



# THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

A PUBLICATION OF UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION

## Obama Speechwriter Sarah Hurwitz to Discuss Jewish Identity

*(Courtesy of Temple Sinai)* Temple Sinai's Joan Bruder Danoff Lecture Series will present a reflection on Jewish identity and spiritual resilience in the face of growing antisemitism by acclaimed former White House speechwriter and author Sarah Hurwitz. Join the conversation to hear a deeply personal call to reclaim what it means to be Jewish - on our own terms. The event, on Sunday, May 3, 2026 at 4:00 pm, is free and welcomes the entire community.



Sarah Hurwitz

Sarah Hurwitz served as a White House speechwriter from 2009 to 2017, starting as a senior speechwriter for President Barack Obama and then becoming chief speechwriter for First Lady Michelle Obama. Sarah worked with Mrs. Obama to craft widely-praised addresses – including her 2008, 2012, and 2016 Democratic National Convention speeches – and traveled with the First Lady across America and to five

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## Together at the Table

*(Courtesy of UJF)* United Jewish Federation's Women's Philanthropy will host its Annual Spring Dinner, *Stories We Share, Collective Strength Through Community*, on Thursday, May 7, 2026. The evening promises inspiration, connection, and a celebration of the power of women coming together to uplift and strengthen Jewish life locally and beyond.

The event will feature acclaimed author and podcast host Zibby Owens, whose book *On Being Jewish Now* explores identity, resilience, and the importance of speaking openly about Jewish life today. Through her storytelling and conversation, Owens will reflect on themes that unite communities during challenging times and



Zibby Owens



Aviva Maller

the significance of sharing our voices.

A highlight of the evening will be the presentation of the inaugural Woman of Valor Award to Aviva Maller. This special recognition honors Maller's leadership, dedication, and extraordinary commitment to the Jewish community.

"Her efforts exemplify the spirit of

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## Norma and Milton Mann Memorial Cantor's Concert

*(Courtesy of Temple Beth El)* Temple Beth El is delighted to present its annual Norma and Milton Mann Memorial Cantor's Concert, "Od Yom Yavo / Another Day Will Come," an inspiring evening of Jewish music, community, and hope featuring Noah Aronson & Friends. The concert will take place Sunday, April 26 at 7:00 pm at Temple Beth El.

The program will highlight musical artist Noah Aronson's beloved and widely sung Jewish music through original choral arrangements by composer and arranger Dave Schlossberg. Known for his innovative and expressive work, Schlossberg has taken a fresh and creative approach—re-imagining Aronson's contemporary melodies for choir in ways that are both powerful and deeply

moving.

These choral arrangements were premiered this past summer at the North American Jewish Choral Festival, where they were performed by a festival ensemble of singers and cantors under the direction of Josh Gonzalez. Temple Beth El is thrilled to welcome Gonzalez as the conductor for this concert as well, along with several of

the original singers, bringing these dynamic works to life once again.

A Brooklyn-based composer and performer, Noah Aronson has inspired Jewish communities around the world with music that blends spiritual depth, contemporary sound, and a profound sense

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## Syrian-Born Arab Zionist Meets with Young Leaders

Rawan Osman spent an evening with United Jewish Federation's Ben Gurion Society members, young adults giving over \$1,000 annually to the Annual Campaign. She shared about being raised in a Sunni and Shiite antisemitic home and how an experience in France, while studying in university, shaped her future, including her study of Judaism and her hope to live in Israel. *(See page 14 for article and more photos.)*





## From UJF's Chief Executive Officer Passover and the High Stakes of Freedom

BY DIANE SLOYER

As we gather around our Seder tables this Passover, we are reminded that freedom is both a gift and a challenge. We retell the story of our ancestors' liberation from Egypt, "In every generation, we must see ourselves as if we personally went out of Egypt." As we recall the past, we must remember to act with purpose in the present.

As Jews and allies — and as members of this vibrant Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien community — the story of freedom is deeply personal. We live with the blessing of being able to practice our Judaism openly and proudly. Yet we also live in a time when freedom feels precarious — when antisemitism rises across the globe, when too many are isolated or fearful, and when our sense of shared responsibility can waver under the weight of modern life.

Passover urges us to meet these challenges head-on. Freedom is not simply the absence of oppression — it is the work of building something enduring together. It requires intention, time, engagement, and generosity of spirit. The Israelites' journey didn't end when they left Egypt; that was when the real work began — learning to live as a community bound by faith, compassion, mutual accountability, and acceptance and understanding of others.



Diane Sloyer, UJF CEO

That same work continues here in our Federation's daily mission. Through United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien, we transform gratitude into action — caring for those in need, strengthening Jewish education, nurturing connections with Israel, and preserving Jewish life for generations to come.

Every hour volunteered, every dollar given, every change sparked in our community is an act of sustaining Jewish freedom.

This year, as we celebrate amid uncertainty in the wider world, I am heartened by how our local community continues to stand together. We are reminded that when we show up — for one another, for Israel, for our shared future — we aren't only preserving our freedom; we are living its purpose, living the words never again!

May this Passover inspire each of us to reaffirm our role as builders and guardians of a Jewish community rooted in hope, belonging, and meaning. May we move forward with courage, faith, and the conviction that our collective actions today can help shape a more secure and compassionate tomorrow.

From all of us at United Jewish Federation, Chag Sameach — and may your Passover be filled with moments of gratitude, connection, and renewed purpose.

### Obama Speechwriter Sarah Hurwitz to Discuss Jewish Identity

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continents. Sarah also worked on policy issues impacting young women and girls as a senior advisor to the White House Council on Women and Girls.

Sarah's latest book, *As A Jew: Reclaiming Our Story From Those Who Shame, Blame, and Try To Erase Us*, is an urgent exploration of how antisemitism has shaped Jewish identity and how Jews can reclaim their tradition. Sarah offers audiences a behind-the-scenes look at life in the White House working for one of the most inspiring and influential women in the world. She also shares her advice on effective storytelling, providing concrete tips for how to create a moving, persuasive narrative that breaks through the noise and has a lasting impact.

Before working at the White House, Sarah was a speechwriter for political campaigns, crafting communication for Hillary Clinton, Senator John Kerry, General Wesley Clark, and Senator Tom Harkin. Sarah was also a lawyer at the Washington, DC office of WilmerHale.

She is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School.

Sarah has been profiled in *The Washington Post*, *People.com*, *The Boston Globe*, and *The Guardian*; interviewed on *The Today Show*, *Morning Joe*, *Amanpour & Co.*, and *NPR*. She was featured in *The Forward* as one of 50 Jews who impacted American life in 2016 and 2019.

Sarah authored *Here All Along: Finding Meaning, Spirituality, and a Deeper Connection to Life -- in Judaism (After Finally Choosing to Look There)* which was a finalist for two National Jewish Book Awards and for the Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature.

The annual Danoff lecture series honors longtime Temple Sinai members Joan and the late Dr. Stuart Danoff. It was endowed by their children, Nancy Danoff, Suzy Poneman, and Will Danoff. Register free online at [templesinaistamford.org](http://templesinaistamford.org) to attend in person or to view as a webinar, or register by calling Temple Sinai at 203-322-1649. Temple Sinai is located at 458 Lakeside Drive in Stamford. Refreshments will be served.

## UJF President's Message Confronting Today's Plagues with Courage and Collective Responsibility

BY BEVERLY STEIN

As we gather for our Seders and retell a story that is both ancient and urgently relevant, we are reminded that the plagues of Egypt are more than historical events. They are warnings about what happens when a society loses empathy, ignores suffering, or allows fear to harden its heart. Passover invites us not only to remember but to recognize the plagues that challenge us today and to respond with the moral clarity our tradition demands. Just as in Exodus, we too contend with modern plagues such as division, antisemitism, apathy, and fear that test our courage and our collective responsibility.

Our world feels increasingly fractured. Anger spreads quickly, and differences that should enrich us too often become barriers. Passover teaches that redemption begins when we see one another as part of a shared destiny. Our Federation brings together diverse voices and perspectives, pushing back against this modern plague of division, and strengthening the bonds that hold our community together.

We face a painful rise in antisemitism, both locally and globally. This is not symbolic; it is real and deeply felt. Yet our history teaches resilience. When we stand united, advocate for one another, and refuse to be intimidated, we affirm the enduring strength of the Jewish people.

Apathy is one of the most dangerous plagues of all. The Torah commands us to remember that we were strangers in the land of Egypt. That memory obligates us to act, to support the vulnerable, care for



Beverly Stein, UJF President

the elderly, and ensure that no one in our community is left behind. Compassion is not optional; it is central to who we are.

Fear can paralyze, but Passover reminds us that fear is not the end of the story. The Israelites were afraid, but stepped into the unknown with courage and

hope, trusting that a better future was possible. UJF continues this journey as part of our mission by investing in security, strengthening Jewish identity, and building community that can sustain and uplift us for generations to come.

The challenges of our time are significant, but they are not insurmountable. **As One**, we confront these plagues together. The Federation fosters dialogue, understanding, and collaborative action through community-building events, informative and inspiring programming, and meaningful volunteer opportunities. **As One** reminds us that unity is not about uniformity. It is about embracing diversity and recognizing the strength it brings. **As One**, we can build a stronger Jewish community; one rooted in connection, compassion, and shared purpose.

This Passover, may we each ask: *What plague can I help lift? Whose burden can I help carry? What step toward freedom can I take?* May our story inspire us, our community sustain us, and our shared values guide us toward a future of hope and resilience.

Chag Pesach Sameach.

#### UPCOMING DEADLINE

May-June 2026 Edition  
Deadline: Monday, March 30, 2026

Email submissions to  
[sandy@ujf.org](mailto:sandy@ujf.org)  
You should receive notification that  
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#### CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

April 3 ..... 7:03 pm  
April 10 ..... 7:11 pm  
April 17 ..... 7:18 pm  
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# Leading Advocate, Aviva Klompas, to Address Community

(Courtesy of UJF) United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien is deeply honored to welcome Aviva Klompas, a leader whose voice and vision are helping to shape the future of Israel education and Jewish resilience across North America. She will speak to the community on the evening of April 30.



Aviva Klompas

Aviva Klompas is the co-founder and CEO of Boundless, a nonprofit that is reimagining how Israel is taught and understood at a time of rising antisemitism and polarization. Through education, research, and media, Boundless equips leaders on campuses, in civic life, and in the Jewish community to combat Jew-hatred

and anchor their understanding of Israel in history and facts.

