

Submissions will be judged in three age brackets:

Grades 1 - 5 (Elementary School)

Grades 6 - 8 (Middle School)

Grades 9 - 12 (High School)

TWO WINNERS IN EACH AGE BRACKET: FIRST PLACE \$100 AMAZON GIFT CARD; SECOND PLACE \$50 AMAZON GIFT CARD.

Writers can choose their format (poem, essay, story etc.) and should submit their entries to Sharon Lewis, slewis@ujf.org by email by Monday, April 17.

Jewish Leaders Discuss Food Insecurity



(l-r) Michael Bloom, Executive Director JFACT; Rabbi Eric Polokoff; Sharon Lewis, Director, JCRC Stamford, New Canaan & Darien; Matt Greenberg, CEO Schoke Jewish Family Service; Gary Jones, CEO Jewish Federation of Western Connecticut; Congresswoman Jahanna Hayes; Melissa Basile Reolon and Michael Garcia, Jewish Family Services of Greenwich; Miriam Brander, COO, Jewish Family Service of Greater Hartford; Joe Barak, Tomchei Shabbos, Waterbury.

**BY SHARON LEWIS,
JCRC DIRECTOR**

On February 23, a group of Jewish community professionals met with United States Congresswoman Jahanna Hayes (D-5th District) to discuss the upcoming Farm Bill, particularly the sections that deal with food insecurity. The meeting was arranged by Michael Bloom, Executive Director of the Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut (JFACT) and gave those in attendance a chance to have a dialog with the Congresswoman about food insecurity in Connecticut.

Representative Hayes is the ranking member of the House Committee on Agriculture, which will be dealing with the renewal of the Farm Bill. The Farm Bill, which covers a 5-year period, was enacted in 2018 and is eligible for renewal this year. The Nutrition programs under the Farm Bill account for an estimated 76% of the 2018 Farm Bill's spending, and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) accounts for most of this spending. SNAP is the nation's first line of defense against food insecurity.

The group meeting with Congresswoman Hayes at the Jewish Federation of Western Connecticut included Matt Greenberg, CEO Schoke Jewish Family Service; Sharon Lewis, Director, UJF's JCRC of Stamford, New Canaan & Darien; Miriam Brander, COO Jewish Family Services of Greater Hartford;

Michael Garcia and Melissa Basile-Reolon of Jewish Family Services of Greenwich; Joe Barak of Tomchei Shabbos, Waterbury; Gary Jones, CEO of the Jewish Federation of Western Connecticut and Rabbi Eric Polokoff, B'nai Israel, Southbury. Everyone had a chance to convey information about how they are currently dealing with food insecurity with their constituents as well as discussing opportunities for change and improvement.

Matt Greenberg gave the congresswoman information about the new mobile food pantry (sponsored in part by United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien) as well as the Freedberg Kosher Food Pantry located in the Schoke JFS offices. He stressed that the spike of clients to these food support services during COVID has not subsided. Food insecurity is a growing concern in our area. Sharon Lewis spoke about the 3SQUARE program that our Federation runs to support children in public school who are eligible for free lunch. This program provides a weekly bag of nutritious, shelf-stable food for the weekend, when school free lunch is not available.

For Congresswoman Hayes, the issue of food insecurity is a personal one, as she herself has put her children to bed hungry. She is determined to fight to maintain at least the current provisions in the Farm Bill but hopes to make improvements regarding increasing benefits and ease of access to benefits.

Building Bridges with Books

(Courtesy of UJF) In January, the second annual "Building Bridges with Books" program held its culminating event at the Ferguson Library. The book read by the program this year was the memoir *I'm Possible: The Story of Survival, A Tuba and the Small Miracle of a Big Dream* by Richard Antione White.

Building Bridges with Books is a Stamford community read program designed to create a shared experience - the reading and discussion of a book - between people of different backgrounds, faiths and cultures. It is co-sponsored by the Mayor's Multicultural Council, the Interfaith Council of Southwest Connecticut, and the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien.

The book tells the unlikely story of how Richard Antoine White, born weighing one pound to a teenage, alcoholic mother and raised on the streets of Baltimore, ultimately became the first Black person to receive a Ph.D. in tuba performance and become the principal tuba player at the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra.

The author's hard work, perseverance, and good fortune to be cared for by wonderful foster parents helped him to realize his talents. Richard was able to participate in music programs in the Baltimore public schools that provided him with instruments and access to talented teachers and mentors. This is how he began his journey to becoming a professional musician.

The culminating event featured a performance by three students and two teachers from Stamford's Project Music. Project Music is a non-profit rigorous after school music program that provides under-resourced students with



(l-r) Gabrielle Malina, Selin Agurcia and Garrett Mendez

instruments, instruction, mentorship and uses music to make a difference in the lives of Stamford's youth, empowering them with fundamental life skills and a pathway to their full potential.

After the musical performance, the event turned to a panel discussion with Gabrielle Malina, Executive Director, Project Music and Garrett Mendez, Artistic Director, Project

Music and Selin Agurcia, Project Music alumnus who is now pursuing a degree in music.

Selin spoke about how important Project Music was to him in terms of learning discipline and team work as well as just sparking his passion for music. He intends to teach music in a high school so he can inspire students to pursue their talents. Gabrielle spoke about the importance of the program and how it is so much more than just music instruction. She shared how she spent the entire afternoon at the police station with one of the Project Music students, who was a good kid, but who had made a bad decision. She thought that this student would be fine, but she choked up in telling this story, understanding that if she had not been there for the student, the situation could have turned out differently. Garrett and Gabrielle both discussed the musical instruction method used at Project Music, El Sistema, based upon a wildly successful public music education program started in Venezuela in 1975. This music program's foundational belief is that music is for everyone.

This event was held in-person in the auditorium of the Main Branch of the Ferguson Library with a ZOOM option.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Up Next for NextGen

BY MELANIE VORM, NEXTGEN DIRECTOR

It's hard to believe that it's been just over a year since the relaunch of United Jewish Federation's NextGen initiative. It's been so great to bring together so many new faces. Over that time, NextGen has launched seven new events/programs, and we have welcomed new executive committee members Jason Lewis, Lee Soffer, and Rachel Waldstreicher!. And there's just no stopping us. The NextGen Executive Committee - namely Robin Fischel, Micky Reich, Molly Schrag, Stacy Miller, Lorraine Hutzler, in addition to those mentioned above - have been hard at work behind the scenes to bring you an exciting and diverse calendar for 2023. Please save the dates for these upcoming events:

- April 22 - Yom Ha'atzmaut Party. Celebrating 75 years of Israel!
- May 25 - Weekday Wine Down: What's Up with Israel Today?
- June 11 - Kicking Off the Summer Olympics Style!
- July TBD - Midsummer Night BBQ
- September 20 - Weekday Wine Down: Mindfulness
- November 11 - Casino Night
- December 9 - Chanukah Party

As always, to get involved in planning events and to serve on committees, contact NextGen Director, Melanie Vorm at melanie@ujf.org

NextGen is a program of United Jewish Federation. Its mission is to be a connector for all young Jews in their mid-20s, 30s and 40s.



Let the Good Times Roll

BY RONNIE FEIN

One of my daughters has a birthday in April, and it frequently falls during Passover. That means that in certain years she can't have a "traditional" birthday cake.

It's okay with her now – she's a grown adult with kids of her own and understands that on the list of "important things," birthday cake isn't near the top.

But it bothered her when she was a youngster – until the time I made her a flourless chocolate jelly roll cake. That cake was such a favorite that it became the yearly dessert at her birthday party even when it wasn't Passover. I always thought it was an interesting and glamorous choice considering her age.

Why do we love and request repeats of certain foods? It all comes down to how it tastes of course. My daughter liked how this chocolate roll tasted, and I don't blame her. It's de-lish. Passover-friendly too. But you can make this any old time. In addition to how good it tastes, it is also a lovely looking dessert, festive and fit for any special occasion.

