



A Gift For You, Courtesy of...
United Jewish Federation

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THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

A PUBLICATION OF UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION

Uganda – Here we are!

A Personal Review of the Recent UJF Mission

BY STEPHNE BEHREND

In July, I was one of ten local women who traveled with United Jewish Federation to Uganda in Africa. The advertised attractions: a volunteer program run by The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), which our donations help support, and visiting a remote Jewish community. The experience was eye opening, inspiring, and even fun.

WHAT'S JAFI DOING IN UGANDA?

We spent our first day preparing ourselves to volunteer in community schools in very poor slum areas in Kampala (the capital) and nearby Entebbe. We were to experience the work that young Israelis (most just out of the army) and other Jews do as part of JAFI's Project TEN (Tikkun olam + Empowerment + Network).

To say the schools are desperately overcrowded and lacking in resources is an understatement. The kids in each grade range about 4 years in age since parents struggle to pay even minimal school fees and attendance may be postponed. No school fees – no school



Shabbat with the Abayudaya Jewish community of Uganda.

that semester. The learning is by rote with the class answering together in unison.

Project TEN volunteering is designed to supplement, support, and enhance the local education system and educators. The volunteers add informal activities into the school day to develop 21st century skills in the kids - critical thinking, problem solving and team development. Their games and activities are created using cheap, locally available materials, but mimic our best modern Western ideas and tools. Even though volunteers change each semester, the education process continues under the leadership of inspiring, dedicated, long-tenured staff.

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UJF Gala Celebrates The Past, Embraces the Future

BY NANCY SCHULMAN

United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien (UJF) invites the entire community to join with them as they celebrate 50 years of significantly impacting the growth of local Jewish community organizations and profoundly influencing Jewish life. Recognizing past leadership and highlighting future leaders, a Festive Gala will be held on Thursday, September 7, 2023 at 6:00 pm at Temple Beth El in Stamford. The Gala recognizes Sheila L. Romanowitz and Edith Samers, former UJF Executive Directors. The event is being chaired by Stephne and Kerrin Behrend, Arlene and Carl Rosen, and Tara and Richard Shapiro.

Since 1973, UJF has been cultivating a welcoming and strong local Jewish community. Its compassion, generosity, and commitment to Jewish values and the State of Israel also includes providing support for its sister region, Afula Gilboa, in Israel.

In addition, UJF offers many programs locally in the areas of education, security and social action. These include the PJ Library program, where more than 500 free books



Sheila L. Romanowitz



Edith Samers

are sent monthly throughout Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien, and the Reading Partners program which provides one-on-one reading mentoring in the public schools. Also, the 3SQUARE program provides local children identified as "in need" with a bag of food each Friday to sustain them through the weekend.

Importantly, to keep the community and institutions safe, UJF hired a security professional who conducts frequent training sessions.

Community members also receive *The New Jewish Voice* newspaper, which keeps them informed of local activities and events

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Celebrating Leadership

Congratulations to the graduates of the Behrend Institute for Leadership who were recognized this past June for their accomplishment during the academic year. A flagship leadership program of United Jewish Federation, the Behrend Institute for Leadership is designed for leaders on the move, eager to invest time in honing their leadership skills. This selective program returned in 2023 with participants from all Jewish communal institutions. Facilitator and teacher, Jonathan Fass, was guided by a curriculum designed by the Florence Melton School of Adult Jewish Learning and Jewish Federations of North America.





From UJF's Chief Executive Officer New Beginnings

BY DIANE SLOYER

Rosh Hashana, the Jewish New Year, not only marks a new beginning but also serves as a reminder of the importance of unity, rising above our differences, and working together towards a brighter future. Among the institutions fostering this sense of community is United Jewish Federation, a place that facilitates the realization of these principles through various initiatives and programs.

Rosh Hashana is a time of reflection, introspection, and renewal; a shared responsibility to shape a better world. Some engage in prayer, or contemplation, and self-assessment, seeking forgiveness and reconciliation with others. The Jewish community is diverse, with various traditions, backgrounds, and beliefs. Rosh Hashana serves as a unifying force, bringing Jews together in a shared celebration of their faith and heritage. Regardless of individual differences, Rosh Hashana fosters a sense of collective identity, reinforcing the idea that despite our diverse backgrounds, we are all part of the same global Jewish family. It reminds us that our strength lies in unity, and by rising above our differences, we can overcome challenges and build a stronger, more engaged, and compassionate community.

"In a world without forgiveness, evil begets evil, harm generates harm, and there is no way short of exhaustion or forgetfulness of breaking the sequence. Forgiveness breaks the chain. ... It represents a decision not to do what instinct and passion urge us to do. It answers hate with a refusal to hate, animosity with generosity. Few more daring ideas have ever entered the human situation. Forgiveness means that we are not destined endlessly to replay the grievances of yesterday. It is the ability to live with the past without being held captive by the past. It would not be an exaggeration to say that forgiveness is the most compelling

testimony to human freedom. It is about the action that is not a reaction. It is the refusal to be defined by circumstance. It represents our ability to change course, reframe the narrative of the past and create an unexpected set of possibilities for the future.... At times it is the only path through the thickets of hate to the open spaces of coexistence."

—Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks

I look to the new year to do better and be better, for myself, our beloved community, and the Jewish people. We can all make a positive impact on our family, friends, and the world in which we live.

As the Federation grows in its impact on our community, with initiatives like LIFE & LEGACY, our communal security initiative, PJ Library, the JCRC, and this very paper, we welcome our new Deputy Director, Eric Ross and thank the Field Group for the opportunity to move across the hall to bigger space that we hope to call our permanent home.