Before launching Boundless, Klompas served as Director of Speechwriting for Israel's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York, helping craft Israel's voice on the world stage during some of the most consequential diplomatic debates of our time. She also brought her strategic insight to government service in Canada, working as a Senior Policy Advisor in the Ontario government, where she supported efforts to resettle Syrian refugees and strengthen vulnerable communities.

She is a prolific writer whose articles have appeared in leading outlets including *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*,

*The Washington Post*, *Newsweek*, *Foreign Policy*, and *The Jerusalem Post*, amplifying thoughtful, fact-based perspectives on Israel, antisemitism, and global Jewish life. She is the author of two books: *Speaking for Israel*, an insider's account of Israeli diplomacy at the UN, and *Stand-Up Nation: Israeli Resilience in the Wake of Disaster*, which highlights Israel's extraordinary record of humanitarian relief and international development.

"At a moment when Jewish communities are confronting a surge in antisemitism and confusion about Israel's story, Klompas's blend of strategic clarity, moral courage, and educational innovation could not be more needed. She brings together the worlds of diplomacy, communal leadership, and ideas, offering our community not only information, but tools to speak up, teach

others, and stand proudly as Jews connected to Israel and the wider world," said United Jewish Federation CEO Diane Sloyer.

"As a community, we are searching for voices that are honest, hopeful, and unafraid—and that is exactly what Aviva Klompas brings," Sloyer continued. "It is a true honor for our Federation to host someone who has spoken for Israel at the United Nations, built innovative approaches to Israel education through Boundless, and devoted her career to strengthening the Jewish people."

Registration is required and participants will be notified of the location closer to the event. Learn more and register at [www.ujf.org/klompas](http://www.ujf.org/klompas).

# An Evening with Schoke JFS: Seeds for Tomorrow

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) "An Evening with Schoke JFS: Seeds for Tomorrow" will take place on Sunday, May 17, 2026, at 5:30 pm at Whispering Oaks (32 Weed Ave, Norwalk, CT). This elegant event will feature cocktails, dinner, dessert, and a celebration honoring community leaders whose work reflects compassion, service, and lasting impact.



Ben Frimmer

Schoke Jewish Family Service will recognize Wheel It Forward, recipient of the 46th Annual Mitzvah Award, and Ben Frimmer, recipient of the Community Service Award. Event Chairs Laura Tobin and Melissa Marlowe-Reiner, together with Auction Chair Meryl Japha, invite guests to an evening centered on connection, recognition, and inspiration.

Set on 66 secluded acres of rolling hills, sweeping lawns, and scenic ponds, Whispering Oaks offers a serene backdrop for the evening. Located in Norwalk, CT, the venue reflects the spirit of Seeds for Tomorrow, the meaningful, lasting impact cultivated through the work of Schoke JFS.

Founded in 2020 in Stamford and inspired by Israel's Yad Sarah, Wheel It Forward operates as a community lending library for durable medical equipment. Wheelchairs, walkers, hospital beds, and shower safety equipment are provided at no cost to families across Fairfield County.

The model is simple and sustainable. Medical equipment is often needed only temporarily and frequently stored or discarded after use. Through careful sanitization and maintenance, these items are redistributed to individuals and families in need. Wheel It Forward now serves more

than 7,000 families annually, manages over 18,000 pieces of equipment, and has kept more than 100,000 pounds of materials out of landfills. With additional branches in Bridgeport, Stratford, Newtown, and North Haven, the organization continues to expand access to essential resources throughout the region.

Ben Frimmer is a TONY-nominated producer and director, veteran theatre educator, and distinguished EMS leader based in Weston, Connecticut. For more than 30 years, his career has blended creativity, leadership, and service across the arts and public safety.

Since 1985, he has served with Westport EMS as a longtime Crew Chief and currently serves as Deputy Chief of Weston Volunteer EMS. As a Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC) and EMS Instructor, he trains police, fire, and EMS professionals throughout Connecticut's Region 1.

Deeply engaged in Jewish communal life, he has served on the board of Temple Israel of Westport and currently participates on its Security Committee. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he served as the congregation's COVID Response Point Person, helping ensure safety and continuity.

In the arts, he is a TONY-nominated producer of *John Proctor Is the Villain* and serves on the producing team for *The Hunger Games On Stage* in London. He also serves on the board of the Westport Country Playhouse and co-chairs its Development Committee, producing charitable concerts benefiting organizations including Schoke JFS.

The evening will include a cocktail reception, dinner, awards presentation,

dessert, paddle raise, and online auction supporting critical programs and services. Tickets are \$275 per person and include dinner and dessert. Dietary laws observed.

To learn more or purchase tickets, visit [www.ctjfs.org/gala](http://www.ctjfs.org/gala). For journal ads or sponsorship opportunities, contact Erika Llanos at 203-921-4161 or [ellanos@ctjfs.org](mailto:ellanos@ctjfs.org).



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# Annual Friendship Day Celebration

(Courtesy of Friendship Circle) Sunday May 17, 2026 (12:30 pm to 3:30 pm) is the date for this year's Friendship Circle of Fairfield County Friendship Day. The Friendship Circle community, including participants and supporters, will come out once again to Westhill High School to support the organization's biggest fundraiser of the year. Friendship Day 2025 surpassed previous

fundraising and participation numbers, and 2026 should be another record-breaking year.

Friends will gather to create team signs and prepare for the ceremonial red ribbon cutting ceremony under the Friendship Circle arch. This will officially kick off the walk portion of the event. Both before and after the walk, everyone will enjoy a wide variety of activities and a free barbecue lunch.

Catering favorite Kivi Attar will return this year, and other food options will include fun snacks of popcorn, pretzels, snow cones and cotton candy.

Volunteers and their special friends, families and the greater community will enjoy face painting, bumper cars, critter caravan and more. Inventor Mentor will be back with his variety of live science

experiments. There are some fun new additions planned for this year as well. Please join for a fun day and to show support for Friendship Circle's mission of inclusion and friendship!

To learn more about the Friendship Circle and how you can become involved, please contact Director Malya Shmotkin at [malya@friendshipct.com](mailto:malya@friendshipct.com)

# Mozaic Senior Life Spring Luncheon

(Courtesy of Mozaic Senior Life) Alyssa Rosenheck, will be the featured speaker

at Mozaic Senior Life's Women's Auxiliary Annual Spring Luncheon & Boutique on Monday, May 18 at Whispering Oaks in Norwalk. The event is co-chaired by Lydia Gerard and Betsy Baron, both of Westport.

Rosenheck is a bestselling author, architectural photographer named Top 50 in the United States by *Architectural Digest*, speaker, delegate, and creative educator. Alyssa works with design clients and travels to conflict zones to document untold stories and advocate for Israel. She empowers others to create bravely, use their voice, and lead with purpose.

Her debut book, *The New Southern Style*, documented how individuals can reframe and humanize their

differences through the lens of creativity, revealing that people are more alike than different. Her forthcoming book, *White. Blonde. Jew.*, is a call to end extremism, reclaim "the center," and speak up with courage in a divided world.

Alyssa is also a voice in the fight against antisemitism and a fearless advocate for Israel. She was honored with the 2025 Hero Against Hate award by the ADL and is a founding member of Artists Against Antisemitism.

An upscale shopping boutique is a highlight of the event which includes a wide range of local and regional vendors with items including jewelry, clothing, gift accessories, and more (for an updated list of vendors go



Alyssa Rosenheck

to [www.mozaicsl.org/donations/womens-auxiliary-donations](http://www.mozaicsl.org/donations/womens-auxiliary-donations)). The Women's Auxiliary receives a percentage of all sales which goes directly to supporting Resident programming.

For over 50 years, the Women's Auxiliary has been dedicated to helping maintain Mozaic Senior Life standards of excellence, ensuring outstanding services, and

funding programming that directly benefits the lives of its Residents and clients.

For further information about the Spring Luncheon & Boutique, please contact Beth Tepper, Development Associate, at (203) 396-100 or [btepper@mozaicsl.org](mailto:btepper@mozaicsl.org). Reservations range from \$150 to \$300.

**THE NEW JEWISH VOICE**

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

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# A Night of Celebration and Community

(Courtesy of Temple Sinai) The Temple Sinai Gala: Casino Night! will take place on Saturday, May 2, 2026 at 6:00 pm at Temple Sinai. This lively evening will bring the congregation together for celebration, connection, and fun while honoring Alan Cohen and Beth Levick, two congregants whose leadership and dedication have had a lasting impact on the Temple Sinai community.

Alan Cohen joined Temple Sinai with his wife Roberta when their children, Claire and Andrew, were young and quickly embraced the synagogue's welcoming culture and strong religious school. Alan became deeply involved, serving on the Religious School Committee, the Board of Trustees, and as Vice President of Ritual before becoming President of Temple Sinai in 2019.

Alan's presidency coincided with the Covid pandemic, a period marked by unprecedented challenges. With steady leadership and collaboration, he guided the congregation through significant change while helping position Temple Sinai for future growth. His tenure included early planning for the Early Childhood Education Center and revitalization of the Religious School, strengthening Sinai's role as a spiritual home for congregants of all ages.

Alan remains an active presence at Temple Sinai through Brotherhood, Men's Book Club, the Jewish Sportsmen's League, and regular Shabbat attendance. As his family celebrates 25 years at Temple Sinai, this honor reflects his deep commitment to the community and its continued vitality.

Beth Levick joined Temple Sinai four years ago with her husband Michael and their son Ari, seeking a spiritual home grounded in connection and shared values. Influenced by a childhood shaped by active synagogue involvement, Beth has devoted her professional and volunteer life to Jewish organizations, social action, and *tikkun olam* (repairing the world.)

Beth currently serves as a Development Executive at UJA-Federation of New York, where she works with the Larchmont/Mamaroneck community and on region-wide initiatives to cultivate donor engagement and strengthen communal ties. At Temple Sinai, Beth is a Trustee on the Board and a member of the Caring Committee, which supports congregants during times of illness, recovery, or loss. She also chairs the Religious School Parent Team, serving as a liaison among clergy, staff, and parents while helping guide the school's strategic vision and goals.



Alan Cohen



Beth Levick

Beth served on Temple Sinai's Strategic Planning Taskforce and represented the congregation at the Behrend Institute for Leadership. Her thoughtful leadership and commitment to building a vibrant Jewish future continue to shape the Temple Sinai community.