Depending on the meal, I stuff this cake roll with either dairy or non-dairy items. The recipe here calls for whipped cream and strawberries, but you can use any thick non-dairy spread (lekvar, jam, lemon curd, ganache, nut butter, etc.) and any kind of berry or softened, mashed fresh fruit.

FLOURLESS CHOCOLATE JELLY ROLL CAKE

- 6 ounces semisweet chocolate
- 3 tablespoons cooled coffee (or brandy or rum)
- 5 large eggs, separated
- 1 cup sugar
- 1-1/2 cups whipping cream
- 1-1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 pint strawberries, sliced
- cocoa powder or (Passover) confectioners' sugar

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Lightly grease a jelly roll pan (I use 15-1/2"x10-1/2").



Flourless Chocolate Jelly Roll

Line the pan with parchment paper, leaving several inches hanging over each of the short edges. Grease the portion of the paper that fits inside the pan.

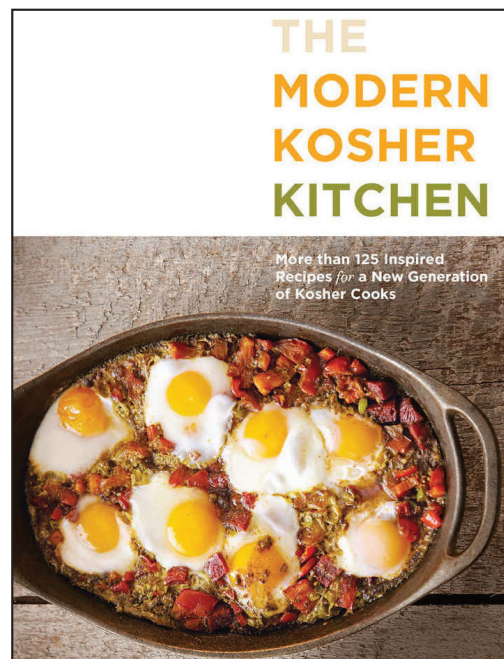
Cook the chocolate and coffee together in the top part of a double boiler set over barely simmering water. When the chocolate has melted, mix the ingredients well and remove the top part of the pan from the heat. Let cool. In the bowl of an electric mixer set at medium speed (or use a hand mixer), beat the egg yolks and all but 2 teaspoons of the sugar together for 3-4 minutes or until thick and pale. Add the cooled chocolate mixture and blend it in thoroughly. In another bowl, beat the egg whites until they stand in stiff peaks. Mix about 1/4 of the beaten whites into the chocolate mixture. Fold the remaining whites into the chocolate mixture. Spoon the batter into the prepared jelly roll pan, smoothing it to make it even. Bake for about 10 minutes or until "set." Remove the cake from the oven. Cover it with a slightly dampened kitchen towel. Let cool.

Loosen the cake by pulling the overlapping ends of parchment paper. Invert the cake onto a clean sheet of parchment paper or kitchen towel and roll it up starting with one of the long sides. Set aside.

Whip the cream and remaining 2 teaspoons sugar and vanilla extract until thick (use an electric mixer or hand mixer). Unroll the cake and spread the whipped cream on top of the cake, leaving about 1-inch at the edges. Top with the strawberries. Roll the cake starting on the long side. Place on a serving platter, seam side down. Dust (using a strainer) with cocoa or Passover confectioners' sugar.

Makes 10-12 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, 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).



Temple Sinai Passover Seder

(Courtesy of Temple Sinai)
If you don't already have plans, Temple Sinai invites you on Thursday, April 6 at 5:30 pm for a Second Night Seder led by Rabbi TelRav and Cantor Morgovsky. Participants will retell the story of our ancestors becoming a people with songs, activities and traditions

for kids of all ages. There will be a four-course Passover meal catered by A&S of Stamford, \$54 per adult /\$18 per child (12 and under). Please call the Temple Sinai office at 203-322-1649 to reserve a space for yourself and your loved ones. Please note we cannot accept reservations after April 2.

Model Matzah Bakery

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford)
On Sunday, March 26 at 10:00 am, Chabad of Stamford will host its annual model matzah bakery to help families and kids of all ages get into the Pesach spirit. It's a fun and exciting hands-on experience for all to come and make their own *shmurah* matzah (handmade and "guarded" matzah) and experience what is required to make kosher matzah.

Says Rabbi Moshe Shemtov, Director of Chabad of Stamford, "We

want to teach community members about the special process of making *shmurah* matzah for the Passover seder, and offer a hands-on opportunity to see how the special handmade unleavened bread is closely guarded at every step of its production." This event is free and all are welcome. Sponsorship opportunities are appreciated. To register for the event, please contact programs@stamfordchabad.org or call 203-324-2223, #103 or visit www.stamfordchabad.org.

Chabad of Stamford Covers Passover Needs

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford)
Chabad of Stamford covers many Passover needs this Pesach. From in-person Seders, *shmurah* matzah, selling *chametz*, participating in the mitzvah of *Maos Chitim* (Passover funds for the poor) to "Seders to Go" kits, Chabad has it all!

To kick off the Pesach preparations, Chabad will host its annual family matzah bake on Sunday, March 26 at 10:00 am at Chabad of Stamford. Chabad can also provide *shmurah* matzah for your Seder needs and can help sell all *chametz* before Passover. *Maos Chitim* is one of the most significant observances of the Passover holiday, and Chabad urges everyone to participate. Join Chabad and donate to share the festival

of freedom with countless people throughout the community.

Chabad will also host in-person Seders for both nights of Pesach at 7:00 pm on April 5 and 6. All are welcome to their elegant, thought-provoking, warm and interactive Seders where the company is fun and the food delicious.

Lastly, for the fourth year, Chabad of Stamford is offering "Seder to Go" kits for people to conduct a Seder at home. The kits will include *shmurah* matzah, wine or grape juice, an interactive and insightful Haggadah and all the items you need for the Seder plate. For more information, please visit www.stamfordchabad.org or call 203-324-2223 X103, or email programs@stamfordchabad.org.

Passover Seders in New Canaan

(Courtesy of Chabad of New Canaan)
Chabad of New Canaan will be hosting community Seders on both Seder nights – Wednesday, April 5, and Thursday, April 6. On both nights, the Seders will begin at 7:45 pm. Both Seders will feature rich discussion about Passover, excellent food, and joyous singing.

Rabbi Levi Mendelow, of the Chabad New Canaan Jewish Center, will lead the Seders.

The Seders will take place at Chabad House, 137 Putnam Road, New Canaan, CT 06840

Seder reservations must be made in advance, at www.NewCanaanJewish.org

Students Connect with Family History

(Courtesy of Temple Beth El) The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County (JHSFC) recently collaborated with 6th and 7th grade Keshet Beth El students on a "L'dor V'dor" (From Generation to Generation) project. The program is designed to teach students about Jewish history in Europe and the USA through interactive projects, including learning about artifacts and the importance of family stories.

Keshet Beth El is the joint Jewish learning center for children in grades K-7 from Temple Beth El in Stamford and Congregation Beth El in Norwalk.

Rhonda Ginsberg, an active member of the JHSFC, approached Keshet Beth El with this idea and helped develop the curriculum. JHSFC played a crucial role in the success of the program by providing experts who shared their knowledge with the students and guided them throughout the project.

Students had a wonderful experience learning about Jewish history and culture through hands-on activities. They participated in a scavenger hunt to search for artifacts in the Temple Beth El building, and each team was given a real historical artifact to learn about and share with the class. They also learned about the JHSFC archives and interviewed a family member, recording their stories and experiences for posterity. The project culminated in a presentation showcasing excerpts from all the videos.

Lisa Gittelman-Udi, Director of



JHSFC volunteer and Keshet Beth El teacher Rhonda Ginsberg (3rd from left) and Keshet Beth El teacher Jonathan Cahr (far right) join the students at their family history video presentation.

Congregational Learning at Temple Beth El and Director of Keshet Beth El: Beth El Connections Jewish Learning Center, is grateful to Elissa Kaplan, Rhonda Ginsberg, Leslie Heyison, and all the volunteers at JHSFC for their invaluable contributions to the project. She hopes it will have a lasting impact on Keshet Beth El students and the community as a whole. Gittelman-Udi explained, "By connecting with their family histories and learning about Jewish history through personal stories, we believe our students have gained a greater appreciation for their heritage and the importance of passing on family traditions."