As UJF celebrates its 50th Anniversary, we hope you will join us in celebration on September 7 as we recognize two special women, Sheila Romanowitz and Edith Samers, two former UJF Executive Directors who have built and sustained our Federation and our wonderful Jewish community. What a spectacular way to kick off the New Year, come together as a community, and pay tribute to these two wonderful women!

Psalm 133:1

שְׁכֵת אֶחָיִם גַּם- הִנֵּה מֵה-טוֹב, וּמֵה-נְעִיִם--

יִסְדִּי.

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

In 5784, let's work together to rise to the moment and ensure safe, welcoming Jewish communities at home and around the world.

Shana Tova,
Diane



Diane Sloyer, UJF CEO

Fifty Years of Memories and Moments

(Courtesy of UJF) Fifty years is a long time, and thanks to you, United Jewish Federation is stronger than ever.

To commemorate this community milestone, Stamford, New Canaan and Darien residents are being asked to contribute their experiences, memories, or favorite moments of Federation. Responses will be compiled as part of a limited testimonial series titled "50(ish) Voices" which will be featured on United Jewish Federation's website, social media channels, and monthly community newsletter.

You can take part in "50(ish) Voices" by completing a brief online Q&A where you can select from a suggested list of questions. Every effort will be made to include submissions. UJF hopes to share stories from past and present volunteers, community leaders, multi-generation families, and others in our diverse and wonderful community. In addition to 50(ish) Voices being featured on the UJF website, social media, and community newsletter, these stories will be archived at the Jewish Historical Society of

Fairfield County for future generations to learn from.

"We are delighted to chair this inspiring project. How better to commemorate this anniversary than with stories and memories from YOU, the UJF community. We look forward to gathering your responses and publishing them for all to enjoy," said Chairs Barbara Aronica and Peter Poser.

Please help spread the word by sharing the link below with everyone who might have their own story or memory to share. These stories provide the opportunity to recognize, hear, and learn from the wide-reaching voices in the community as UJF looks back, and ahead, to another 50 years of Federation.

To submit your entry for "50(ish) Voices," visit www.ujf.org/50ishvoices, or if you prefer to tell your story to one of the project chairs, Peter Poser or Barbara Aronica, contact Wendell Maxey (wendell@ujf.org) at United Jewish Federation for more information.



**Scan to begin sharing your
memories & moments
from 50 years of UJF**



www.ujf.org/50ishvoices



United Jewish
Federation

UPCOMING DEADLINES

October 2023 - Sukkot

Deadline: Friday, September 1, 2023

November 2023

Deadline: Friday, October 6, 2023

Email submissions to sandy@ujf.org

You should receive notification that your submission was received!

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

September 1.....	7:11 pm
September 8.....	7:00 pm
September 15.....	6:48 pm
September 22.....	6:36 pm
September 29.....	6:24 pm

JHSFC Honors Two Community Families

BY SIMA BROZA

The Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County (JHSFC) is celebrating 40 years of service to the community and is proud to honor Elissa and David Kaplan and Sandy and Fred Golove. The Gala will take place at 5:30 pm on Sunday, October 22 at Congregation Agudath Sholom in Stamford.

Receiving JHSFC's 2023 Heritage Award for their outstanding contributions to the Jewish community are immediate Past President Elissa Kaplan, Ph.D., and her husband, Lieutenant Colonel David M. Kaplan, US Army (Ret.).

During her Presidency, Dr. Elissa Kaplan (2016-2021) extended JHSFC's scope county-wide, while at the same time centralizing and expanding its archival operations and Oral History Collection. In 2020, Elissa initiated the *L'Dor V'Dor* ("From Generation to Generation") educational program, which launched at Stamford's Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy. *L'Dor V'Dor* has grown and spread to six middle schools where more than 200 children have been trained to interview elder relatives and discover their immigrant histories through this initiative. A longtime Jewish educator, Elissa is a sought-after lecturer at Lifetime Learners Institute and other area organizations and synagogues.

David Kaplan's connection to JHSFC began when he and Elissa moved to Stamford in 2005. He has lectured on the Szyk Haggadah, of which the organization holds one of the very few original copies in their Archives. David has provided extensive technical support for the organization over the years and manages the Video library and Oral History videos. David has served for 21 years as an Army communications officer with assignments in Vietnam, Germany and the Pentagon.

The Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to Fred and Sandy Golove for their decades of ongoing service to JHSFC and the Jewish community.

Fred Golove is a Past President of the Jewish Historical Society (1994-1997) and is credited with developing its first long-range planning and formal budgeting processes. Over the years Fred has remained an active member of the board and has been instrumental in strategic planning for the organization among other similar projects.

Fred is a Retired U.S. Coast Guard Rear Admiral who served for 35 years,



David and Elissa Kaplan



Sandy and Fred Golove

10 on active duty and 25 in the Reserve. Throughout his years as a Reservist, he worked at IBM as a manager and futurist, retiring in 1993.

Sandy Golove has worked in the Stamford Jewish community since 1983, working for the Jewish Community Center from 1983-1999 and for United Jewish Federation since 2000 most recently as coordinator for Stamford's Jewish community newspaper, *The New Jewish Voice*. She became involved in JHSFC in 1997 by helping create and maintain the *Heritage* newsletter (1997-2007) and served as treasurer from 2003-2007 at which time she transferred records from 3x5 index cards to online recordkeeping. Sandy has worked on many JHSFC projects including scanning Bridgeport's 1,600 Veteran Records, maintaining Obituary Books and managing the organization's current newsletters.

Please save the date and join in recognizing the honorees, and the JHSFC's outstanding community contributions.

To learn more about the honorees or to place an ad in the commemorative journal, please visit www.jhsfc-ct.org, email info@jhsfc-ct.org or call 203-359-2196.