The Temple Sinai Gala: Casino Night! will feature cocktails, dinner catered by Marcia Selden Catering, and casino-style entertainment including blackjack, roulette, and craps. The evening will also include a raffle and paddle raise, with all proceeds supporting Temple Sinai's spiritual, educational, and social programming.

To reserve tickets or place a tribute ad in honor of Alan Cohen and Beth Levick, please RSVP at [TempleSinaiStamford.org](http://TempleSinaiStamford.org). For more information, contact Shelly Welfeld at 203-322-1649 or [Shelly@templesinaistamford.org](mailto:Shelly@templesinaistamford.org).

## A Complete Passover Experience at Chabad of Stamford

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) As Passover approaches, Chabad of Stamford is once again providing a full slate of programs, services, and celebrations to make Pesach meaningful, accessible, and joyful for everyone. From hands-on experiences and teen programs to communal Seders and holiday essentials, Chabad enables families and individuals to celebrate with confidence and connection.

The season kicks off on Sunday, March 29, where local teens in grades 9–12 can join a CTeen Party Bus, combining fun, games, and bonding while delivering Shmurah Matzah to the Stamford community.

Chabad also offers Shmurah Matzah for purchase, assistance with the sale of chametz, and encourages participation in *maos chitim*, a charitable mitzvah providing

support to those in need.

Chabad will host Passover Seders on April 1 and 2 at 7:00 pm, featuring traditional cuisine, interactive discussions, and an inclusive atmosphere. Families can also pick up Seder-to-Go kits, which include handmade Shmurah Matzah, an interactive Haggadah (for those who need one), and all Seder plate essentials.

To close the holiday, the community is invited on Thursday, April 9 at 7:00 pm to a festive meal, *Moshiach Seudah*, celebrating both the Exodus and the final redemption, in keeping with the teachings of the Baal Shem Tov.

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

## UConn Stamford Marks Jacobson Library Gift

(Courtesy of UConn Judaic Studies) On April 30, Professor Frederick Roden will interview Jonathan Bohm Jacobson in “From Vienna to Stamford: Maria Bohm Jacobson -- Refugee, Immigrant, Scientist” to commemorate the gift of the Ishier Jacobson Judaica Collection to the UConn Stamford Library. The event is free and open to the public. It will be held in the main auditorium (Room 109) at 5:30 pm.

Maria Bohm Jacobson, z”l, earned degrees in chemistry from Vassar and Northwestern. She married Ishier

Jacobson, z”l, a Harvard engineer and U.S. Navy veteran. They settled in Stamford in 1954. Ishier retired as president and CEO of Citizens Utilities following a 36-year career there. Maria worked at the AMF research and development laboratory on Hope Street for 30 years. She also taught chemistry and physics at the UConn Stamford Campus.

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

### Together at the Table

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

collective strength and service that Women’s Philanthropy seeks to foster, serving as a model for how individual action can create lasting impact. There is no one more deserving,” shared Diane Sloyer, UJF CEO.

Chairing this year’s dinner are Michelle Cait, Valerie Cohen, Elina Furman, and Jennie Fishman.

“There’s just something magical that happens when we’re actually in the same room. Conversations go deeper. People share things they’d never post online. You look up and realize you’re part of something bigger than yourself. There’s just no substitute for being all together

in person,” shared auction co-chair Elina Furman.

The Spring Dinner begins at 6:00 pm with a buffet dinner and tricky tray and silent auction. Due to security concerns, the address will be provided closer to the event but is located in Stamford. Tickets are available at [www.ujf.org/springdinner](http://www.ujf.org/springdinner). Early Bird (through April 23) is \$118. NextGen tickets are \$95 and \$360 sponsorships are available (includes one registration and signed book). As of publication, event sponsors include High Class Limo and the extended Karp family.

For more information on sponsorships or the event, please contact Jillian Moore, Director of Programming & Engagement, at [Jillian@UJF.org](mailto:Jillian@UJF.org).

## Schoke JFS Hosts Yom HaShoah Presentation

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) In recognition of Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), Dr. Shay Pilnik, Director of the Emil A. and Jenny Fish Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Yeshiva University, will speak via Zoom to the Schoke Jewish Family Service Anachnu group on April 28 at 2:00 pm.

Dr. Pilnik’s talk, “October 7: Responses and Realities,” will examine the horrific Hamas terrorist attack of October 7, in which more than 1,200 Israelis were murdered and hundreds of civilians, including women, children, and the elderly, were kidnapped. This massacre was the deadliest attack against Jews since

the Holocaust. The discussion will explore how Holocaust scholars, educators, and activists are responding to these events, and whether drawing comparisons between October 7 and the Holocaust is productive or even appropriate. Dr. Pilnik will also consider how the Gaza war is reshaping Holocaust education and what insights the years 1933–1945 may offer in understanding the present.

The Anachnu program is generously funded by a grant from United Jewish Federation. The program is open to the community. To receive the Zoom link, email Marina Sapir at [msapir@ctjfs.org](mailto:msapir@ctjfs.org).

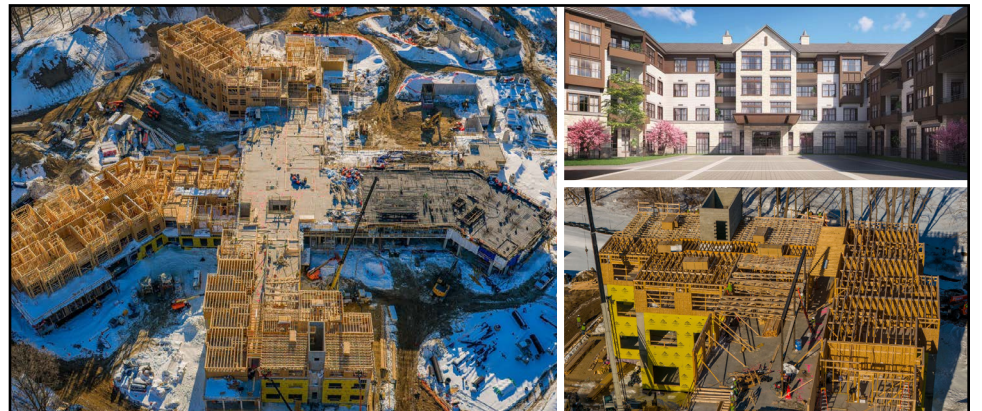


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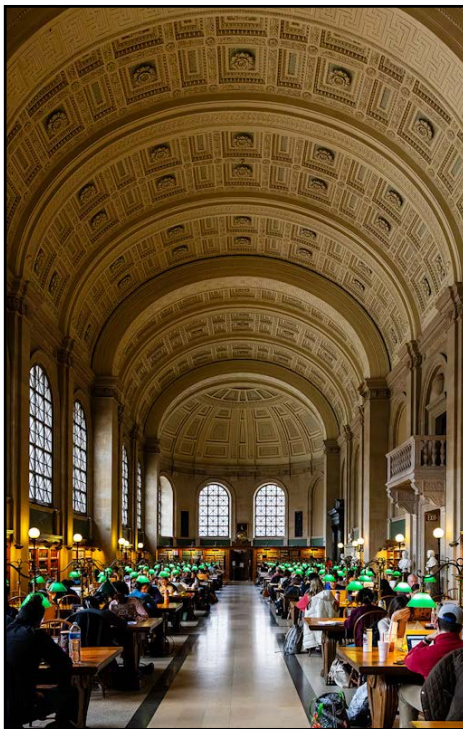
## JCC Photography Exhibition

(Courtesy of JCC) The Stamford JCC invites the community to the Faye and Ben Manger Gallery@The J for an exhibit opening on Thursday, April 16 at 7:00 pm featuring *Community – The Ties That Bind Us*, a photography exhibition by members of the Stamford Photography Club.

This compelling exhibit explores the many ways community shapes everyday life. Through their lenses, photographers capture the spaces and moments where connection happens naturally — neighborhoods, families, teams, places of worship, workplaces, and shared public spaces. The collection highlights the quiet rituals, small gestures, and fleeting interactions that often go unnoticed yet form the foundation of belonging.

The photographs reflect people united by common purpose, traditions passed down through generations, informal friendships, and acts of service and mutual support. They also spotlight the places that anchor us — streets, parks, shops, houses of worship, and gathering spaces — where relationships form and community comes to life.

The Stamford Photography Club's work offers a thoughtful and visual exploration of how connection, tradition, and shared experience bind us together. The exhibit opening provides an opportunity for the



"Quiet Please" (PHOTO CREDIT: NENETTE YU)

public to view the work, meet members of the photography club, and reflect on the many ways community shapes our lives.

This event is open to the community. Please register at [www.stamfordjcc.org](http://www.stamfordjcc.org). For more information, contact Sarah King at [sking@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:sking@stamfordjcc.org).

## Literary Tea with Author Laney Katz Becker

(Courtesy of JCC) The Stamford JCC invites the community to an evening of conversation, literature, and refreshments at its first Literary Tea on Thursday, April 23 at 6:30 pm at the "Literary Tea Salon." Fiction author Laney Katz Becker will share a reading from her novel *In the Family Way* (Harper, 2025), followed by a discussion, audience questions, and

insights into her writing process. Guests will enjoy tea alongside a selection of traditional savory and sweet treats.

This event is open to adults 21 and over. Admission is free for JCC members and \$25 for community participants. For more information, contact Lisa Rosenstein at [Irosenstein@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:Irosenstein@stamfordjcc.org).



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

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

## Make a Difference This Summer!

(Courtesy of UJF) Experience Israel like never before, on an unforgettable 8-day journey, from June 30 to July 9. This unique and transformative adult trip to Israel, focuses on volunteering, making new connections with like-minded community members, and exploring the sights and sounds of Israel.

Taglit Birthright Israel has partnered with United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien (UJF) and UJA-JCC of Greenwich, to offer this highly subsidized trip for the two communities. This exceptional Birthright experience — once limited to college students — is now open to adults of all ages who want to build meaningful relationships, support Israel through volunteering, and stand together

with Israel during this period of rebuilding. Seize this opportunity to make a tangible impact and sow the seeds of change.

The trip will be Tel Aviv based, and will include flights, 4-star hotels, a variety of impactful volunteer activities, a geopolitical update from a notable scholar, day trips to Jerusalem and the Gaza envelope, all breakfasts, and some lunches/dinners. Participants can even extend their stay in Israel for up to 8 days!