Keshet Beth El plans to incorporate this program into their regular curriculum for middle-school age students and looks forward to continuing the partnership to inspire future generations to connect with their family histories and embrace their Jewish heritage.



Passover "World Records" Event

(Courtesy of Chabad of New Canaan) Chabad of New Canaan is set to host an exciting Passover event for children ages 5-13: Passover "World Records" on Sunday morning, April 2, from 10:00 - 11:30 am at the New Canaan YMCA.

The event, which is part of the international Chabad CKids program, aims to teach children about the holiday of Passover in a fun and interactive way. The program is open to the entire community.

Participants will have the opportunity to stretch their limits and race to prepare for Passover by attempting to "break records" at various stations. They will work in teams to complete a series of timed challenges, including pyramid building, racing through Egyptian slavery, avoiding chametz (leavened food), and rushing to

get all the ingredients to the matzah bakery.

According to Michal Mendelow, Director of the New Canaan Hebrew School, "This event is a fantastic opportunity for children to learn about Passover in a fun and engaging way. By participating in these 'record-breaking' challenges, they will not only gain a deeper understanding of the holiday but also have a great time with their peers."

The event will culminate in a musical seder plate decorating activity, and children will receive mitzvah missions to encourage them to celebrate Passover at home with their families.

For reservations, or for more information about the Passover "World Records" event, please contact Michal Mendelow at 203-972-7708 or visit www.newcanaanjewish.org

A Diamond in the Post-Pandemic Rough

BY CANTOR KATIE KAPLAN

The "Mincha Bunch," or the "Minyanaires," as they call themselves, came together out of necessity during March of 2020 when Temple Beth El (TBE) of Stamford moved its weekday morning *minyan* (prayer quorum) to a 1:00 pm daily *Mincha* (afternoon prayer) *minyan* on ZOOM. In the early pandemic days, the *minyan* served as a place to check in on one another, pray for healing, and support the community members saying *Kaddish* or observing a *yahrzeit* (anniversary of the date of death).

As the days of the pandemic turned into weeks and then into years, one thing became clear: the daily online ZOOM *minyan* was not just a temporary solution for a time of crisis. Instead, the thriving of an online "Zoomagogue" community was witnessed, in which members consistently showed up to make a *minyan* every single day since the pandemic hit. It became a place and time of connection for those spread across the country, homebound, sitting *shiva* (mourning), and in need of healing prayers and support.

Gaby Rattner, a regular attendee, discovered the *minyan* after her father died this past July. She wanted to follow the example her father had set when his own parents died and she vowed to say the *Kaddish* prayer every day. Working full time she knew it would be challenging to attend an in-person *minyan* daily, and she was so grateful to find TBE's *minyan*. She shared, "I expected to keep my promise. I did not expect to enjoy it. I did not expect to feel connected to a group of people I had never met. And yet, within a few days, both things



"Minyanaires" on ZOOM

began to happen. And when I worried that there might not be ten people available every day, that worry was put to rest as I saw the dedication with which people join this gathering every weekday at one."

Gaby is one of several "Minyanaires" who joined to say *Kaddish* daily during the first year of losing a loved one. Upon finding the comfort and support of the ZOOM *minyan*, it is not unusual for members to come back frequently following a first *yahrzeit* to help provide the *minyan* of comfort for others in their time of need.

The *minyan* is led by a rotation of clergy and lay leaders at the temple. Each day the service varies depending on who is leading the *davening* (praying), but one thing remains consistent – the profound sense of community. Sometimes the service contains more music, other times it is more centered in the Jewish calendar of festivals, holidays, and moon cycles. The feeling of presence and connection takes center stage in this "Mincha Bunch," gaining its name from the windows in ZOOM resembling that of the famous television show, "The Brady Bunch."

If you are looking for a place to pray, say *Kaddish*, observe a *yahrzeit* in community, and find connection, please consider ZOOMing into the 1:00 pm *minyan* Monday through Friday at Temple Beth El. Please contact Executive Director, Steve Lander for ZOOM credentials at execdir@tbe.org

A Journey from Israel to Stamford



Community members gathered in February at Temple Beth El in Stamford to hear Yoav Yaron, United Jewish Federation's Community *Shaliach* (emissary), share his personal and compelling story about growing up in the Gaza Strip, being uprooted from Gush Katif as a child, and how those unforgettable experiences have shaped his life and work with Federation.



PURIM

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Young Israel of Stamford



Bits & Pieces



Sandy Golove

BY SANDY GOLOVE

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

MAZEL TOV TO GROWING FAMILIES:

Adina & Moshe Averick on the birth of a son; and to the grandparents, **Diane & Rabbi Daniel Cohen**.

Ayala & Shaun Azari on the birth of a daughter.

Dani & Chaim Bergman on the birth of a daughter.

Sue & Michael Berkoff on the birth of a grandson, **Nathaniel James Wall**; and to the great grandparents, **Susan & Martin Berkoff**.

Emily Breslow Capodilupo & John Capodilupo on the birth of a daughter; and to the grandparents, **Amy Friedman, Mary Ann & John Capodilupo** and step-grandfather, **Mark Friedman**.

Melissa & Gabriel Felder on the birth of a daughter; and to the grandmother, **Helen Felder**.

Claudine & Stuart Feurstein on the birth of a grandson and to the great grandmother, **Tamara Feurstein**.

Samantha & Graig Fischgrund on the birth of twin daughters, **Rose Aurora** and **Ruthie Mauve**; and to the grandparents, **Glenda & Joel Fischgrund** and **Cathy Krieger** and **Steven Krieger** and to the great grandmother, **Binnie Ditesheim**.

Alyssa & Aryeh Frager on the birth of a son.

Iva & Amihai Freed on the birth of a son.

Ilana Ginsberg & Ben Meiselman on the birth of a daughter, **Liora Brook**; and to the grandparents, **Ronni & Paul Ginsberg**.

Grace Gould & Jonathan Goldberg on the birth of a daughter, **Vienna**, and to the grandparents, **Joanne and Marshall Goldberg**.

Dana & Jason Greenman on the birth of a daughter, **Jamie Hannah**, and to the grandparents, **Denise & David Greenman** and **Ilene and Bert Madwed**.

Bruce Newman on the birth of a granddaughter, **Rosie Ava**.

Sara Malka & Avi Petrushka on the birth of a daughter; and to the grandparents, **Diane & Rabbi Daniel Cohen**.

Dani Roche & Michael Levine on the birth of a son, **Nathaniel David**.

Chani & Rabbi Josh Rosenfeld on the birth of a son.

Lisa Rosenfeld & Bryan Beaudreault on the birth of a son, **Simon Daniel**; and to the grandparents, **Dorothy Levine & Alvin Rosenfeld**.

Kaili & Daniel Scherban on the birth of a daughter.

Joni & David Schwartz on the birth of a daughter; and to the grandparents, **Lori & Yakob Maor** and **Elaine & Jon Schwartz**.

Shternie & David Wayne on the birth of a daughter; and to the grandparents, **Roberta Steil** and **Stephen Wayne** and **Shainie & Rabbi Yisroel Weingarten**.

ENGAGEMENTS/WEDDINGS:

Judy & Howard Goldstein on the engagement of their daughter, **Rebecca** to **Eitan Edelman**.

Peshy Raitport & Mendy Tiefenbrun on their marriage.

Sue & Carl Shapiro on the engagement of their son, **Harrison** to **Elana Reiss**

Sue & Carl Shapiro on the engagement of their son, **Mitchell** to **Maddie Fuller**

Sue & Carl Shapiro on the engagement of their daughter, **Peri** to **Nat Heller**.

Nurit & Mark Wexler and **Debbie & Ben Soifer** on the engagement of **Robby Soifer** to **Carly Kriss**.

MAZEL TOV B'NAI MITZVAH:

Kayla Bocian: daughter of **Elexis Silverman & Justin Bocian**.