Reading Partners Launches Book Pals Program

(Courtesy of UJF) Marian Freed and Nan Gordon are excited to team up with United Jewish Federation's Herbert and Sarah M. Gibor Reading Partners program to chair the new "Book Pals" initiative. The program will launch at the Creative Learning @FPC afterschool program run by Joanie Merrell. Selected students (grades 3-5) will be paired with adult volunteers who have been screened and interviewed by Reading Partners and Book Pals Chairs. The child will receive a free book of their own each month from their volunteer pal. The books will be tailored to the child's reading level and personal interests. Along with the book, the child will receive a letter from the volunteer.

The student will read the book and then write a letter back to their pal. The children can discuss the book in the letter and what else they might be interested in reading. The volunteer will then reply with another letter and another book! This will continue throughout the school year, with an additional three books sent to the child at the start of the summer.

Marian Freed said, "I've participated in a similar program for fifteen years. It's meaningful for both the child and volunteer. At the end of the school year each child has 12 books, the start

of their own library. They develop a relationship with the volunteer through the letters which is beneficial to both. Some of these children participate in the program for a few years with the same volunteer which is very special."

With children still making up lost learning from the pandemic, this program comes at a very opportune time. It is an excellent additional resource to help students improve their reading and literacy skills. The program will begin at one location this year with plans to expand in the near future.

"As a former School Psychologist in the Stamford Public Schools, I know firsthand how many of our students would benefit from having books relating to their personal interests in their homes. There is always a look of disappointment in kids' faces when they don't have the money to buy books at the school's annual book fairs. The addition of a letter writing component between the volunteer and child will create a connection with a special adult as well as foster writing skills," said Nan Gordon.

Please contact Lenore Fogel at lenore@ujf.org to learn more about Reading Partners and the Book Pal program.



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Busy Year Ahead for Friendship Circle

(Courtesy of Friendship Circle) Friendship Circle is ready for its busiest year yet in 2023-2024. With the tremendous growth of the organization in the past several years, it has occupied a new space since January of 2023 at 48 Union Street. This expanded area has allowed for the expansion of activities and events, with more programming than ever being offered for the upcoming year.

Malya Shmotkin, Friendship Circle Director, said, "At The Friendship Circle, we extend a loving hand of friendship to individuals with special needs and their families. We work to create a warm



Friendship Circle Teen Board: Zach Price, Ryland Noorily, Matthew Goodman, Evan LaForte, Joreh Mehl, Amy Yellen, Charlotte Bunin, Maddie Winarsky, Emily Sherman and Isabel Sigman.

and accepting environment and to form relationships that last a lifetime. Our network of more than 300 teen and adult volunteers helps us offer a full range of social and Judaic programs for children, teens and adults."

2023-24 offerings include a full year of Friends at Home, Children's Circle, and Adult Circle for participants with special needs. In addition to the weekly programming, special events include an Adult Circle Superbowl party, as well as a bowling league, winter camp and

holiday programming. Children and adults with special needs can also celebrate their birthday party with friends in a new initiative that is now celebrating its first birthday.

Families of individuals with special needs also have a full array of support services. Moms and dads will have special evenings out. There will also be a date night for parents together. Siblings can participate in support groups and even grandparents can gather online.



Ruthie Price, Jane Feidelson, Lilah Smith, Hailey Trell, and Chana Goldstein

Teen volunteers are offered a full range of training programs as well as social events. In addition, the UMMatter program is facilitated by professionals with a focus on teen mental health. Teens receive volunteer credit at school for the community service hours.

There is truly a place and a space for everyone at Friendship Circle, no matter who you are. In order to learn more and to become involved, please reach out to Malya at malya@friendshipct.com.

THE NEW JEWISH VOICE

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www.ujf.org for updates and donations

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

Letters

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

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Nurturing Jewish Values through Engaging Youth Programs

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Chabad of Stamford provides a diverse range of engaging youth activities catering to various age groups. For the youngest members, from birth to three years old, the "Tiny Treasures Got Shabbat?" classes will commence on Thursday, September 21, at 9:30 am, with a special holiday session. Tiny Treasures is dedicated to infusing each young mind with an appreciation for the beauty and fun of Shabbat. The activities encompass challah making, singing, story sessions, crafting, and more. The regular autumn term will begin on Thursday, October 12 at 9:30 am and run weekly throughout the year.

For children in pre-K through 8th grade, Chabad presents its Chabad Kids Club (CKC). This after-school

arrangement comprises a Hebrew school, help with Judaic homework, and engaging lessons featuring exciting games and prizes. Classes are held every Tuesday from 4:00 to 6:00 pm, kicking off with the Holiday Fair on Tuesday, September 12. The aim of CKC is to foster Jewish pride and cultivate lasting bonds. Included in the CKC is the "P.O.G.S." program, a weekly science and cooking club designed for pre K through 2nd graders, which takes place every Tuesday from 4:00 to 5:00 pm. The Chai Five Club, for 3rd to 8th graders, meets monthly on Tuesdays between 5:00 and 6:30 pm, focusing on innovative ways to positively impact the community through events like challah baking, senior visits, and other fulfilling mitzvah projects. Additionally, Chabad hosts a monthly

Bat Mitzvah Club that provides a fun, engaging, and insightful experience for 6th to 8th grade girls. The "Bat Mitzvah and Beyond" classes are scheduled for Sunday afternoons from 5:00 to 6:30 pm, inclusive of dinner, with the inaugural session beginning on Sunday, October 22.

For high school students, Chabad of Stamford organizes the "Cteen" program, which meets multiple times throughout the year. The much-anticipated "Sushi in the Sukkah" event is scheduled for Wednesday, October 4 at 6:30 pm. Chabad also warmly invites all teens needing to fulfill their high school community hours to explore their various volunteer opportunities.