Space is extremely limited and filling up quickly. If you'd like to learn more about this trip, please contact UJF Deputy Director Eric Ross at [Eric@ujf.org](mailto:Eric@ujf.org) or (203) 321-1373. Or visit [www.UJF.org/Birthright](http://www.UJF.org/Birthright) to secure your spot today.

## Stamford JCC Hosts Mother's Day Luncheon

(Courtesy of JCC) On Friday, May 1, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm, The Stamford Jewish Community Center will host a community Mother's Day Luncheon. There will be live entertainment as we celebrate and honor all mothers. The luncheon is generously sponsored by Caryl Ferber Poser and Peter Poser in memory of their mothers, Jacqueline Bitterman and Beverly Ferber.

The JCC community luncheon (dietary laws observed) is open to the community and free to those 60+ (suggested \$6 donation) and \$15 for those 59 and below. The luncheon is presented in partnership with Catholic Charities.

Attendees can register online at [www.stamfordjcc.org](http://www.stamfordjcc.org) or contact Lisa Rosenstein at 203-487-0986 or at [Irosenstein@stamfordjcc.org](mailto:Irosenstein@stamfordjcc.org).

### Norma and Milton Mann Memorial Cantor's Concert

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of connection. His songs have become staples in synagogues, camps, and concert halls, inviting audiences into moments of joy, reflection, and shared meaning.

The evening will also feature a collaboration between Noah Aronson and

Temple Beth El's own Cantor Katie Kaplan, adding a deeply personal and communal dimension to the performance.

Join us for an unforgettable celebration of music, collaboration, and hope—*od yom yavo, another day will come*.

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



TBE Cantor Katie Kaplan (third from left) with conductor Josh Gonzalez (far left), composer Dave Schlossberg (second from left), musical artist Noah Aronson (far right), and the Choral Ensemble.

# Partnerships Lead to Victory in CT Legislature

**BY GARY JONES**  
**UJF JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL DIRECTOR**



Gary Jones

With antisemitism on the rise, a consistent challenge remains in our public schools.

All seven Federations across Connecticut have worked to enact a bill to establish a working group of experts to address the growing problem of antisemitism in our K-12 schools. That effort has been ongoing for more than a year.

The working group bill was passed overwhelmingly as part of an omnibus education bill last spring, but died when the Senate did not address the omnibus bill before the end of the 2025 legislative session.

The working group bill, which is designed to address school-based antisemitism, should not be controversial.

But efforts by an ad hoc “Freedom to Learn” coalition, comprised principally of people whose desire is to spread hatred of Israel, argued loudly, in the press, in email campaigns and at the Capitol, that the working group bill should be pulled from the omnibus bill because, in their view, efforts to address antisemitism would result in the limitation of free speech.

All Federations, along with ADL and grassroots groups, worked with untold numbers of legislators to let them know how important the working group bill is to our community. We had champions in both houses who worked ceaselessly to fight efforts to scuttle the bill and to resist attempts to appoint members to the working group who would not be interested in protecting our students.

The Federations led an email campaign enabling Jewish community members throughout the State to contact their

legislators to confirm the importance of the bill. Together, we sent more than 80,000 messages. Thank you to the many of you who supported that effort.

In addition, each Federation circulated a clergy letter to all Jewish community clergy in its service area to document the unanimity of our Jewish community in supporting the working group bill. I am so proud to say that every community Rabbi and Cantor in Stamford, New Canaan and Darien signed the letter. UJF is grateful for their unanimous support, proving we are stronger together.

The Senate, and then the House, overwhelmingly voted to adopt the omnibus bill, which included the working group bill.

Throughout this process, some had expressed concerns that the Jewish community might not have the support and the tools to stand up for us. This united effort proves that when we work together and don't shrink from the fight, we have both the support and the tools we need to win the fight.

We are pleased to report that Governor Ned Lamont signed the working group bill into law on March 3.

We will be involved in presenting a slate of recommendations as to the specific people who will join the working group. The working group itself will make the recommendations designed to attack the problem of growing antisemitism. We are proud to say our legislature has overwhelmingly passed what many believe to be the most important legislation for the Jewish community in quite some time.

To learn more, contact Gary Jones, UJF's JCRC Director at [gary@ujf.org](mailto:gary@ujf.org).



UJF JCRC Director Gary Jones in the CT State Capital building with colleagues, spending two long days lobbying for the K-12 working group on antisemitism.

# First Statewide Jewish Advocacy Conference

(Courtesy of UJF) United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien (UJF) sent a strong delegation to the first ever Blue, White and Red Conference, a full day at the Connecticut State Capitol on March 9. This conference was designed to unite the statewide Jewish community, provide advocacy tools and meet with Connecticut legislative leaders.

The conference, convened and planned by Ari Schafer, a grassroots Jewish leader from West Hartford, was attended by approximately 100 Jewish activists from across the State. Nearly 20 of those activists came from UJF's service area, including students from Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy. UJF helped to ensure that our community was so well represented by offering to cover registration fees.

After a kickoff speech by Senator Richard Blumenthal, the morning was spent in training the participants on how to be successful advocates. UJF's Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) Director Gary Jones moderated one of the panels. During the afternoon, participants met with legislators from across the state.

In describing the importance of the conference, Gary said, “I'm proud that UJF is taking a lead role in the critically important effort to expand the number of informed and fearless Jewish community activists throughout Connecticut. Our Federations and other Jewish organizations need all the support we can get to ensure that the Jewish community can overcome the challenges that lie ahead.”



U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal (center) with (l-r) Natasha Konstorum, UJF JCRC director Gary Jones, UJF President Beverly Stein, Sharon Lewis, and Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy students.



BCHA students and JCRC director Gary Jones (far right) with Governor Ned Lamont.

## Celebrating Purim at RPM Raceway

(Courtesy of UJF) Purim brought together young Jewish adults for an evening of celebration, costumes, and community. The event was organized in collaboration with United Jewish Federation, Mem Global, Young & Jewish - Chabad of Harbor Point, Stamford Jewish Experience, and Jewish

Twenties & Thirties, creating a festive space to celebrate Purim and connect with one another. With creative costumes, games, and a lively atmosphere, the evening highlighted the spirit of Purim and the power of community when people come together.



Remy McFadden, Ariella Goldstein, and Sarah Greenberg



Leah Jacobson, Sivan Niv, and Sophie Jacobson



Adam Rosen, Theodore Lopatin, and Jared Casden



Aubri Doughty, Adam Beizer, Sarina Cohn, and Ilana Krebs

## Temple Sinai's Purim Extravaganza gets WICKED

(Courtesy of Temple Sinai) On Sunday March 1, Temple Sinai held its annual Purim Extravaganza. Clergy and staff performed an adapted version of the Megillah, spoofing the box office smash movie and musical *Wicked*, to the delight of religious school students and parents. Lyrics were changed to songs like "Defying Gravity" and "For Good" to fit the story, and the words were projected on a screen so the audience could sing along. After the raucous performance, congregants were treated to a hamantaschen

tasting, moon-bounces, popcorn, games, prizes, and absurd amounts of pizza. Fun was had by all!



Shelly Welfeld with Mishloach Manot



Temple Sinai clergy and staff parody Wicked



Temple Sinai's Carnival atmosphere

## Purim Joy at Chabad of Stamford

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Chabad's Purim Bash welcomed 350-plus guests with kids' and adults' Megillah readings, a bar with signature cocktails, DJ, giant LED robot, and gourmet pizza.

Over 400 attended Purim in Candyland, enjoying a festive carnival with cotton candy, candy sushi, face painting, spin-art, hamantaschen, bounce candy castles, and engaging Megillah readings for all ages.

At Gan, 164 children celebrated with a bubble show and masquerade and to close out Purim, Chabad hosted an after-party *Farbrengen* (joyous gathering). Between celebrations, Chabad delivered



Sweet smiles and even sweeter treats at Chabad of Stamford's Purim in Candyland.

1,100 Mishloach Manot with personalized greeting letters from sponsors. Special thanks to all who supported, volunteered, and raised funds for the needy locally, in Israel, and on an IDF base.

## Temple Beth El Streams Purim Joy with "PurimFlix"

(Courtesy of Temple Beth El) Temple Beth El of Stamford and Congregation Beth El of Norwalk celebrated Purim together on March 2 with "PurimFlix," a festive evening inspired by popular Netflix and streaming favorites.

Held at Temple Beth El, the event welcomed approximately 150 participants for an evening of costumes, music, and hands-on activities. Guests enjoyed themed moments inspired by shows such as *Bridgerton*, *Stranger Things*, and *The Great British Baking Show*, along with a Keshet youth performance and a communal Megillah reading.

In the spirit of *matanot la'evyonim* (gifts to the poor), families assembled and delivered more than 100 bag lunches to a local shelter.



Sylvan Pomerantz with grandchildren Addie and Camilla.

The event blended tradition, creativity, and a touch of streaming-inspired fun to celebrate one of the most joyful holidays on the Jewish calendar.

## Chabad of Stamford Brings Purim Joy to the IDF

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Chabad of Stamford is grateful to the Stamford community who once again sponsored a joyous Purim party on an army base in Israel, complete with Megillah readings, Mishloach Manot, and a spirit of celebration.

For Leah Shemtov, "While we celebrate here at home, we never forget the true purpose of Purim: to celebrate Jewish pride, continuity, and the resilience of our people. At the forefront of protecting our brothers and sisters in Israel, are the brave men and women of the IDF."



## Purim Festivities at BCHA

(Courtesy of Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy) Students and staff celebrate Purim at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy with a festive parade around the school, featuring costumes, dancing, and music as the school community gathers for the holiday celebration.



## Little Hands, Big Purim Spirit at Young Israel

(Courtesy of UJF) Before the Megillah reading at Young Israel of Stamford, United Jewish Federation (UJF) Community Shlichah Eden Refaelovich, together with Ro Wexler and emissaries (“banot”) from Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy (BCHA), Eden and Herut, led a joyful Purim craft activity for the kids, filling the room with creativity, laughter, and holiday spirit. The children enjoyed exchanging *mishloach manot*, along with snacks and lollipops, and had fun making crowns and festive Purim crafts together.



UJF Community Shlichah Eden Refaelovich, dressed as Super Israel, crafting together with the kids at Young Israel.