Max Brand: son of **Jessie & David Brand**.

Gideon Danzer: son of **Zimra Gordon & Steven Danzer**.

Liv Haron: daughter of **Meg & Yaov Haron** and granddaughter of **Kamal Haron**.

Elana Kohl: daughter of **Naomi & Rabbi Eli Kohl**.

Charlie Lastoff: son of **Hannah & Ilan Lastoff**.

Daniel Majer: grandson of **Izzy Lustig**.

Ethan Malkin: son of **Karen & Jonathan Malkin** and grandson of **Ann & Alex Goldblum**.

Gabriel Parker: son of **Cyndi & Adam Parker**.

Ian Rosenfeld: son of **Jen & Ed Rosenfeld**.

Jack Steinberg: son of **Melissa & David Steinberg**.

WE MOURN THE LOSS OF:

Ezekiel Bahar: brother of **David Bahar** and **Shirley Ephraim**.

Jeffrey Samuel Benson: husband of **Mary Lee Grisanti Benson**; father of **Rebecca Benson** and brother of **Daniel Benson** and **Carol Irom**.

Zita Berg: sister of **Lloyd Contract**.

Betty Weinkrantz Briner: sister of **Sharon Katz**.

David Camner: husband of **Sani Camner** and father of **Aimee Horowitz** and **Shara Kolodney**.

Richard Cohen: husband of **Laurel Cohen**.

Julie Epstein: sister of **Ellen Bromley**.

Henya Federman: sister of **Rabbi Zalman Shmotkin**.

Tova Feldstein: daughter of **Sharon & Michael Feldstein** and sister of **Yosef Feldstein**.

Benjamin Fine: husband of **Linda Fine** and father of **Carolyn Fine Neyer** and **David Fine**.

Ann Goldblum: mother of **David Goldblum**, **Laura Goldblum** and **Michael Goldblum**.

Stephen F. Goldenberg: husband of **Renee Goldenberg** and father of **Rachel Sherman**.

Syd Graber: father of **Howard Graber** and **David Graber**.

Herman Kroshinsky: father of **Miriam Schechter**.

Ellen Ann Levine: mother of **Michael Levine**.

Harold Margolin: father of **Shelley Michelson**.

Susie Mitchell: sister of **Marlyn Agatstein**.

Marcia Moyer: mother of **Lisa Rome**.

Roger Stefan Poser: brother of **Peter Poser**.

Thelma K. Ratner: mother of **Stuart Ratner**.

Arthur David Rheingold, husband of **Helane Rheingold** and father of **Aaron Rheingold**.

A Message From UJF's Shaliach

Back Home in Israel with BCHA Seniors

BY YOAV YARON

When I flew back home to Israel for the first time in six months, I returned as the Lead Educator for Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy's 10-day trip with 12th grade students and community members. I was so excited on the flight over that I kept looking down from the window as the airplane started descending over the trees, red roofs, and across the open blue sea. I couldn't wait to get out of the Ben Gurion International Airport in Tel Aviv and to see the land, breathe the sweet and warm air, and feel the hot sun on my skin.

Being back home and in that moment, I understood just how much I missed the comfort of my family, friends, and the familiar views of Israel.

For some of the students on the trip this was their first-time visiting Israel. Walking and touring the land, it was easy to feel rejuvenated by seeing the sites and scenes from their perspective. Every person, place, and thing were new and exciting for them, and for me as well. It's not every day that you can receive an



Yoav Yaron (front) poses with Bi-Cultural 12th graders and staff at the Gush-Katif Heritage Center in Nitzan, Israel.

opportunity to see your home for the first time all over again. Growing up in Israel, I remembered my mom telling me once, as we walked to school together, that I used to get excited about every snail and bee I saw. As I got older, those things became more mundane. I wasn't excited to see them anymore. But thanks to the

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The Hebrew Corner

BY ROBERT ABRAMS

Robert Abrams is UJF's Education Committee Chair.

CHol Ha-Moh-AyD.

The weekday portion of the holidays of Passover and Sukkot. Yes, the word CHoL means weekday, but the word CHoL also

means "sand." How could this Hebrew word possibly mean two very different things? Actually, it turns out it's one of the interesting ways that Judaism looks at time.

Contrary to the names we customarily call the days of the week, (Sunday, Monday, etc.) the Hebrew names for the days of the week translate into "First Day," "Second Day," "Third Day," and so on. (Yom Rishon, Yom Shay-nee,



Robert Abrams

Yom Sh'lee-shee, and so on.) The only day that has a name in Hebrew is Saturday, and that day is called Shabbat.

Shabbat is a very different day and a very different sense of time.

There is something special about the day. So, unless there is a Jewish holiday on those other days, every weekday is very much the same as any other weekday; just as every grain of "sand" is much the same as every other grain of sand.

And that's why, in Hebrew, the word for sand and the word for a weekday are practically synonyms, and are both "Chol."

Your Community Impact

Friendship Circle Inclusion Fair

(Courtesy of Friendship Circle)
Thanks to a generous grant allocated by United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien, the Friendship Circle held an inclusion fair for families and children in February. The fair took place in the organization's new home at 48 Union Street on the second floor. Families learned all about the Friendship Circle's community of children and adults with special needs, and how this community is like everyone else in their need for love and inclusion.

Over 75 children and adults participated in the fair. There were multiple hands-on booths for people to get a sense of what it feels like to cope with sensory challenges. An art therapist worked with children to create an emotion wheel where different emotions could be pointed to and explained. Each child created their own sensory toy that they were able to take home.

In addition to experiencing the sensation of sensory overload, participants were able to unwind in the sensory corner, which was an example of what a true sensory calming room is like. Malya Shmotkin, Director of Friendship Circle said, "It was a wonderful day where families learned all about people with special needs, and enjoyed themselves as well. It is so important for others to understand that people with special needs also enjoy friendships and good times just like the rest of us. We are grateful



The Bocian Family learns about emotion wheels.

to Federation, which as a community convener, is truly fulfilling that mission while helping us bring together the greater community to understand what the Friendship Circle is all about."



(l-r) Abby Lasher, Emma Lasher and Noa Rosenfeld experience what it might feel like to cope with sensory challenges

JCC Nursery School Spreads Love

(Courtesy of the JCC)
The JCC Sara Walker Nursery School recently held a Mitzvah Day where children and staff came together to spread love and kindness to others through various *chesed* (kindness) projects. The event was a huge success, with many meaningful projects completed by the children.

One of the projects undertaken was the creation of Purim Shalach Manot packages for Schoke Jewish Family Service (JFS). The two and three-year-old classes worked together to assemble 90 packages, complete with personalized cards, which were donated to Schoke JFS for distribution to their clients. It was wonderful to see the children work together to create something that will bring joy to others.

Another project involved the pre-K classes, who prepared four lasagnas for the residents of Inspirica, a local shelter. It was heartening to see young children come together to cook a meal for those in need, and it is sure to bring comfort and nourishment to those who receive it.

The children also took part in an obstacle course, earning a dollar each to put in a *tzedakah* (charity) box. This money will be added to their weekly *tzedakah* collections and donated to the Back to School Shop, a program that provides economically disadvantaged elementary school children in the community with



Teams of children in the pre-K class prepared lasagnas for the residents at Inspirica, a local shelter for women and children.



The children created beaded *ahava* (love) bracelets for their friends, family members and themselves.

brand new clothing and school supplies. In total, the children raised \$1,095.67 for the cause, showing that even small acts of kindness can make a big difference.

One of the favorite projects of the children on Mitzvah Day was the creation of *ahava* (love) bracelets. The children loved creating beaded bracelets with messages of love for their friends, family members, and themselves. It was a beautiful reminder of the importance of spreading love and kindness in our daily lives.

Finally, the Kinderplace children joined in a pajama collection, and over 200 new pajamas were collected for the children and adults at Inspirica. The four-year-old classes sorted and packaged

the pajamas and added notes wishing the recipients warm and cozy nights. Mitzvah Day at The JCC Sara Walker Nursery School was a wonderful reminder of the power of kindness and the joy that comes from giving to others.