For further details and registration, please contact programs@stamfordchabad.org.

3SQUARE Expands to Second School

(Courtesy of UJF) Through the generosity of the Claire Freidlander Family Foundation, 3SQUARE, a project of United Jewish Federation, has secured the funding necessary to expand the program to a second school. For the upcoming 2023-2024 school year, UJF will begin to provide weekend food for food insecure students at Stamford's Hart Magnet Elementary School.

United Jewish Federation's 3SQUARE program has successfully provided supplemental nutrition to food insecure students at Rogers International School

for the past nine years. The purpose of this project is to provide food for students deemed "in need" by their school social workers over weekends and holidays, when they do not receive meals at school. 3SQUARE sends students home with reusable grocery bags that contain a variety of shelf-stable, kid-friendly, healthy, and easy to prepare foods and snacks. Often, bags have enough so that food can be shared with family members. In addition to the weekly bags, students have received special holiday bags immediately before their winter, spring

and summer vacations. These include cheerful holiday items, fun activities and needed hygiene products.

In the nine years 3SQUARE has operated, other than during the school closures associated with the pandemic, dedicated volunteers have never missed a scheduled delivery.

3SQUARE is actively looking for additional volunteers to help support the expansion. Please contact Jill Kaplan to find out more and how to get involved at 203-323-1065.

Teen Conference on Antisemitism

(Courtesy of UJF) United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan and Darien is one of several organizations co-sponsoring with the Jewish Teen Learning Connection (JTConnect) the “Teen Summit on Antisemitism” on November 5 at the Emanuel Synagogue in West Hartford. This full-day, in-person event, will feature leading speakers and welcomes teens and their parents to participate in workshops and breakout sessions to learn how to deal with antisemitism, anti-Zionism and political activism in high school and on college campuses. The speakers are still being finalized, but this promises to be an important event for teens as they navigate high school hallways and prepare for college. It is also a great opportunity for teens from across the state to socialize with each other and

gain strength. Please watch for further information regarding registration and event details.

The event, spearheaded and organized by JTConnect, is also in partnership with Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Hartford, Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford. The additional organizations co-sponsoring this event include the Anti Defamation League, HaNer Region of USY; Voices of Hope, the JCRC of Greater Hartford, Jewish Council for Public Affairs, Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven, Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts and synagogue youth groups.

Based upon interest and need, UJF will provide transportation to and from the event or help to organize carpools.

Legislative Reception: Please Save The Date

(Courtesy of UJF) For the first time since the COVID pandemic, United Jewish Federation's Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) is delighted to sponsor a Legislative Reception featuring local Connecticut state representatives on November 19 at 4:00 pm. Venue to be announced.

The reception, organized with the help of Michael Bloom, Executive Director of the Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut (JFACT) will allow constituents to speak directly and frankly with their representatives. Some of the likely topics will include the rising levels of antisemitism and securing Jewish institutions. JFACT has lobbied for \$5 million in state security grant funding for synagogues and other vulnerable non-profits. Last year, JFACT organized a seminar on antisemitism for legislators at the Capitol. Local legislators are being



Michael Bloom,
Executive Director
of JFACT

encouraged by JFACT to support a second seminar on antisemitism this year.

Constituents should also ask the legislators to address the Hate Crimes Advisory Council sentencing recommendations.

An important aspect of legislative receptions is hearing the priorities of local legislators and for

the legislators to hear directly from constituents.

Michael Bloom, JFACT Executive Director said, “A legislative reception is about gathering minds and nurturing connections with our elected leaders. At this event in November, I look forward to connecting with leaders and advocating for positive change in the Greater Stamford area and all of Connecticut.”

The event promises to be lively and informative. Please save the date and watch for further details.




DON'T FORGET TO USE THE COMMUNITY CALENDAR.

THE CALENDAR CONTINUES TO BE IMPORTANT TO AVOID CONFLICTS.

WWW.UJF.ORG

QUESTIONS? EMAIL TALY@UJF.ORG



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MAYOR CAROLINE SIMMONS

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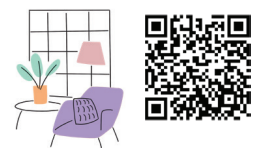


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mozaicconciergeliving.org



UJF Gala Celebrates Growth, Embraces the Future

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

as well as local, national and world news.

The two honorees have had significant impact in the Jewish community. Sheila L. Romanowitz has worked in Jewish communal service for most of her adult life. She served as UJF's Executive Director for 10 years as well as Office of the President and Chair of the Board at UJA-Federation of New York, as COO at UJA Federation of Greenwich, and as Executive Director of SNEC, a partnership of 13 Jewish communities in Southern New England. Among her most significant achievements are spearheading emergency campaigns to rescue and resettle Jews fleeing the Soviet Union and Ethiopia.

For her work in promoting interdenominational understanding and communication in our area, Sheila was the recipient of The Young Israel of Stamford Community Service Award. Also, she and her late husband, Dr. Harry S. Romanowitz, received the Daniel S. Ginsburg Humanitarian Award from the ADL and the Heritage Award from the Jewish Historical Society.

Federation also recognizes Edith Samers, who has been in leadership roles in Jewish organizations since she came to Stamford 64 years ago. She is a former President of Gladys Zales Hadassah and of Chavurat Aytz Chayim. Along with her late husband,

Bernard Samers, they were among the founders of UJF 50 years ago. Edith served as the Executive Director of UJF from 1999 through 2005 and currently serves in a lay role on the UJF Board of Directors.