Children at Young Israel celebrate Purim and enjoy the holiday spirit in costumes with UJF Community Shlichah Eden (center) and the Israeli emissaries to BCHA, Eden and Herut (kneeling).

## Purim with Chabad at Harbor Point

(Courtesy of Chabad at Harbor Point) Purim was filled with joy, meaning, and community throughout the day. Chabad of Harbor Point brought Purim cheer and *l'chaim* to those who were homebound, and held a special celebration with the residents at Brighton Gardens Senior Living, which left everyone uplifted and smiling.

The community then gathered for a Purim feast, with delicious food, joyful music, and Megillah reading and inspiring words of wisdom from Rabbi Deren until the wee hours of the morning.

Purim concluded with an epic Young & Jewish Purim party together with United Jewish Federation, MemGlobal, Stamford Jewish Experience, and Jewish Twenties and



Purim celebration at Brighton Gardens Senior Home

Thirties of Schoke Jewish Family Service. It was a great evening at RPM Raceway filled with arcades, games, drinks, and most importantly the chance to bond and connect with one another.

It truly felt like celebrating Purim with extended family.



Purim feast with Rabbi Yisrael and Morah Vivi Deren



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## UJF's Allocations

UJF's allocation's committee, chaired by Jessie Brand, met in January to allocate the funds raised in the 2025 Annual Campaign. Committee members included: Neal Behrend, Meryl Japha, Rhonda Schaeffer-Maron, and Beverly Stein.

### UJF Annual Campaign Strengthens and Supports Jewish Community

JCC Arts & Entertainment	\$53,000
Friendship Circle Inclusion Fair	\$10,400
BCHA Support Services	\$78,400
BCHA Community Chesed	\$28,000
SJFS Senior Care Navigator	\$13,100
SJFS Mental Health for Adolescents	\$45,000
SJFS/UJF Holocaust Survivor Emergency Fund	\$28,000
SJFS Holiday Food Distribution	\$16,000
SJFS Anachnu Back Together	\$22,000
CAS Jewish Experience	\$9,000
TS Educational Programming	\$18,000
YIS Summer Youth Program	\$11,500
TBE Mitzvah Makers	\$15,000
UCONN Hillel Shabbat	\$11,200
Communal Scholarships	\$65,000

## UJF Initiatives That Impact Our Community

Impact, Engagement, & Outreach	<b>\$68,000</b>
Yom HaShoah	<b>\$7,000</b>
PJ Library	<b>\$21,800</b>
Shalom Welcome	<b>\$15,000</b>
Life & Legacy	<b>\$105,000</b>
JCRC	<b>\$98,000</b>
Community Shaliach/Shlichah	<b>\$92,000</b>
New Jewish Voice	<b>\$89,200</b>
Communal Security	<b>\$161,300</b>
One Happy Camper	<b>\$15,000</b>
UJF Infrastructure	<b>\$385,000</b>

## Israel and Overseas

### Israel and Overseas: \$250,000

Rebuild Israel is a commitment to Israel's recovery and renewal. Our impact is felt through the combined impact of Federations' support for The Jewish Agency and JDC's vital work; partnerships which crisscross the country; and initiatives which are caring for reservists and their families, restoring agriculture, strengthening mental health and education, and revitalizing local economies. Federations are working together to help Israel to recover and flourish in the years ahead.

### Ben Gurion Society: \$50,000

Ben Gurion Society (BGS) members had the unique opportunity to help allocate 50% of the total funds raised by the group during the 2025 annual campaign. The committee including Lauren Esses, Micky Reich, Shira Schwartz, Wendy Siegel, Eitan Ulmer, Nava Ulmer, Greg Waldstreicher, Shushannah Walshe, and Tova Weinstock voted to designate \$50,000 to Emunah Children's Home in Afula, Israel. The BGS will fund the construction of a new playground for the children served by Emunah, creating a safe and joyful space where kids can play.

## Bits & Pieces



Sandy Golove

### BY SANDY GOLOVE

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

### MAZEL TOV TO GROWING FAMILIES:

**Anna & Evan Goldberg** on the birth of a son.  
**Corey & Zach Ungar** on the birth of a son, Cooper Harrison Ungar.  
**Shira & Joshua Goldhirsch** on the birth of a son, Oliver Goldhirsch; and to grandparents, Nurit & Mark Wexler and great grandparents, Debbie & Ben Soifer.  
**Jessica & Elie Niedober** on the birth of a daughter; and to the grandparents, Sherry & Bennet z"l Kfare and

Irwin N. & Jean Niedober.

### MAZEL TOV ON MARRIAGES/ENGAGEMENTS:

**Robyn & Jerome Alper** on the marriage of their son, Zachary Alper to Christiana Poli.  
**Sara & Nathan Baruch** on the engagement of their granddaughter, Nicole Hanna to Shay David.  
**Sharon & Jeff Pardo** on the marriage of their daughter, Moriah Pardo to Theodore "Ted" Stanton.  
**Lillian & Sandy Shapiro** on the engagement of their grandson, Elchnan Yaakov Shapiro to Shira Kornblit.

### MAZEL TOV TO B'NEI MITZVAH:

**Max Kahen**: son of Karen Grushka & Keivan Kahen.  
**Suri Nayini**: daughter of Elise Feldman &

**Deepa Nayini**.  
**Carolina Patel**: daughter of Elisabeth Hershman & Raj Patel.  
**Alexander Siegel**: son of Wendy & Jared Siegel.  
**Ella Stolarsky**: daughter of Lindsey Rossler-Stolarsky & Tomer Stolarsky.

### WE MOURN THE LOSS OF:

**Baruch Avidan**: father of Ron Avidan.  
**Marianne Barel**: sister of Albert Bensimon.  
**Paula Eppinger**: long time member of Temple Sinai.  
**Marilyn Funtleyder**: mother of Jill Teich, Scott Funtleyder and Leslie Keyles.  
**Alex Kramer**: mother of Patrick Kramer.  
**Dorothy Wohlstetter Landress**: mother of Ilene Landress and Barbara Landress.  
**Rita C. Lerner**: mother of Gregg Lerner, Susan Lerner and Mark Lerner.  
**Joel P. Mellis**: husband of Ellen Mellis; and

father of Jon Mellis, James Mellis and Elizabeth Tumminello.  
**David Singer**: husband of Judy Singer; and father of Jonathan Singer z"l, Jeremy Singer, Alisa Schwartz and Michael Singer.  
**Henna Tatham**: mother of Sarah Hochman, Rachel Cohen and Ben Tatham.  
**Dorothy Trief**: mother of Frank Trief.  
**Charles Winer**: brother of Stephen Winer.  
**Herbert Yaverbaum**: husband of Judith Yaverbaum z"l; and father of Faith Borkowsky and Karen Gordon.  
 Our apologies on last month's listing. **CORRECTION**: CAS Youth Directors: Rivky Kolodny & Aryeh Klein on their engagement. Rivky is the daughter of Chani & Binyomin Kolodny. Aryeh is the son of Rachel Dratch & Rabbi Frederick Klein.

## Thinking of You...

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



## MAZEL TOV

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

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



## A Message from UJF's Community Shlichah Between Two Homes

### BY EDEN REFAELOVICH

This past February, I had the chance to return home to Israel for a very special reason: my identical twin sister's wedding.

At first, I was hesitant to travel. There was already a sense in the air that something bigger might be coming, and conversations about a possible war were everywhere. Still, family *simchas* (happy celebrations) are moments you simply cannot miss. The wedding itself was beautiful and full of joy, with nearly 500 guests celebrating together. My sister was a stunning bride, and as identical twins, people kept getting confused and asking if I was the one getting married.

I spent about two weeks in Israel surrounded by family, friends, and my dog Kai. Between the Henna – Moroccan pre-wedding celebration, the *Mikveh* (ritual bath), *Shabbat Chatan* (a celebration in Sephardic



Eden Refaelovich

customs the Shabbat following the wedding), and of course the wedding, I also took time to travel across the country and fell in love with Israel all over again.

I played tour guide for a friend visiting for the first time, traveling to Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Eilat, the Dead Sea, Haifa, and more. Even though I have lived in Israel my entire life, there were places I had never been before. At one point, I even rode a camel.

Throughout the trip there was a shared feeling among Israelis that a war was approaching fast. It wasn't a question of if, but when. As my return date approached, I struggled with the thought of leaving my family during such an uncertain time. But after a two-day delay because of the snowstorm on the East Coast, I finally made it back. Just

two days later, the war began and the skies closed in Israel.

I am grateful to be here with my second family and deeply appreciate everyone who checked in and cared. And still, a part of my heart remains in Israel with my family, my friends, my people.

Living between two homes is both beautiful and complicated. I leave the home here to visit the home there, and just when I settle into life there again, surrounded by

family and lifelong friends, it is time to leave and return here. But having two homes on opposite sides of the world is something I never take for granted. Because home is not only a place, but also the people who surround you and make you feel that you belong. And thanks to both communities in my life, I truly do.

I am already looking forward to my next visit.



Eden's family.

UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION'S  
WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY

# Annual Spring Dinner

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WOMAN OF VALOR AWARD RECIPIENT

**Aviva Maller**

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Event Chairs: Michelle Cait and Valerie Cohen  
Auction Chairs: Jennie Fishman and Elina Furman



## A Flavorful Journey through Sephardic Kitchens

(Courtesy of Agudath Sholom) On Saturday evening, February 21, Congregation Agudath Sholom hosted its third annual “Middle Feastern,” a gastronomic fundraiser supporting its growing Sephardic Minyan. The shul’s traditional kiddush space, the Social Hall, was transformed with warm ambiance, bright colors and fragrant aromas that welcomed the community to partake in the Sephardic food and mood.

The Agudath Sholom Sephardic Minyan was launched approximately ten years ago and has since become a vibrant and meaningful addition to Agudath’s life. Today, it is a weekly feature of the shul’s expanding Shabbat minyan offerings.

The event, open to the entire community, welcomed over 150 attendees who came to savor culinary treasures spanning from Morocco to India. Chairwoman Meredith Cohen delighted the crowd with kubba

burghul b’siniyah, an Iraqi dish of meat, bulgur and pine nuts, fragrantly spiced with allspice and nutmeg.