Children assembled *Shalach Manot* (Purim gift) packages for Schoke JFS.

(ALL PHOTO CREDIT: BRIANNE STIEBLING)

BCHA Seniors Experience Israel First-Hand

(Courtesy of Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy)
Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy (BCHA) Upper School seniors experienced Israel on a trip led by Rabbi Shimmy Trencher, Upper School Principal, and United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien *Shaliach* (Israel emissary) Yoav Yaron. On their trip, they visited the Kotel, learned about battles to take the strategic hilltop Latrun and about Israeli tanks at Yad Lashiryon, visited the Gush Katif Heritage Center, received a tour of the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem, learned about archeology in Israel at Emek Tzurim, traveled through time at the Jerusalem Time Elevator, and much more. The BCHA seniors participated in an Israel education program based on OpenDor Media's "Israel Unpacked" and Scott Shay's book *Conspiracy U*.



Bi-Cultural seniors and staff pose on an abandoned Israeli tank near the border with Syria.



Students learned about archeology before helping to search for artifacts at the Emek Tzurim sifting project.

NextGen Strikes Up Some Bowling Fun

(Courtesy of UJF) It was a night of bowling fun for the NextGen community in February as young Jewish leaders from Fairfield County took to the lanes at RPM Raceway to eat, drink, rock and ROLL.

The event, which attracted around 50 guests, saw NextGen'ers sip on beer and schmooze over snacks, all the while trying to score some strikes on the bowling alleys. The atmosphere was bright, noisy, and joyful.

"We had such a great time at the last bowling event, that we knew we wanted to come to this one. We love bowling anyway, so to do that while hanging with new friends and old is even more fun. We are huge NextGen events fans, they're always so fun and they really do cater to everyone in the community," said Gene Vladimirov,

an attendee of the event.

Bowling night was the first event of the year for the NextGen program, and there is so much more to come, including an exciting new social-educational series called "Weekday Wine Down" where meaningful topics will be discussed over wine and cheese. Stay tuned for a fun and diverse 2023 calendar!

The mission of the NextGen initiative is to serve as a connector for all young Jews, regardless of background or affiliation. It seeks to build community through social events, fun and meaningful volunteer programs, educational activities, and philanthropy. To get involved, contact NextGen Director, Melanie Vorm at melanie@ujf.org.



(l-r) Micky Reich, Stacy Soffer



(l-r) Michal Lincoff, Lucy Schwartz, Ariel Blum, Ben Zweig, Saryah Sober and Jacob Lincoff.



(l-r) Ben Folkinshteyn, Jennie Folkinshteyn, Eddie Guterman, Jason Lewis, Theodore Lopatin



(l-r) Front: Sarah Erin Failaev, Alex Failaev, Gene Vladimirov, Meghan Vladimirov, Laurie Vorm. Back: Nate Pava, Doron Ginat



(l-r) Jason Lewis (top), Jared Siegel, Ari Yasgur, Shushannah Yasgur, Wendy Siegel



(l-r) Jennie Folkinshteyn, Stacy Soffer, Lee Soffer, Jason Lewis, Marla Lewis, Robin Fischel (front)

Specialty Camps at The J

(Courtesy of JCC) Go beyond traditional camp experiences this summer! With a range of programs designed to cater to different interests and hobbies, the Stamford Jewish Community Center offers an array of options for children who want to learn new skills and have fun under the guidance of highly qualified professionals.

For children who love basketball, the *Stamford J Basketball Summer Clinics* offer the perfect opportunity to elevate their game to the next level. With high-level coaching, individual player attention, and plenty of repetition, campers can work on their ball-handling, shooting, footwork, and decision-making skills. Led by professional coaches and trainers, each child will receive personalized attention and guidance to help them improve their game.

For the child interested in the performing arts, the *Midsummer Players* workshop is the perfect option to help develop their performance skills and gain confidence on stage. Under the guidance of a

team of theater and performing arts professionals, students will spend their days training and working towards a performance at the end of the camp session. The workshop is designed to help children unlock their creativity, express themselves, and build their self-confidence.

For those who love dance and theater, *Performing Arts at The J* offers a variety of dance programs suitable for children aged 3 to 13. Catering to various dance techniques including ballet, hip-hop, or jazz, children will have the opportunity to learn from experienced instructors and explore their creative potential in a fun and supportive environment.

At the JCC, each specialty camp program is designed to offer a unique experience that will help children develop new skills, make new friends, and have a memorable summer. Explore all that The J has to offer this summer at www.stamfordjcc.org/summeratthej. For questions, please contact Aliyah Lewin at alewin@stamfordjcc.org.

Summer at Gan Yeladim

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Gan Yeladim of Stamford is excited to open registration for Gan summer camp 2023 for children ages 6 weeks to 6 years. The summer camp will run from June 19 through August 11. It offers campers the opportunity to explore and learn about art, gardening and the environment, interactive music, literacy and storytelling, dramatic play, and swimming (for ages 3-6).

Each year, Gan summers provides a place where children can make new friends and connect with old ones through water play, rain play, imaginative play, *davening* (praying), art, science and of course, cooking and baking. The experienced *morahs* (teachers) allow each child the

comfort and ability to take risks, explore and expand their identities.

This summer, Gan Yeladim will once again be offering specialty in-house programming. Each week, multiple experiences are brought in such as "touch a truck". Gan also offers gymnastics with Anatolie and music with Bobby Doowah.

This year, Gan will once again offer swimming at the Darien YMCA three times a week for children who have turned three. They will have the opportunity to gain water safety and swim skills.

Sign up for summer camp and experience the "magic of summer" at Gan Yeladim. For more information, email wendy@stamfordchabad.org or call 203 324-2223

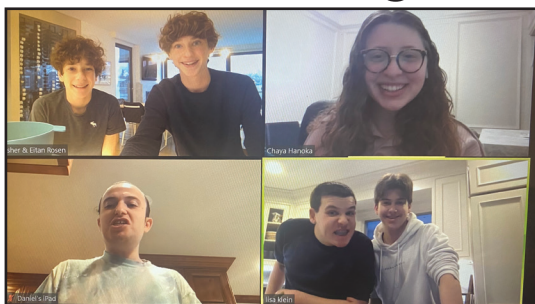
Friends Bake Hamentashen Together

(Courtesy of Friendship Circle)

On March 1, Friendship Circle families and special friends joined each other online for a virtual hamentashen bake. Over 30 people participated across the country! It was an amazing opportunity for family and friends who live in different states to get into the Purim spirit together.

All participants received a kit with all the fun ingredients needed to create delicious hamentashen. Everyone was together in a large ZOOM forum at the start of the program to discuss the Purim holiday and its many traditions. Then grandparents, special friends and other family members went into breakout rooms together to roll out the dough and put in the fillings! Chaya Hanoka, Program Coordinator, said, "It was so great to have people who cannot be together in person be able to learn about and celebrate the many traditions of Purim together. What a beautiful way to involve people in the fun of the Friendship Circle."

To learn more about the Friendship Circle, please contact Malya Shmotkin at malya@friendshipct.com.



Friends get together on ZOOM. Top row: Asher and Eitan Rosen, and Chaya Hanoka (Friendship Circle adult program coordinator). Bottom row: Daniel Radin, and Jake Klein and Matthew Goodman



Aaron Palker and his Grandma Gaye Miller

Dignity Grows Chapter Receives Grants

(Courtesy of UJF) Over the last year, UJF packed and distributed 1,200 tote bags filled with necessary hygiene products by partnering with Dignity Grows, a national program that facilitates the packing and distribution of essential feminine hygiene products delivered to those in need. Now, thanks to two grants received from Gen Re Insurance and Garden Homes Management, UJF and Dignity Grows continue to raise awareness and make a difference together across Stamford.

In addition to these two major sponsors, Dignity Grows has been sponsored by monthly donors, friends hosting packing parties, friends making gifts to honor loved ones, and more.

"Each bag contains feminine hygiene products that many cannot afford but cannot live without! Dignity in a bag costs about \$11 and we are grateful to our chairs Nancy Fahey and Terry Bernard for spearheading our local chapter," said UJF CEO, Diane Sloyer.