After serving as VP of Finance, Edith is now the Chair of LIFE & LEGACY Ner Tamid Society. She is also a former President of Schoke Jewish Family Service. Edith is currently a Board Member of the American Jewish Committee Westchester-Fairfield and serves on the AJC Diplomatic Group and Legacy Committee.

Diane Sloyer, UJF CEO, shared, "Sheila and Edith have been my role models since coming to this position 6 years ago. They both raised their families here, continue to live here, and care deeply about the future of the Jewish world. I feel blessed that they laid such a strong foundation on which we can continue to build."



At the first ever Super Sunday in 1980, Edith Samers calls a prospective donor. (PHOTO COURTESY OF THE JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY)



Sheila Romanowitz and Phyllis Gold make Super Sunday calls in 1982. (PHOTO COURTESY OF THE JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY)

The Gala will also feature a video presentation of the NextGen Leaders.

"I am honored and proud to be the UJF President as we celebrate our 50th anniversary. Our Gala celebration affords us the opportunity to honor and celebrate our past and work collectively to ensure a strong Jewish future for generations to come," shared Michael Schlessinger, UJF's President.

Join UJF as they celebrate the community's impact on the lives of those in need locally, in Israel and around the globe in the last

50 years, and their plans to make the next 50 years even better. Gala guests will enjoy cocktails and dinner, along with music and dancing with the Sandy Shmueli Orchestra.

Temple Beth El is located at 350 Roxbury Road, Stamford. Tickets are \$200 per person; NextGen, \$136 per person; Sponsorship, \$500 per person; and Table Sponsor, \$3,600 (8 tickets). To view the full biographies of the honorees and to register for the Gala, go to www.ujf.org/50gala. For more information, call (203) 321-1373.

BANTER & BEER

01. WHAT

Enjoy a cold pint and light conversation with friends old and new at some of Connecticut's local breweries hosted by UJF's Community Shaliach, Yoav Yaron

02. WHEN

Wednesday, October 11 7:00 pm
Wednesday, November 15 7:00 pm

More dates to come!

03. WHERE

www.ujf.org/beer&banter

\$8.00 PER PERSON

FIRST PINT ON UJF!

Ready to Read in the New School Year

(Courtesy of UJF) The Herbert and Sarah M. Gibor Reading Partners program of United Jewish Federation is delighted to return for the start of its 24th year in Stamford Public Schools. This year the program will have volunteers in all thirteen elementary schools, as well as the Creative Learning @FPC afterschool program. Reading Partners volunteers work one-on-one with children in grades K-3 who are on the cusp of grade level reading.

New and seasoned volunteers will begin the year with a workshop by Marci Marcus, a reading specialist at Newfield Elementary School. The session will include

both educational instruction and practical ideas for tutors to use in their meetings with students. A separate orientation will be held for first time volunteers as well.

Reading Partners Director Lenore Fogel said, "We are very excited to read at the Strawberry Hill school this year. We are looking forward to even more volunteers feeling comfortable returning after COVID and hope to be back to near pre-pandemic numbers of tutors. It is a wonderful feeling to be reading again in person at the schools."

For more information about how to become a Reading Partners volunteer, please contact Lenore Fogel at lenore@ujf.org

The congregation of Temple Sinai in Stamford wishes its friends, neighbors, and the entire community a peaceful and healthy New Year 5784

Temple Sinai | 458 Lakeside Drive | Stamford, CT 06903
203.322.1649 | www.templestinaistamford.org

Uganda – Here we are!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

We loved our four days of volunteering in two different schools – each period, we worked with two to four different pupils with the kids enjoying the individualized attention and new learning experiences.

Project TEN volunteer centers are also located in Ethiopia, Ghana, South Africa, Argentina, Mexico, Cambodia, and Israel. It's a win-win program. More than 10,000 children are positively impacted each year. Since the program began ten years ago, more than 5,000 young volunteers have enjoyed the combination of travel and meaningful volunteer work and gained leadership and activism skills for the future.

UGANDAN JEWS?

Shabbat with the Abayudaya (“People of Judah” in Luganda language) was well worth the eight-hour bus ride (each way) to a more rural area in the East near Mbale. I felt quite at home during Shabbat services in a modern synagogue with an ark and Torahs, Israeli and Ugandan flags, prayers all in Hebrew, familiar tunes, U.S. prayer books, competent Torah readers and even a woman congregant reading the Haftorah. The rabbi was trained in the Conservative movement in Israel and Los Angeles.

There are some charming differences. The rabbi is also the shochet (kosher meat slaughterer), teacher, U.S. fundraiser and even a former member of the Ugandan parliament. A few songs were accompanied by traditional African drums. The youngest children, each in turn, proudly recited the “Shema”. Kiddush lunch was served under a big mango tree, where we and the other synagogue attendees enjoyed a kosher meat (turkey and goat) meal including the local staple, matoke (a boiled banana-like vegetable). This is likely the only meat congregants eat each week, since most community members are subsistence farmers relying on what they grow in their gardens to feed their families.

The Abayudaya Jewish story began in 1919 with a military leader, Semei Kakungulu. It is said that Kakungulu rejected the New Testament part of his bible, after British colonialists failed to make him Kabaka (King) of eastern Uganda, and after extensive religious discussions with a Jewish trader from Yemen. Kakungulu circumcised himself and his sons and established the Abayudaya community with his followers on a hill near Mabale.

At first, the community members adhered strictly to the Old Testament laws, even going so far as sacrificing animals. After contact with Jews working in Uganda, Kakungulu's successors began to understand and observe a more rabbinic style of worship. The

Abayudaya suffered greatly while Idi Amin Dada was in power (1971-1979). Judaism was outlawed, synagogues were destroyed, and a large part of the original community converted to Christianity or Islam. However, others continued to practice their Judaism in great secrecy, observing Shabbat and holiday services in the bushes and in a mountain cave. Today the community numbers about 1,500 and even has a Jewish primary school.