Approximately twenty chefs participated. Intergenerational families recreated treasured recipes from their grandmothers’ Mizrahi, Levantine and North African kitchens as well as passionate home cooks inspired by their husbands’ cultural roots. Main dishes included Bombay chicken curry, hamim, kebab graz, and polo keshmesh while desserts featured torta de cielo, roscas and maamoul. Each offering was layered, aromatic, and bursting with flavor. Veteran chef Rosa Rastegar, who prepares Persian delights each Middle Feastern, as well as for many Sephardic minyan Shabbat kiddushim, finds the event meaningful because, “It feels like being reconnected and reunited with my extended family.”

Synagogue member, Ora Burstein, who



“Middle Feastern” chefs (standing l-r) Aviva Maller, Eve Steinmetz, Elise Lerner, Judi Janette, Rochel Attar, Jessica Dulitz, Angele Hanna, Meredith Cohen, Rosa Rastegar, Meg Haron, and Ariel Yusupov. (Kneeling) Anat Chavkin and Kayla Mazer.

has attended the event for several years says she comes because, “I love to experience the diversity of the Jewish people. I enjoy the tasty recipes that are so different from the typical Ashkenazi food. But mostly, I appreciate the stories of how families came here to Stamford from all corners of the

world. The escapes from tyrannical countries are eye opening.”

When asked what she loves about the event, fellow member Toby Lazarus said, “I love learning about and tasting the different

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

## Young Israel Annual Gala Celebrates Community

(Courtesy of Young Israel of Stamford) On Sunday, February 22, the Young Israel of Stamford held its annual gala brunch at the Stamford Nature Center, gathering members against a snowy winter backdrop. The event, centered on the theme of past, present, and future, served both as a celebration of the community’s history and a look ahead to what comes next.

The brunch brought together families of all ages, underscoring the synagogue’s intergenerational character. After a communal meal, the formal program highlighted how the congregation has grown.

Reflecting on the past, speakers Seth Linzer and Kimmie Warmflash shared memories from the synagogue’s early years. Their stories of youth programs held in unfinished basement spaces, improvised activities, and members stepping in to help one another, illustrated how the community was built through volunteerism, warmth, and

persistence rather than polish or resources.

The present was addressed by Tyler Kremberg and Annie Watman, who spoke about what continues to draw them to Young Israel of Stamford today. They emphasized the synagogue’s welcoming culture, accessible Torah learning, and the importance of everyday moments such as being invited for a Shabbat meal, receiving help during a busy life stage, or feeling noticed and included. Their remarks made clear that the strength of the congregation lies less in numbers and more in connection.

Looking ahead to the future, the program honored three graduating seniors, Rochelle Lowenstein, Nando Ivri, and Ari Rosenfeld, for their leadership in the synagogue’s youth groups. Miri Young, herself a teen, spoke about the impact the honorees have had on younger children and the example they set for the next generation.

In closing remarks, co-president Toby Ring spoke about the synagogue’s next



Young Israel Leaders with Youth Honorees (l-r): Toby Ring, Young Israel Co-President, Rochelle Lowenstein, Miri Young, Nando Ivri, Ari Rosenfeld, and Rabbi Eli Kohl.

chapter, encouraging members to see themselves as builders, not only of a physical space, but of a community sustained by involvement and shared purpose. He noted that the congregation is in the early stages of a building campaign and looks forward to sharing more details with the broader community in the coming months. The effort was framed as an investment in people and

continuity, rather than simply a construction project.

As dessert and coffee closed out the afternoon, the mood was one of optimism and intention. The gala brunch underscored that Young Israel of Stamford’s story is still unfolding, shaped by families, volunteers, and leaders working together to ensure a strong and welcoming future.

## Ben Gurion Society Welcomes Rawan Osman

(Courtesy of UJF) Members of the Ben Gurion Society gathered for an intimate and thought-provoking conversation with Rawan Osman, a Syrian-born, German activist, writer, and content creator who advocates for normalization with Israel.

Drawing from her personal journey, from being raised in Lebanon to building her life in Germany as a self-described Arab Zionist, Osman shared candid reflections on antisemitism, identity, and the complexities of advocating for Israel today. Since October 7th, she has traveled to Israel 16 times and has emerged as one of the leading voices

in support of Israel. Her powerful story sparked meaningful dialogue and thoughtful questions, creating space for honest conversation and deeper understanding.

This event reflects the Federation’s ongoing commitment to fostering connection, leadership, and meaningful engagement, among the next generation of philanthropists in the Ben Gurion Society.

The Ben Gurion Society is a national



Teressa Herman, Nava Ulmer, Rachel Waldstreicher, Robin Fischel, and Stacy Soffer.



Nate Pava, Nathan Mandelbaum, and Lee Soffer.



Guest Speaker Rawan Osman (left) with Tova Reich and NextGen Chair, Micky Reich

leadership development and recognition program for young adults (typically ages 22 to 45) who make a minimum annual gift of \$1,000 to UJF’s Annual Campaign. Named

for Israel’s first Prime Minister, the goal is to foster philanthropy and community leadership through exclusive networking, educational, and social events.

## Temple Sinai Gives Well-Deserved Recognition

*(Courtesy of Temple Sinai)* At the beginning of February this year, Temple Sinai launched a new initiative to recognize congregants who go above and beyond in their service efforts. Aply dubbed "Volunteer Spotlight," a monthly temple-wide email (along with complementary social posts) features one such individual and the organization or cause they champion. It tells the story of how they were initially connected with the cause, what motivates them, and their accomplishments. And Temple Sinai is deeply proud of everything their congregants have accomplished thus far.

Service is a vital piece of Temple Sinai's ethos. According to Temple Sinai leadership, the temple and its congregants are viewed, first and foremost, as a part of a greater Jewish community. The pervading thought is that the more one gives to this community, the more one reaps, and that bonds are forged through the act of service. Therefore, congregants aren't just performing much-needed mitzvahs, they are developing connections and deepening their investment in each other.

Temple Sinai lay leaders Lisa Silver and Amy Fischer, the co-architects of this initiative, have had no trouble finding people to spotlight. They both credit Sinai's culture, which attracts generous, caring people who are more than willing to use their talents to further worthy causes.

The inaugural spotlight highlighted Marian Freed, whose work with the New Covenant Center helped alleviate hunger right here in Stamford, where 15% of the population is food insecure. Most notably, she organizes the yearly Christmas Dinner



Marian Freed, inaugural Volunteer Spotlight honoree



Tamra Lichtman, second Volunteer Spotlight honoree

event, a 33-year Sinai tradition, which serves those who otherwise would be alone on Christmas. 160 meals were served this past December.

The second spotlight focused on Tamra Lichtman, whose work with Dignity Grows, a program of United Jewish Federation, has provided literally thousands of feminine hygiene products to women who struggle to afford them. Over 40% of American women are affected by period poverty. Alongside her fellow volunteers, Tamra helped to raise \$17,000 towards the cost of distributing 3,060 hygiene tote bags.

Inspiring work, both. And to Silver and Fischer, that is the point. On top of providing a platform to celebrate these individuals, the hope is to move other congregants in the community to get motivated and get involved. These Volunteer Spotlights provide the perfect example of the initiative and leadership of which the Temple Sinai community is capable.

Temple Sinai leadership expresses gratitude to not only their Volunteer Spotlights, but anyone willing to make a difference, both big and small.

## BCHA Student Receives Prestigious Awards

*(Courtesy of Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy)* Adam Daniel, a senior at Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy, recently captured two of the nation's most prestigious academic awards, being named both a National Merit Scholarship Finalist and a U.S. Presidential Scholar. This recognition also marks the third year in a row that BCHA has produced students recognized at the national level for exceptional achievement.



Adam Daniel

students for outstanding academic performance, leadership, and service.

Daniel's recognition reflects his dedication to challenging coursework and academic excellence. It also highlights BCHA's commitment to nurturing student potential through mentorship, rigorous programs, and a supportive community.

BCHA celebrates Daniel as part of a growing legacy of students reaching the highest levels of national distinction. Beyond high school, he will attend the University of Pennsylvania next fall to study mechanical engineering.

The National Merit Scholarship Program honors the top-performing high school students nationwide, representing less than one percent of graduating seniors. The U.S. Presidential Scholars program recognizes

## A Taste of Israel with Temple Sinai Brotherhood

*(Courtesy of UJF)* United Jewish Federation Community Shlichah Eden Refaelovich brought the flavors of Israel to Temple Sinai's Brotherhood during a hands-on cooking evening. Eden, who comes from a Moroccan family, shared the unique spice blend Ras El Hanout, which was used in

their arayas (crispy meat-stuffed pita), and taught participants how to prepare authentic Israeli shakshuka from her monthly recipe series - "From the Shlichah's Kitchen." The evening ended with everyone sharing the meal and enjoying the wonderful flavors together.



UJF Community Shlichah Eden Refaelovich with Temple Sinai Brotherhood.

**NEXTGEN**  
**YOM HA'ATZMAUT**  
**HOUSEPARTY**

**CELEBRATE YOM HA'ATZMAUT WITH THE NEXTGEN COMMUNITY.**

JOIN US FOR A LIVELY EVENING OF CONNECTION, FUN, AND COMMUNITY, FEATURING FESTIVE ISRAELI-INSPIRED FOOD, DRINKS, AND GREAT COMPANY.

\$36/PERSON THROUGH APRIL 6TH  
 \$50/PERSON AFTERWARDS  
 \$180 SPONSORSHIP (INCLUDES TWO TICKETS)

REGISTER TODAY:  
[UJF.ORG/YHNEXTGEN](http://UJF.ORG/YHNEXTGEN)

**APRIL 18**  
**8:30 PM**

AT A PRIVATE HOME  
 DIETARY LAWS OBSERVED

HOST COMMITTEE:  
 CAROLINE MARCIANO,  
 STACY & LEE SOFFER,  
 AVI TEPLINSKY,  
 RACHEL & GREG WALDSTREICHER,  
 TOVA WEINSTOCK & MICKY REICH.



# Using Financial Literacy to Break the Cycle of Debt

*(Courtesy of Schoke JFS)* For many individuals and families, debt is not the result of poor choices, but of limited access to financial education, predatory systems, and ongoing economic instability. Without addressing these root causes of financial vulnerability, hardship can persist across generations. To help break this cycle, the Case Management Program at Schoke Jewish Family Service (Schoke JFS) is partnering with volunteer financial professionals in the community to expand access to meaningful financial education.