"We are also grateful for a special partnership with Betsy Stone and Temple Sinai. Not only do they raise money and sponsor packs, they have offered to store supplies for Dignity Grows as UJF has run out of space in our new home."

The Dignity Grows program began with



Taly Farber, Allison Ostroff, Tara Shapiro and Nancy Fahey

the Jewish Federation of Hartford and now has local chapters in Jewish Federations throughout the country.

"We're thrilled to have Gen Re and Garden Homes supporting Dignity Grows. Their grants provide totes to girls and women in our community who cannot afford basic hygiene necessities," said Nancy Fahey, Dignity Grows Co-Chair.

"It's hard to imagine some women needing to forego buying food in order to buy menstrual and hygiene products, but that is the reality. Thankfully, UJF and Dignity Grows share the Jewish values of generosity and responsibility to help improve the quality of life for the people in our community."

For more information or to get involved with UJF's Dignity Grows, email Taly Farber at Taly@ujf.org.

NextGen Brings Purim Joy to Israeli Children

(Courtesy of UJF) February was a month of philanthropy for the NextGen community with a Costume Drive held to bring the joy of Purim to children in need at two different children's homes in Afula-Gilboa, Israel, UJF's partner city.

Chaired by Robin Fischel, drop-off boxes were placed at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy (BCHA), Gan Yeladim, JCC and Temple Sinai, and donated costumes were collected in time to accompany BCHA seniors on their Israel Education trip. The costumes were hand-delivered to Beit Alfa Absorption Center by the BCHA seniors, as well as UJF's Shaliach, Yoav Yaron. They were then distributed between both Beit Singer and the Emunah Children's Homes during the 10-day trip to Israel.

"It was truly wonderful to see so many people in our community donate so many costumes. We had two overflowing duffel bags worth," said Fischel.

"Seeing pictures of the refugee children wearing those costumes that Stamford delivered made me so proud to be part of this organization and community. These kids have been through so much turmoil, seeing their smiles and knowing we brought a little bit of light and normalcy into this joyous holiday was very warming. This is what it's all about," she added.

Moran Ohana, Director of the Beit Alfa Absorption Center, also shared his deep appreciation for Federation's efforts in helping children and families celebrate Purim together.

"On behalf of the families at Beit Alfa Absorption Center, we wish to thank you for the costume donations for the children."



Yoav Yaron (UJF Shaliach) and senior students from Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy surprised students at Beit Alfa Absorption Center with costumes for Purim.

This year, even more than in other years, the timing couldn't be better as we had ten new families making Aliyah from Ethiopia. For your community's donation, those children could celebrate Israeli Purim for the first time with an amazing selection to choose from," Moran explained.

"The children were so excited and thankful to have this opportunity. They felt like every other Israeli kid that celebrates Purim. The ability to choose their first-ever Purim costume and celebrate made their day. Thank you so much for your generous donations, your thoughts, and the joy you brought to the children and families."

For more information on how to get involved with UJF's NextGen, contact Melanie Vorm at melanie@ujf.org.



Children in Afula-Gilboa pose in costumes donated by UJF's NextGen



Back Home in Israel with BCHA Seniors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

senior trip to Israel with the students, I was able to find joy in the mundane and have an extraordinary experience together with them.

I will never forget those ten days. During our time in Israel, we visited Beit Alpha Absorption Center where we surprised young school students with Purim costumes, toured Ammunition Hill, strolled Ben Yehuda Street, saw Israel's national organizations building, and traveled up

north to Metula, among many other sites.

During the trip back to Israel, my heart filled with pride and hope for the future. I enjoyed our conversations and hearing their ideas, thoughts, and questions about Israel. It was also a chance to see their unique and special personalities. I was so happy to see their growth as students and young people, and I know they will do great things in the years to come. It's times like this that I am reminded that I made the right choice when deciding to become UJF's Shaliach.

Chabad of Stamford Honors Its Leaders

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Almost 400 people joined Chabad of Stamford in honoring the community and its leaders at its annual Gala dinner on January 22, 2023. This year's guest of honor and "Lamplighter Award" recipient was Craig L. Price. Chabad's Gan Family award went to David and Mihal Ariyeh. Chabad's volunteer service award went to Diana Portna for her dedication and commitment to Chabad's Betsy's Buddies senior program and their Loaves of love Shabbat project. Finally, the Gan Morah award this year went to Morah Belana Warmflash.



Guest of Honor and Lamplighter Award recipient Craig L. Price (right) with Rabbi Moshe Shemtov.



Award recipients David and Mihal Ariyeh.



Diana Portna receives her award from Morah Leah and Rabbi Moshe Shemtov.



Award recipient Belana Warmflash with Morah Leah and Rabbi Moshe Shemtov.

Young Israel Celebrates Gala Honorees



(Courtesy of Young Israel) Young Israel of Stamford celebrated its Gala Brunch on Sunday March 12th. Pictured (left to right) are Stephen Davidson, youth honorees Ela Dynner, Atara Ivri, and Tamar Rosenfeld, honorees Alisa and Jeremy Weissner with their son (front), and Rabbi Eli and Naomi Kohl.

"Let's Create" Art Event



(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Chabad of Stamford's Jewish Women Connected women met for a fun evening of food, drinks, schmoozing and words of inspiration from Leah Shemtov followed by making beautiful resin trays with artist Sara Rosenstein.

Stamford Teen Appointed to BBYO International Board

(Courtesy of BBYO) Zachary Price, son of Randi & Craig Price, has been appointed to the BBYO International Board as the Aleph Moreh (Vice President of Membership). In this role, Price will be responsible for the recruitment of new members and retention



Zachary Price
(PHOTO CREDIT: JASON DIXSON PHOTOGRAPHY)

of current members as part of a twelve-member international teen board. This board will help organize BBYO's vision for the coming year and provide leadership and support to teen leaders in local communities throughout the BBYO Movement.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to work towards expanding the global movement of BBYO. In a time when the Jewish people need to work together, I am excited to focus on improving the interconnectivity of Jewish teens in every community across the world," said Price. "Most importantly, I am excited to provide experiences to Jewish teens that will enable them to form their own Jewish identities, the same way BBYO has done for me. I would also like to thank my family, friends, and the entire CVR community for supporting me throughout my childhood and high school career. The best is yet to come."

"I am always inspired by BBYO teens who take the opportunity to do more for others. To lead not for themselves but for their peers and the teens who come after them," said Josh Cohen, Senior Regional Director of Connecticut Valley Region (CVR). "I am so excited for Zachary and his

family as he has the opportunity to create connections and inspire growth among Jewish teens. It is sure to be an experience that he will remember forever and one that will leave his mark globally."

Price recently joined thousands of other teens, educators, thought and business leaders, celebrities, political figures, and philanthropists from around the world at the BBYO

International Convention 2023. In a historic moment for BBYO, Douglas Emhoff, the Second Gentleman of the United States, and Naftali Bennett, Israel's 13th Prime Minister, hosted two separate roundtable sessions with teen leaders where they engaged in dialogue around topics such as leadership, democracy, civic engagement, and antisemitism.

In addition to the hundreds of speakers and educators at IC throughout the weekend, delegates had access to a variety of unique program highlights including one-of-a-kind learning and service experiences, exclusive musical performances, a new Saturday night social experience, *BBYO Block Party*, an expanded AZA and BBG Sports and Wellness Expo, an interactive Summer Village, an elevated Jewish Learning Lab, new teen-led programs and TED Talks, and networking events throughout the convention.

BBYO is honored to be one of the most powerful platforms in the Jewish community for teens. For more information about BBYO in Connecticut Valley Region, please contact Senior Regional Director, Josh Cohen at jcohen@bbyo.org.

Havdalah in Pajamas



(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Every January, Chabad of Stamford and Gan Yeladim celebrate a special musical Havdalah in PJs for our younger members. This year, the music was provided by the Gan dads.

Schoke JFS Names The Japha Family Emergency Assistance Program

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) Schoke Jewish Family Service (Schoke JFS) recently named The Japha Family Emergency Assistance Program, in honor of Meryl and Ron Japha.