MORE JEWISH STORIES IN UGANDA?

Landing at Entebbe Airport, after more than a day of travel, released a flood of memories and pride. In 1976, Palestinian terrorists hijacked an Air France plane and flew to Uganda and the protection of Idi Amin. During the “Entebbe Raid”, an Israeli Commando squad daringly flew some 2,500 miles from Israel and rescued 103 Israeli and Jewish hostages. We held a moving commemoration ceremony to honor all those involved, saved, and lost.

In 1903, Theodore Herzl proposed the “Uganda Plan” at the 6th Zionist Conference in the wake of the horrific Kishinev pogrom in Russia, when gangs stormed through the town's narrow streets with hatchets and knives, killing, raping and damaging the homes of Jews. The Zionist conference voted to send an investigatory commission to examine the possibility of a temporary Jewish territory in British East Africa, in the hope of saving Jewish lives. Later Zionist conferences focused only on establishing a homeland in ancestral Palestine.

Other adventures for the group included a visit to the “human-like” (98.8% DNA match) chimpanzees on Ngamba island in the middle of Lake Victoria, hiking to the beautiful Sipi Falls close to the Kenyan border, dancing with African drummers, exploring beautiful flowers and nature filled spots where we ate and drank, and, for two adventurous souls, a huge slide into the Nile River.

Being in third world Uganda is not for the faint of heart. A shout out to my fellow travelers: Cindy Hoddeson, Susan Kostin, Renee Manger, Nancy Mimoun, Terry Newman, Esther Rein, Joyce Zinbarg Rosenthal, Linda Spilka, UJF CEO, Diane Sloyer, and our wonderful, ever inspiring local guide and cheerleader from JAFI, Tamar Azizullahff. All maintained their sense of fun and adventure despite the TIA (This Is Africa) experiences thrown at us, like no electricity at times, ant and insect invasions, health issues, rainfall that turned streets into rivers, and so much more.

Thanks to United Jewish Federation and JAFI for organizing and making this experience possible.



For recess, mission participants facilitated a dance party.



Havdalah with the Abayudaya community.



Hot lunch of matoke (banana) and beans prepared for school lunch.



At a local crafts fair, mission participants enjoyed the beautiful selection of hand made crafts.



Mission participants with Robert Katende, whose life story is told in the Disney film, *Queen of Katwe*. This true story is a must see and is about how the slums of Katwe, in Kampala, with Robert's hard work, produced a national chess champion for Uganda. His chess academy still continues to train critical thinkers.



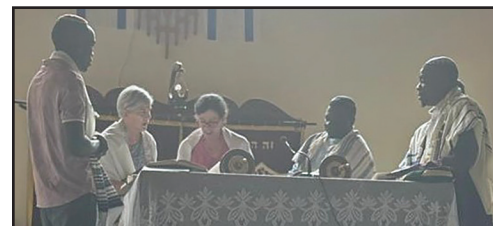
Stephne Behrend and Esther Rein learn to make strategic thinking games out of everyday materials for use in the schools in Uganda.



UJF's delegations present books to the school where they volunteered.



Stephne Behrend reads with local school children in Entebbe.



Terry Newman and Susan Kostin are honored with an aliyah to the Torah.



Members of UJF's Mission to Uganda arrive at Entebbe Airport.



Classic New Year Food with a Twist!

BY RONNIE FEIN

My children, grandchildren and the various dinner guests who eat at my house know that the food I serve will likely include at least one new, experimental dish -- except when it comes to the Jewish holidays. I love *patchkeying* with recipes and creating something new and delicious. But I also like the connection to the past that traditional foods provide.

And yet, here, too, I usually prepare a riff on some classic dish or other. Or, I'll use an ingredient that is symbolic for the holiday but prepare it in a new way.

So, for example, I always serve carrots on Rosh Hashana because they are among the classic sweet New Year foods we eat to express our hopes for a healthy, meaningful future. In years past, I've made old-fashioned Ashkenazi carrot soup but seasoned it with harissa, a peppery condiment that's popular in the Middle East, and added coconut milk, so the soup could be rich and creamy and yet dairy-free.

Every year I also serve a different carrot side dish with the main course: sometimes cooked carrots lightly sweetened with maple syrup, sometimes roasted with a pomegranate glaze, sometimes baked with honey, lime peel and ginger, sometimes in a casserole of barley, raisins and almonds

(a perfect choice for vegetarian guests), sometimes in a salad, and so on.

Carrots are extremely versatile and they're a Rosh Hashana must-have! My website (www.ronniefein.com) is loaded with carrot recipes -- have a look and take your choice for your holiday table this year. Or, check out the recipes below for Carrot Soup with Harissa and Carrot Milk and Carrot and Chick Pea Salad.

CARROT SOUP WITH HARISSA AND COCONUT MILK

2 tablespoons vegetable oil
1 medium onion, chopped
2 medium cloves garlic, chopped
1-1/2 pounds carrots, peeled and sliced
4 cups vegetable stock
6 whole cloves
1-1/2 to 2 teaspoons harissa
1 cup coconut milk
salt to taste
toasted coconut for garnish, optional

Heat the vegetable oil in a saucepan over medium heat. Add the onion and cook for 2-3 minutes. Add the garlic and cook briefly. Add the carrots, stock and cloves, bring to a boil, lower the heat, cover the pan partially and cook for 25 minutes or until the carrots are soft. Remove the cloves. Puree the soup with an immersion

blender (or use a standing blender or food processor). Return the soup to the pan. Whisk in the harissa. Whisk in the coconut milk. Bring the soup to a simmer. Cook for 10 minutes. Taste for seasoning and add salt to taste. Serve garnished with toasted coconut if desired.