Financial literacy is a critical component of long-term stability. Many people are never taught how credit works, how to build and manage a budget, how to interpret loan terms, or how to prepare for unexpected expenses. As a result, individuals may rely on high-interest credit cards, payday loans, or other short-term solutions that compound financial strain over time. By collaborating with these financial volunteers, Schoke JFS aims to provide accurate, practical guidance tailored to the real challenges clients face.

A financial consultant volunteer offers specialized expertise in budgeting, debt management, credit repair, savings strategies, and long-term financial education. Schoke JFS plans to host educational seminars and workshops focused on building foundational knowledge and practical skills. These sessions will explore what financial literacy means, how it applies to everyday life, and how new strategies can be implemented in manageable, realistic ways.

A collaboration with volunteer Terrence Gibbons of Granite Group Advisors will help launch this initiative, shifting the perception of financial education from a luxury service to an accessible tool for empowerment and equity, while giving individuals the confidence to navigate financial systems that can often feel overwhelming.

The long-term benefits of financial literacy are substantial. Individuals who understand how to manage credit, avoid predatory lending, build emergency savings, and plan for future goals are better positioned to achieve lasting stability. Over



*(l-r)* Hannah Pollack, Interim Director of Behavioral Services; Poonam Gunjal, intern; Terrence Gibbons of Granite Group Advisors; Erika Llanos, Senior Development Manager; and Elizabeth Alfiero, intern, meet to discuss the new partnership and strategies to support clients through financial literacy initiatives.

time, greater financial knowledge can reduce reliance on crisis-based assistance and support a transition from short-term relief to sustainable, self-directed outcomes. Communities become more resilient when individuals have the tools to make informed financial decisions.

Breaking the cycle of debt requires more than temporary solutions; it requires education, partnership, and opportunity.

Through this initiative, Schoke JFS is working to create a more holistic support model that addresses both immediate needs and long-term financial security. Financial literacy education does more than explain numbers, it builds confidence, restores agency, and opens pathways to lasting economic independence.

If you're interested in learning more, contact Hannah Pollack at [hpollack@ctjfs.org](mailto:hpollack@ctjfs.org), 203-921-4161.

## United Jewish Federation Honor Roll Corrections

*(Courtesy of UJF)* United Jewish Federation wants to extend our deepest apologies to our valued donors for the errors that appeared in our recent Honor Roll. We greatly appreciate your generosity and value your commitment to our community, and we regret that some of those acknowledgments were not recorded as intended. Unfortunately, glitches in our data system led to mistakes that we did not catch before publication. Please know we are taking immediate steps to correct these issues and ensure our records reflect every donor's contribution accurately. Your trust and partnership mean everything to us.

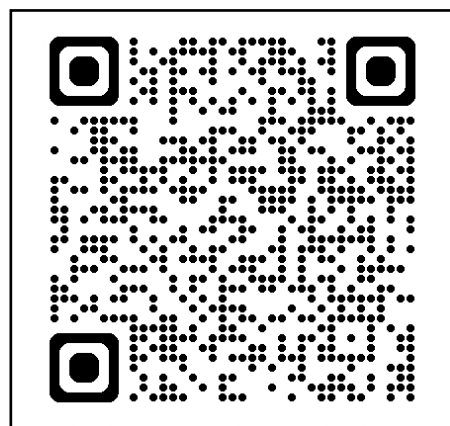
**THE FOLLOWING DONORS WERE INADVERTENTLY OMITTED FROM THE PRINTED HONOR ROLL.**

**Joshua Society \$10,000-\$24,000**

- Joseph Field
- Marilyn & Irving Goldblum
- Caryn Halbrecht & Tomas Haendler
- Leslie & Michael Moskowitz
- Devorah Society \$5,000-\$9,999**
- Carri & Alan Barnett
- Zoe & Harry Chiel
- Drs. Kayla and Leon Hanna
- Tikun Olam Society \$1,800-\$4,999**
- Jessie and David Brand
- Alix Field
- Tricia & Rob Hoff
- High Class Limo
- Elizabeth & Scott Krowitz
- Dinah Miller Marlowe & Seth Marlowe

- Nancy & Gary Schulman
- Edwin Schechter
- Rachel & Greg Waldstreicher
- Lauren & Joe Zalis
- Dor L'Dor Society \$1,000-\$1,799**
- Jodi & Richard Boxer
- Diane & Rabbi Daniel Cohen
- Lisa & Jonathan Daniel
- Dr. Stephanie Goldpin
- Elayne Jassey
- Shushannah Walshe & Ari Yasgur
- Chaverim-Friends \$500-\$999**
- Carol & Wilfred Brewer
- Jackie & Marshall Kurland
- Dr. Anne Peskin
- Marlene Sandhu
- Gloria & Steven Simon
- Marian Weinberg

To see the full 2025 UJF Honor Roll, please visit [www.ujf.org/Our-Donors](http://www.ujf.org/Our-Donors) or scan the QR code below.



## Schoke JFS Anachnu Participant Shares His Story

*(Courtesy of Schoke JFS)* Ernest Nemeth, Holocaust survivor and Schoke JFS Anachnu group participant, spoke with students at Greenwich Country Day School, sharing his powerful testimony and firsthand account of history. His courage and resilience left a lasting impact on everyone in the room.

As their teacher reflected, "Ernest's visit

was one of the most engaging, meaningful experiences my students could possibly have."

Moments like these are a reminder of why listening, learning, and remembering matter. The Schoke JFS Anachnu Program is grateful to United Jewish Federation for their ongoing support. Learn more at [www.ctjfs.org/anachnu](http://www.ctjfs.org/anachnu).



### A Flavorful Journey through Sephardic Kitchens

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

foods." Most attendees just love the fun of hanging out with friends in a casual atmosphere and savoring the flavors of the Middle East.

The crowd was entertained by a Sephardic drummer, Yigal Asayag, whose rhythms added energy and authenticity to the evening. An arak bar, replete with fruity samples like fig and black cherry and even pistachio provided guests with a new appreciation and awareness of this



Eve Steinmetz and Elise Lerner (mother/daughter cooking team).

ancient liqueur.

Corporate sponsors that participated in the event included L'Chaim of Stamford, Ricotta, BevMax Wines and Liquor and Mazza & More.

# Jewish 19th Century Immigration

(Courtesy of Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County) “May the Children of the stock of Abraham, who dwell in this land, continue to merit and enjoy the good will of the other inhabitants; while every one shall sit in safety under his own vine and fig tree, and there shall be none to make him afraid.” *George Washington to the Hebrew Congregation in Newport, Rhode Island,*

August 18, 1790. Many Jews arrived in Fairfield County during the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Often they were peddlers and traders facing economic challenges and societal pressures. Some settled in the coastal cities of Stamford and Bridgeport and established close knit vibrant communities. Nineteenth century Fairfield County Jews became merchants

and tradespeople. Some fought in the Civil War (1861-1865); others became politicians, constables and members of legal and medical professions. While New York granted Jews the right to worship freely in the 1730s, Connecticut lagged behind, restricting Jewish rights to worship publicly until 1843. Jews faced growing and continuing anti-immigration sentiment in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, though some continued to thrive.

## STAMFORD

August 22, 1805: Jacob Levy Jr. of Wilmington, NC married Maria Lopez of Newport, RI in the first known Jewish marriage in Stamford with a full minyan. The wedding was officiated by Moses Gomez with the Ketubah written by Hazzan Seixas of NY. Among the attendees were Esther Lopez Gomez, Joshua and Samuel Lopez of Stamford.

1846 – Joseph Tobias was elected a Selectman of the Borough of Stamford and then in 1847 he was elected clerk of the Borough.

1847 – New York Attorney Jos. B. Nones advertised in *The Advocate* that he was appointed “to take acknowledgements of Deed, Mortgages, and to take Depositions”

by the Governor of Connecticut, Clark Bissell, a Whig. Nones was the grandfather of Walter Marks Nones founder of Stamford’s Norma-Hoffman business.

1856- Wolff Cohen, one of the first Jewish merchants in Stamford, advertised in *The Advocate* the opening of his store in the Union House Hotel on Main Street. His inventory included men’s clothing, trunks and rubber goods.

1859 – Jacob Fox opened a clothing store in the Quintard Block at Main & Atlantic Streets. Many of his relatives later settled in Stamford in the 1870s.

On November 29, 1864, Fairfield County resident Simon Adamsky, an 1843 Jewish immigrant from Prussia, enlisted as a Private in Company G of the Seventh Connecticut Infantry Regiment and served until his discharge on July 20, 1865 in Goldsboro, NC. During his tenure, the Regiment was involved in the Siege of Petersburg and the capture of Fort Fisher and Wilmington, NC. Following the war, Adamsky became a member of the Hebrew Union Veterans Association and the Grand Army of the Republic as well as serving as an officer in the New York Metropolitan Police for 15 years.

## NEW AROUND TOWN

# Rabbi Zalman & Rivkie Lipskar, Chabad of Stamford

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Chabad of Stamford welcomes Rabbi Zalman Lipskar and his family to the Stamford community. Rabbi Zalman joins as a Shaliach (emissary of the Rebbe) and will serve as Chief Operating Officer (COO), overseeing daily operations, supporting growth initiatives, and expanding the reach and impact of Chabad’s programs.

Rabbi Zalman grew up as a child of emissaries in South Africa, inspired by his parents’ lifelong dedication to Jewish communal service. He received Semicha at Mayanot Yeshiva in Israel, deepening his commitment to Jewish learning and leadership.

Rivkie, raised in Palm Springs, California, as the daughter of *Shluchim* and one of 14 children, has been deeply involved in Jewish outreach throughout her life. Together, Zalman and Rivkie bring decades of experience in Jewish communities across South Africa, Beijing, Los Angeles, and Miami, giving them a broad and global perspective.



Both are accomplished entrepreneurs, having led successful ventures in business and community-focused initiatives.

The Lipskars are proud parents of five children and are dedicated to strengthening Jewish life in Stamford. Chabad of Stamford looks forward to the leadership, warmth, and vision they will bring to the community.

# An Evening with Arab Zionist Rawan Osman

UJF major donors gathering for dinner and a thought provoking talk by Rawan Osman.



Elliot and Diane Sloyer and Howard and Gayle Rothman



Event Chairs David Rubin and Terry Newman with guest speaker, Rawan Osman.

(PHOTO CREDIT: AVIVA MALLER)

UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION PRESENTS...