Schoke JFS is naming The Japha Family Emergency Assistance Program in recognition of the Japha's generosity. The Japha Family Emergency Assistance Program provides comprehensive assistance to families and individuals needing supportive aid. These services include help identifying housing options and emergency financial support for basic necessities such as food, rent, utilities and emergency shelter.

Meryl and Ron, supporters of Schoke JFS for over a decade, have been actively involved with various Stamford philanthropic organizations. Meryl began her long-time involvement with Schoke JFS in 2012 when she joined the Schoke JFS Evening committee. Subsequently, she co-chaired the event for many years. Meryl became a Schoke JFS Board Director in 2013 and served on the Executive Committee from 2015 until 2021. Meryl currently serves as co-chair of the Development Committee and continues to serve on the Board of Directors.

The Japhas commemorate their deep appreciation of the work of Schoke JFS with their gift naming the Emergency Assistance Program. Meryl shared, "Ron and I have been supporters of Schoke JFS for the past 10 years. We have recently been inspired to have our donation be more impactful. We were moved by the many stories we have heard about clients



Matt Greenberg, President and CEO of Schoke JFS, with Meryl and Ron Japha

whose lives have been changed through the help of Schoke JFS, in particular, the Emergency Assistance Program."

Matt Greenberg, Schoke JFS President and CEO, shared, "The Japha family has demonstrated their commitment through the many ways in which they participate in and join the community efforts to help those in need." He continued, "Meryl and Ron wanted to create a long-term impactful way to further that commitment through The Japha Family Emergency Assistance Program, which helps our community's neediest."

Meryl continued, "This vital program provides economic aid for those people in the most dire situations. Ron and I agreed this program fits perfectly with our values and the life-changing help we are hoping our gift can provide. We are so excited to be able to support this Schoke JFS program which literally saves lives!"

To make your donation in support of The Japha Family Emergency Assistance program, visit: www.ctjfs.org/japhafamilyemergencyassistance/

Reading Partners End-of-Year Celebrations Resume

(Courtesy of UJF) United Jewish Federation's Herbert and Sarah Gibor Reading Partners program once again has a full schedule this spring to celebrate the end of the school year. For the first time since 2020, all end of year activities will take place in person. Both volunteers and children have a lot to celebrate, as it is the first full school year that Reading Partners have been able to spend in person with the children since the start of the pandemic.

Festivities will begin when the volunteers come to the Federation "book fair" to select a special book as an end-of-year gift for each of their students. In each school, Reading Partners and their

students gather together for an end-of-year party to celebrate the students' reading progress. Special treats are served and each volunteer celebrates their student with a talk, a book and a certificate.

Reading Partners will also celebrate with other volunteers at the year-end Volunteer Breakfast. Stamford Public School staff are invited to join as well. A children's author will speak as part of the program to celebrate the volunteers' efforts.

To become involved with the Reading Partners program, please reach out to Lenore Fogel at lenore@ujf.org

Ukrainian Teens Make Vareniki

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) The teen group at The English Café program at Schoke Jewish Family Service made their beloved Ukrainian homemade dish vareniki. They went through all of the steps in the Schoke JFS kitchen including rolling and cutting the dough, and filling the dumplings with potatoes. Each teen brought home a container of vareniki to share with their loved ones.



Ping Pong Tournament Supports Schoke JFS

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) David Brand, Vice Chair of Schoke JFS Board of Directors, held a ping pong tournament fundraiser at the Stamford JCC for Schoke JFS. Attendees had a blast playing ping pong and enjoying good food and drinks, and winning prizes while supporting a good cause.



New Geriatric Care Management Program

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) Schoke Jewish Family Service currently serves seniors through a variety of programs and services including the Home Companion Program, Anachnu - Holocaust Survivor Services, Shabbat and Hirsch Kosher Home Delivered Meal program, as well as support and socialization groups.

The new Geriatric Care Management Program focuses on coordinating ongoing care and everyday life tasks such as paying bills, making medical appointments, and engaging lawyers for estates and handymen for house work. Susan Loomis, LMSW, Geriatric Care Manager, responds to each situation and each client's individual needs to offer a personalized support system.

Loomis will act as a "professional relative" who can help seniors and their



Susan Loomis, Geriatric Care Manager

family members explore ways to meet individual needs, which is particularly helpful when family members live far apart.

Schoke JFS is honored by the reputation it holds in the community. Supported by a vast network of resources, connections, and internal agency programs, Schoke JFS

provides support and guidance to clients as they navigate the complexities of aging.

The Schoke JFS Geriatric Care Management program is a private pay/fee-for-service program offering extremely competitive rates with a sliding scale based on eligibility and ability to pay.

Contact Susan Loomis at 203-921-4161 or sloomis@ctjfs.org so she can understand your (or your loved one's or client's) situation, conduct a brief assessment/intake, and offer next steps. Visit www.ctjfs.org to learn more.

LIFE & LEGACY Honor Roll

United Jewish Federation is proud to partner with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation to bring the Stamford, New Canaan and Darien community the Harold Grinspoon LIFE & LEGACY Program. Through communal efforts, the following individuals have made a commitment to one or more Jewish communal institutions to secure our Jewish future.

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

Anonymous (30)
[Adrienne & Michael Alexander](#)
 David Amsellem
 Alice & David Andersen
[Jeri Appel](#)
[Mark Appel](#)
 Ricky Snow Arbron
 Suellen Bache
 Monica Becker & Edieal Pinker
[Rachel Tyd & Robert Beldock](#)
[Gayle & Mitchell Bell](#)
 Debra & Michael Berg
[Dina & Paul Berger](#)
 Devra Jaffe- Berkowitz & Parry Berkowitz
 Berkun Family
 Daron & Rabbi Tzvi Bernstein
[Jen & Andy Bernstein](#)
 Melody & Claude Bernstein
 Bruce Blasnik
 Judith Block
 Ilana Springer Borkenstein & Daniel Borkenstein
 Jodi & Richard Boxer
[Amy & Henry Bubel](#)
 Blake & Daniel Bueckman
 Judy & Jeff Cahn
 Kate & Peretz Cik
 Roberta & Alan Cohen
[Andrea & David M. Cohen](#)
 Diane & Rabbi Daniel Cohen
[Malerie Yolen-Cohen & Jeff Cohen](#)
 Judy & David S.* Cohen
 Mimi Cohen
 Rachel & Ephraim Cohen
 Saul Cohen*
 Marsha Colten
 Tracy & Nahum Daniels
 Janice Steinberg & Stephen Davidson
 Andrea Dener
 Elayne Dener
 Rabbi Yisrael Deren
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 Fran & Bob Dorf
 Shoshana Dweck
 Heather & Glenn Dynner
[Debra & Dan Faizakoff](#)
 Michelle Fanwick
 Esta & Jay Feinsod
 Sharon & Michael Feldstein
 Peggy & Jerry Fensterstock
 Linda Hurwitz & Richard Fine
 Robin & Jason Fischel
 Gail Berman & David Fogel
 Stephanie & Howard Fogel
 Lenore Fogel
 Ilan Fogel
 Miriam Lavinsky & Morton Folb*
 Beverly Frank
 Sharon Franklin
 Julia & Eli Freedberg
[Connie & Alan Freeman](#)
 Maxine & Jay Freilich
 Susan Frieden
 Rachel & Keith Friedman
 Marc Friedman
 Donna & Edward Fuhrman
[Nancy & Mark Funt](#)
 Lesley & Dennis Gehr
 Gary Gepner
 Carole Gladstone
 Herbert Gladstone*
 Sylvia & Herb Gladstone*
 Leslie Glenn
 Robin Frederick
 Michael Gold
[Abby Goldberg](#)
 Cyndy & Eric Goldberg
 Marilyn & Irving Goldblum
 Alicia & Jason Goldstein
 Caryl & Melvin Goldstein*
 Judy and Howard Goldstein