Makes 6 servings

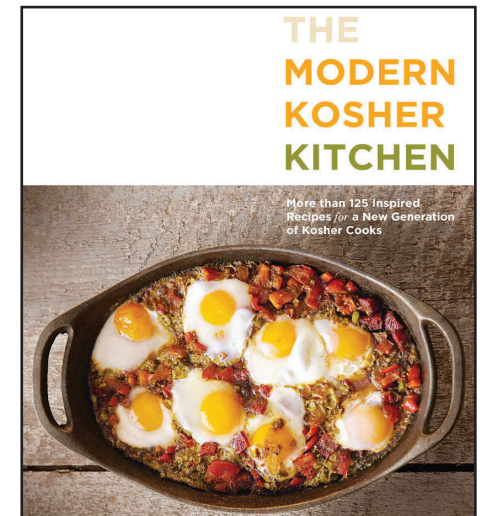
CARROT AND CHICKPEA SALAD

2 cups cooked chickpeas (canned is fine)
1 pound carrots, sliced 1/4-inch thick
4 tablespoons olive oil
Salt to taste
1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
3-4 tablespoons lemon juice
freshly ground black pepper to taste
2-3 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley or chives

Preheat the oven to 425 degrees. Place the chickpeas and carrots on a baking sheet. Pour 2 tablespoons olive oil over the vegetables. Sprinkle with salt and cumin and toss to coat the vegetables. Roast for about 15 minutes or until crispy and lightly browned. Remove from the oven and let cool. Spoon the vegetables into a bowl. Pour in the remaining 2 tablespoons olive oil and the lemon juice. Toss. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Sprinkle with parsley, toss and serve.



Carrot Soup with Harissa and Coconut Milk



Makes 4-6 servings

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

Volunteer with Schoke JFS for the Holidays

(*Courtesy of Schoke JFS*) Schoke Jewish Family Service's goal is to make it possible for every client to be able to sit down to a festive meal with their family for Rosh Hashana. The agency could not provide food for so many without the generous help of volunteers. During the week of September 10 to September 17, the Mobile Food Pantry will host two holiday distributions at Congregation Beth El in Norwalk and Congregation B'nai Israel in Bridgeport, along with other volunteer

opportunities at the Freedberg Family Kosher Food Pantry and meal deliveries. Go to www.ctjfs.org/volunteer to sign up.

Help is also needed to fill the shelves of the pantry with apples throughout the month of September. Drop off anytime Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at 196 Greyrock Place, Stamford. To help ensure seniors and Holocaust survivors can usher in a sweet new year, donate to the Amazon wish list at www.ctjfs.org/amazonwishlists.

Jewish Women Connect for the High Holidays

(*Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford*) Chabad's Jewish Women Connected (JWC) brings women together to celebrate, learn, explore and connect. Each year, they host various events in honor of the holidays which are open to all women in the community.

This year, JWC will kick off the holiday season with a "Rosh Hashana Ready" program on Wednesday, September 13 at 7:15 pm. Join them to prepare dishes to bring home and

share with family and friends in honor of the holiday.

On Sukkot, JWC will host its "Women's Lunch in the Sukkah". At this popular event, women gather together in a relaxed outdoor setting within the walls of the sukkah to enjoy lunch and an inspiring class. This year's JWC lunch will be on Wednesday, October 4 at 12:00 pm. For more information, please contact programs@stamfordchabad.org

High Holidays with Chabad of Stamford

(*Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford*) At Chabad of Stamford, the year 5784 heralds the "blossoming" of a new year. Rabbi Moshe and Leah Shemtov have developed an array of programs, events, classes and opportunities aimed at helping individuals blossom in their personal growth. They also focus on events that give the community the opportunity to connect, gather and nurture a strong sense of being together.

This year, Chabad will host a communal Rosh Hashana dinner and two *tashlich* and shofar events, one on Sunday, September 17 at 5:15 pm and another on Thursday, September 21, lakeside, at a private home in Stamford.

On Erev Yom Kippur, Sunday, September 24, at 11:00 am, Chabad will host their annual "Tzu Betten

Lekach." This is a beautiful custom where one asks for and receives sweet *lekach* (cake), and it has come to symbolize the sweet new year that is anticipated. Join Rabbi Moshe and Leah Shemtov at 10 Brandt Street for this event, which is open to all family members.

Additionally, their women's lunch in the sukkah, "Sukkah Hop" and "Family Supper in the Sukkah" events draw many individuals and families as do their Israeli-style *hakafot* (circles) that are known for their joyous spirit. There will be children's *hakafot* at Barrett Park on Saturday, October 7 at 4:00 pm.

No membership is required for any of Chabad's events, but RSVPs are needed. To find out more, contact programs@stamfordchabad.org.

SAVE A TREE?

With printing and postage costs on the rise, please let us know if you would prefer to receive the New Jewish Voice electronically versus by mail.

Contact Taly Farber at taly@ujf.org

FRIENDS OF THE IDF 2023
WESTCHESTER & CONNECTICUT
ANNUAL CELEBRATION



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29TH

GUEST SPEAKER

Nancy Spielberg

DINNER CO-CHAIRS

Heather & Jared Dermont | Brooke & Guy Shmuel

Hyatt Regency | Greenwich, CT | 5:30pm

Registration also available at: www.fidf.org/WCTgala23

For more information, please contact Rebecca Grossman at (646) 274-9645 or rebecca.grossman@fidf.org

Shana Tova from FIDF!