# SHUK B'STAMFORD

*Yom Haatzmaut Celebration*

EXPERIENCE ISRAEL THROUGH TASTE, SOUND, AND SPIRIT!  
SHUK B'STAMFORD WILL BRING ISRAELI FOOD, MUSIC, GAMES,  
AND CULTURE TOGETHER FOR AN EVENING YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS.

A special surprise straight from Israel... and more...

**SUNDAY ☆ APRIL 26 ☆ 6-8 PM ☆ PRIVATE LOCATION**

ADDRESS WILL BE SHARED ONCE CONFIRMED  
\*ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST BE 21+.

*Early bird price \$40 per person*  
(\$55 after April 12)

## WWW.UJF.ORG/SHUK

Event Chair: Stella Cohen  
Planning Committee: Jennie Fishman, Andrea Greenburg, Julia Linsner, Ashley Mail, Dinah Miller Marlowe, Amanda Sherman, Marilyn Soffer, and Shushannah Walshe.

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

## Cocktails, Community and a Cause

(Courtesy of UJF) More than 30 women from Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien came together on March 5 for Cocktails for a Cause, a vibrant and inspiring event hosted by Women's Philanthropy of the United Jewish Federation.

The evening was both fun and meaningful, with specialty cocktails, light bites, and even a tarot card reader adding to the festive atmosphere. Between laughs and mingling, guests learned about hands-on volunteer opportunities supporting initiatives

such as Dignity Grows, 3SQUARE, Reading Partners, David's Treasure Tree, and Aaron's Place (the kosher comfort room at Stamford Hospital).

It was a night that perfectly blended social connection with purpose and left many women excited to turn inspiration into action.

Couldn't make it to the event but want to learn more about volunteer opportunities? Reach out to Jillian Moore at [Jillian@ujf.org](mailto:Jillian@ujf.org) to get involved.



Julie Rosenberg, Toby Lazarus, Jessie Brand, and Shushannah Walshe.



Viv Goldberg, Cathy Bernstein, Renee Manger, and Nancy Mimoun.



Participants learned about all the volunteer opportunities available through UJF while enjoying craft cocktails and tarot card reading.

## Chabad of Stamford's CTeens Join Global Shabbaton

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Over 4,500 Jewish teens from across the globe gathered for a few days of unity, inspiration, and unforgettable memories. Chabad of Stamford's CTeen chapter proudly sent its largest-ever group of 9th through 12th graders for a weekend filled with fun, friendship, and inspiration.

Teens came from Morocco, Moldova, Slovakia, and hundreds of other communities worldwide, including small towns where they are often the only Jewish students in their school. In total, 4,578 teens from 486 cities and 60 countries participated in the 18th annual Shabbaton, the largest gathering of Jewish teens in the world.

One of the most electrifying public moments came when thousands gathered to sing "Am Yisrael Chai" loud and proud in the heart of Times Square, a powerful display of Jewish pride and unity.

Shabbat was beautiful, filled with heartfelt and energetic prayers, uplifting songs, and meaningful conversations. Teens were privileged to hear firsthand from released hostages and survivors of the Bondi terror attack, whose stories of courage and faith left a lasting impact on

everyone present.

Sunday concluded with a deeply meaningful visit to the Ohel (Chabad-Lubavitch Rebbe's resting place) in Queens, where teens had the opportunity to pray and reflect, followed by an inspiring closing ceremony that brought the entire experience full circle.

For senior Tamar Links, this was her first Shabbaton experience. "It was amazing meeting teens from across America and the world. My highlight was singing *Shema* in Times Square with the former Israeli hostages Segev Kalfon, Matan Zangauker, and Ilana Gritzewsky, who spoke movingly and led prayers."

For CTeen leader, Mussie Shemtov, "It was a weekend overflowing with Jewish pride, strength, and connection, a powerful reminder that no matter where we come from, we are one people with one heart."

CTeen continues to provide impactful programs for Jewish teens of all backgrounds, fostering purpose, self-discovery, and community engagement. To learn more about CTeen in Stamford and how to be part of this movement, please contact [programs@stamfordchabad.org](mailto:programs@stamfordchabad.org).

United Jewish Federation  
of Greater New York and New Jersey  
Creating Greater Good

# From The Shlichah's Kitchen

## Tortilla Dogs

★★★★★

**Ingredients:**

- Hot Dogs - as many as you'd like
- Pack of Tortilla
- 3 Eggs
- Breadcrumbs
- Wooden Toothpicks
- ½ tsp salt (feel free to adjust!)
- ¼ tsp black pepper
- Oil

**How to make:**

1. Beat the eggs in a bowl.
2. In another bowl, Mix the breadcrumbs, with salt and pepper.
3. Roll each hot dog in a tortilla and stick a toothpick in to keep it together.
4. Dip the rolled hot dog in the eggs, then in the breadcrumb mix.
5. Fry in a pan with oil over medium heat, turning until golden all around.
6. Once the shape is holding, you can take the toothpick out to make turning easier.
7. Ready!

TIP

- You can cut the hot dogs in half for bite-size snacks
- Osem Golden Breadcrumbs (highly recommended!)

RECOMMENDED

BON APPÉTIT

בון אפטיט



Chabad of Stamford's CTeen members at the International Shabbaton in New York City.

## Life & Legacy Lives On!

BY ERIC ROSS,  
UJF DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Over the last six years, the Life & Legacy program through United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien's (UJF) partnership with the Harold Grinspoon Foundation (HGF) has had a transformative impact on the community. Locally, Jewish organizations and synagogues secured 633 commitments (valued at approximately \$16.7million), and have moved toward a culture of planned giving and increased collaborations.

Now in the second phase of the program, Life & Legacy Plus is designed to continue strengthening that culture of philanthropy.

UJF will continue to provide monetary incentive grants, training sessions, structure, and support to assist institutions to build meaningful endowments, directly investing in the future. Life & Legacy Plus will further guide organizations in integrating legacy giving into their culture, and help ensure that more legacy commitments come to fruition. The initiative is also creating deep, meaningful conversations with community members about what legacy means to them. For some, it's a way to honor family traditions. For others, it's a chance to involve the next generation in building a future they'll one day inherit.

Edith Samers, UJF's Life & Legacy Ner

Tamid Society Chair, says, "I want to thank the Harold Grinspoon Foundation for all it has done for our community: allowing us to grow, to recognize the examples of those before us, and to put into motion our plan for an amazing future buttressed by a sustainable and meaningful endowment. As we say in our prayers, *L'Dor v'dor nagid gad'lecha* – From generation to generation we will tell of your greatness. Thank you!"

How do you express your commitment to the community? How do you support the Jewish organizations that are important to you? Caring for those in need, promoting Jewish learning, celebrating our history and heritage, fostering meaningful lifelong connections – participating in Life & Legacy will help ensure that everything you love about living in Jewish Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien will endure long into the future. Legacy gifts are powerful because nearly everyone has the ability to be a legacy donor. You don't have to be wealthy to participate, and it costs nothing today to make a commitment. If you'd like to learn more about how to support your favorite local Jewish organization(s), please reach out to the following contacts:

- **Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy:** Katherine Dunbar or Rabbi Tzvi Bernstein
- **Chabad of Stamford:** Vered Links
- **Congregation Agudath Sholom:** Paul Schieber
- **Friendship Circle:** Lenore Fogel
- **Stamford Jewish Community Center:** Joy Katz or Rebecca Isenstein
- **Schoke Jewish Family Service:** Ronnie Sichel or Erika Gadson
- **Temple Beth El:** Ron Zussman or Jeff Cohen
- **Temple Sinai:** Susan Kostin or Michael Stone
- **United Jewish Federation:** Edith Samers or Eric Ross
- **Young Israel of Stamford:** Rabbi Eli Kohl

To show our appreciation for everyone who stepped up to participate in the Life & Legacy program, please save the date for this year's Life & Legacy Community Celebration on Wednesday evening, May 27, 2026.

For more information, please contact Eric Ross at [Eric@ujf.org](mailto:Eric@ujf.org).

## Life & Legacy Testimonial

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

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

LISA AND JEFF MANHEIM  
TESTIMONIAL

Jeff and I chose to make a Life & Legacy commitment because we believe that a community's Jewish institutions play an essential role in raising Jewish children and are central to creating a vibrant, enduring Jewish community. We feel incredibly fortunate to live in a place so deeply rooted in Jewish life—through our synagogues, a robust Jewish Community Center, a strong Federation, and vital resources like Schoke Jewish Family Service.

We raised our two boys—Emmet and Oz—in this community, and they benefited profoundly from growing up surrounded by Jewish life. Through Chabad, Jewish day schools, Temple Beth El, and Camp JCC, they both learned Jewish values, formed lasting Jewish friendships, and developed a deep sense of pride in their Jewish identity. These institutions were also at the heart of our social lives, shaping not only how our children grew, but how we connected, celebrated, and belonged.

When our family experienced the unimaginable loss of Emmet, this community—and these institutions—rallied around us, lifting us during the lowest time of our lives. Their presence, care, and

support made clear just how essential these places are, not only in moments of joy and growth, but in times of profound grief.

Jeff and I don't take for granted that these institutions will always be there, so we feel grateful to be able to do our part to sustain them. At a time when it feels increasingly difficult to live Jewishly in the world, supporting and sustaining our Jewish institutions feels more important than ever. Our Life & Legacy commitment reflects our deep gratitude for what this community has given our family—and our hope that future generations will have the same opportunity to grow, connect, and be held by a vibrant Jewish community.



Lisa and Jeff Manheim

**Yom Ha'Atzmaut**  
Community Celebration for Families

Celebrate Yom Ha'Atzmaut with a fun-filled Family Program that takes you on a "trip to Israel!" Enjoy a bounce house, games, face-painting, Israeli snacks, and even a hands-on archeological dig.

Bring the whole family for an afternoon of laughter, learning, and celebrating Israel's birthday!

Wednesday, April 22nd • 5:00–6:30pm  
Location provided upon registration

Cost: \$5 per person or \$18 per family  
Sponsorship: \$180 (includes 4 tickets)

Register: [UJF.org/YHFamily](http://UJF.org/YHFamily)

United Jewish Federation  
Stamford, New Canaan, Darien

**Chag Pesach Sameach**  
The Board and Staff of United Jewish Federation

Beverly Stein,  
President

Diane Sloyer,  
Chief Executive Officer

United Jewish Federation  
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# UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION OF STAMFORD

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

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

## HIGHLIGHTS

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



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