Sharon & Bruce Goldstein
 Meryl & David Gordon
 Nan & Paul Gordon
[Linda Gornitsky](#)
 Loralee & Philip Granowitz
 Shira & Ethan Green
 Allison & Frederic Greenbaum
 Sharon & Larry Greenberg
 Susan & Edward Greenberg
 Pam Ehrenkranz & Matt Greenberg
 Rhonda Greif
[Grecia & Ron* Gross](#)
[Caryn Halbrecht & Tommy Haendler](#)
 Jeremy Hager
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 Wynd Harris
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[Shara & Rabbi David Israel](#)
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[Helene & Harvey Kaminski](#)
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 Lisa & Arnold Karp
 Jeannie Kasindorf
 Jessica & Ilan Katz
[Joy Katz](#)
[Larry Katz](#)
 Judith & Sheldon Katz
 Mark S. Kaufman
 Betsy & Peter Kempner
 Madelyne Kirch
 Liz & Marc Kitay
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 Sally Kleinman
[Harris Kligman](#)
[Susan Kostin](#)
 Arthur Kramer*
 Claudia Kraut
[Norma Kraut](#)
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 Carol & Allen Krim
 Elizabeth & Scott Krowitz
 Nina Kuch
 Svetlana Kunin
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 Lauren & Joe Zalis
 Joan Zinbarg*
 Renee Zinn
 Navah & David Zizmor
 Shira & Mitchell Zucker

**Of Blessed Memory
 This is the list provided to UJF at time of publishing. We apologize for any names that have been omitted. Please let us know and the missing names will be added to the next issue of the paper. Names in blue have finalized their commitment at the time of publication.*

LIFE & LEGACY Testimonials

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

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

RONNIE AND STEVE SICHEL TESTIMONIAL

We both grew up in New York City, surrounded by family who taught us to value our Jewish heritage through religious education, active involvement in our Jewish and broader community, love of Israel, and caring for all people.

Since our arrival in Stamford almost 49 years ago, we have sought out, supported and worked for Jewish organizations that help us live these values and transmit them to our



Ronnie and Steve Sichel

children and grandchildren by example. In committing to a legacy gift, we hope to help continue the important work of these organizations for generations to come, both in Stamford and Israel. We believe that a strong Jewish infrastructure is an essential part of a strong, supportive community for all.

In addition, we have shared the reasons for our legacy choices with our children and grandchildren, allowing them to understand and, hopefully, live the values we strive to transmit.

Birthright Trip Promotes Jewish Culture and Identity

BY NANCY SCHULMAN

University of Connecticut Hillel recently participated in a Birthright trip, and my son, Josh, joined the group. The Taglit-Birthright Israel experience enables Jewish students to learn more about themselves, Jewish culture and their Jewish identity. Josh has been to Israel before, but was excited to experience the country again with college age friends.

As a smaller contingent, UConn Hillel was combined with a few other colleges for this adventure, a great opportunity to meet and spend time with Jewish kids from other schools. The trip, Josh said, while focusing on Jewish culture and identity, also included celebrating the bar and bat mitzvahs of some students and holding religious services on Shabbat. There was also a Hebrew naming ceremony for those who were not given a Hebrew name at birth.

Along with visiting many of the popular sightseeing venues such as the Old City, Safed, Masada and the Dead Sea, one of the reasons that Josh chose this Birthright trip was because it was a BICEP trip - Building Israel Connections Engagement Project. This project is meant to enhance the students' experience in Israel. One way it does this is by having Israeli soldiers on the trip with them for the entire time. Along with participating in the trip activities, the soldiers engaged the students in geopolitical conversations about what happened in the creation of Israel and

the aftermath, discussed northern border politics, and provided information on social action projects involving the LGBTQA community. Josh particularly enjoyed all of those discussions.

Of course, there were plenty of other travel-related adventures. Some of his group landed in Israel without their luggage, so that meant extra shopping time. Along with that, they enjoyed the historic sites, slept in Bedouin tents under the stars, and made new friends. In addition, I learned that they also decided (as they experienced camel riding) that "camel rights are human rights," relating to the process of actually getting on to the camel and the fact that the animals are all tied together.

This Birthright trip was also special because it offered Josh an Israel experience and an opportunity to appreciate his Jewish identity as a young adult. My husband and I had hoped that this visit to Israel would bring Josh new experiences and more adult perceptions of Israel, especially of places that he's visited before. We were very happy to hear that this was the case, and that he found new aspects to enjoy of all the sites he visited, as well as the Jewish culture. This trip was a great opportunity to get out of the usual "bubble" of studies and activities, and make new memories and new friends in Israel that will enrich his life. We highly recommend the Birthright experience.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Bi-Cultural Nature Walk at Bear Mountain

(Courtesy of Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy) The sixth grade *Tiyul b'Teva* (Nature Walk) Experience was a great success. With pristine weather, students climbed up the Major Welch trail to the top of Bear Mountain, where they learned Torah

and participated in team-building activities. The trip's theme was "Finding Hashem in Nature," and it was an enlightening experience for all. The day was complete with pizza in Monsey and a *D'var Torah* (words of Torah) from two students. (Photos courtesy of BCHA)



Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy's Israeli emissary Shira Elbaz poses for a selfie with Rabbi Josh Rosenfeld, BCHA Director of Judaic Studies, and members of the sixth grade during their Torah learning and hike up Bear Mountain.



Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy sixth graders Sunny Sendersky, Layla Bahar, and Elana Kohl jump for joy during their Torah learning and hike up Bear Mountain.



Join
United Jewish Federation
of Stamford, New Canaan & Darien
as we commemorate
Yom Ha Shoah
with a presentation by
Voices of the Generations
featuring Julie Kohner

Sunday, April 16, 2023
4pm

Temple Beth El • 350 Roxbury Road, Stamford

RSVP: ujf.org/YomHaShoah2023



Soon, there will be no Holocaust survivors who can share their own story. Voices of the Generations, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to bearing witness as a second generation.

In 1953, Julie Kohner's mother, a Holocaust survivor, was the first non-celebrity featured on *This Is Your Life*, a national television program. We will view this historic program and learn of the experiences of Julie's parents as survivors and Julie's experience as a second generation.

United Jewish Federation
The New Jewish Voice
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Stamford, CT 06905

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United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien Presents:



BEYOND THE DREAM:

Finding Yourself In the Israeli Mosaic

A WEEK OF CELEBRATION: OPEN TO ALL

WEDNESDAY
April 19

STAMFORD JCC, 7PM: Israeli Art Show

Beyond the Dream: Finding a Place Within the Israeli Mosaic

TEMPLE BETH EL, 7PM: Israeli Dancing (Adults)
TEMPLE SINAI, 5:30PM : Teen Programming

THURSDAY
April 20

FRIDAY
April 21

EMMET'S PLAYGROUND, TEMPLE BETH EL, 4:30PM:

Pre-Shabbat Tot Kabbalat Shabbat (ages up to 10)

TEMPLE BETH EL: Mediterranean Shabbat

UJF SPONSORED: Israel@75 Cakes for Kiddush at All Synagogues
LOCATION UPON REGISTRTION, 9PM: NextGen Yom Ha'Atzmaut Party (mid 20s-40s)

SATURDAY
April 22

SUNDAY
April 23

ELAYNE & JAMES SCHOKE JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY, 11AM:

Israeli Film and Discussion with Breakfast: Wasserman the Rainman

CHABAD OF STAMFORD, 7PM:

A Taste of Jerusalem: Baking Israeli Style Ruggelach

AT HOME: Israeli Movie Streaming: Wasserman The Rain Man

MONDAY
April 24

TUESDAY
April 25

STAMFORD JCC, 12PM:

Lunch & Learn: Israel @75 From a Torah Perspective (Adults)

CONGREGATION AGUDATH SHOLOM, 6:30PM:

Yom Ha'Zikaron/Yom Ha'Atzmaut Ceremony (Open to All)



STAMFORD JCC, 5:30PM: Yom Ha'Atzmaut Festival

WEDNESDAY
April 26

For more information and Sponsorship Opportunities
go to ujf.org/Israel75 or contact Sharon Lewis: slewis@ujf.org