*Wishing the community and Klal Israel
a Shana Tova, a happy and sweet new year filled
with hope, peace, and fulfillment*

Anat Chavkin
Executive Director



Rebecca Grossman
Development Associate

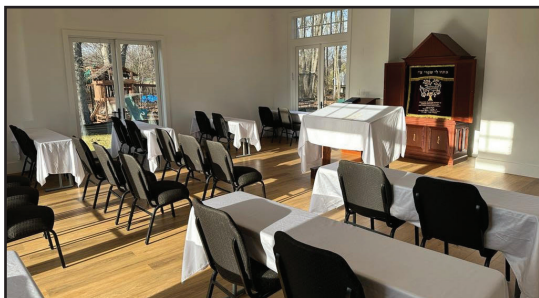


Newly Expanded Chabad House

(Courtesy of Chabad of New Canaan) This year, for the first time, Chabad of New Canaan will be hosting the High Holiday services in the newly renovated and expanded Chabad House.

"We are very excited to use our new facility this year," said Rabbi Levi Mendelow. "This is an incredible milestone for the growing New Canaan Jewish Community! We are delighted to now have a space where we can comfortably welcome people for Shabbat meals, holiday celebrations and services."

The beautiful new space was designed by the talented Stamford Architect, Elena Kalman, who has been involved in several local community projects including



The newly renovated and expanded Chabad House in New Canaan

Temple Sinai and Chabad of Stamford.

The Chabad House is the home of Rabbi Levi and Michal Mendelow, the Chabad emissaries to New Canaan.

Services are free and open to the community. For the full schedule of services and reservations visit www.NewCanaanJewish.org

"Street Fair" in New Canaan

(Courtesy of Chabad of New Canaan) Chabad of New Canaan will be hosting a children's Rosh Hashana "Street Fair" on September 10, 10:00-11:30 am, at the New Canaan YMCA, in anticipation of the upcoming High Holidays.

Each stall at the indoor event, designed to mimic a classic street fair, will feature a hands-on activity connected to Rosh Hashana celebrations. Children will have the opportunity to bake their own challah in the traditional round shape, craft artisanal pomegranate salsa, design custom Shana Tovah cards, taste-test an array of symbolic holiday foods, and more.

In keeping with the New Year's custom, each child will also have the opportunity to create a resolution for the coming year, and craft a customized magnet to remind them of their intent. A "snack" box filled with fair goodies will be a take-home treat for every child in attendance.

"Our goal at Chabad of New Canaan

is not only to teach children the facts about Judaism, but to inspire them with the joy and fulfillment of living Jewishly," said Michal Mendelow of Chabad of New Canaan. "At the Rosh Hashana Street Fair, children will experience the excitement and fun of Jewish traditions and understand how ancestral practices - some thousands of years old - have personal relevance and meaning in their modern lives today."

While the Shofar (traditional ram's horn) has been in use for thousands of years, a new twist will be brought with the fair's "Shofar Game Show", where children will compete for prizes with their newly-gained knowledge about the holiday.

All children are welcome.

The New Canaan YMCA is located at 564 South Ave, New Canaan, CT.

Admission is \$10 per person, and free for students of the New Canaan Hebrew School

Please register online at www.newcanaanjewish.org

JCC Offers Rosh Hashana Luncheon for Seniors

(Courtesy of the JCC) On Friday, September 8 from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm, the JCC will host its annual Senior Rosh Hashana luncheon. This luncheon is in memory of Henry Stern, Sandra Stern and Irene Krinsky. Thanks to the generosity of their family, this luncheon is free to all seniors. Guests will enjoy a festive kosher

holiday meal and hear the blowing of the Shofar. The luncheon is in partnership with Catholic Charities.

RSVP is required no later than Friday, September 1. Please register online at www.stamfordjcc.org or contact Shari Ziegelman at 203.487.0979 or sziegelman@stamfordjcc.org.

UConn Hillel Hosts High Holiday Services at Trachten-Zachs Hillel House

(Courtesy of UConn Hillel) UConn Hillel will host High Holiday services at the Trachten-Zachs Hillel House on Friday- Saturday, September 15 & 16 for Rosh Hashana and Sunday-Monday, September 24-25 for Yom Kippur. Alex Goldfarb, a second-year rabbinic student from Hebrew College, will lead services.

UConn Hillel will also be hosting dinner on Rosh Hashana eve on Friday, September 15, dinner prior to Kol Nidre services on Sunday, September 24 and break-fast on Monday, September 25. All meals and services are free and open to all. For more information please check uconnhillel.org or email info@uconnhillel.org

Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut (JFACT)

The Jewish Federation Association of Connecticut (JFACT) wishes you and your family a New Year filled with health and happiness, laughter and love, justice and empathy, good times and good deeds, prosperity and peace.

L'Shana Tova u'Metuka!

Michael Bloom
Executive Director

PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS

Advertise with us & reach the Jewish community of Greater Stamford!

Call Diane Sloyer at (203) 321-1373, ext. 105
or email dianesloyer@ujf.org

THE NEW JEWISH VOICE





OUR JEWISH COMMUNITY HAS MANY FREE OPPORTUNITIES TO JOIN IN CELEBRATING THE UPCOMING JEWISH HOLIDAYS.

The following was shared with UJF for publication.

Please call or visit the websites of synagogues directly for additional information.

YOUNG ISRAEL OF STAMFORD

(Orthodox)
69 Oaklawn Ave.
www.youngisraelstamford.org

- Rosh Hashana** | Sunday-Monday, September 17-18
Shacharit: 8:30 am
- Yom Kippur** | Sunday-Monday, September 24-25
Kol Nidre: 6:40 PM
Shacharit: 9:00 AM
Mincha/Neila: 5:30 PM

Youth Service Schedule will be posted online.

TEMPLE BETH EL

(Conservative)
Rabbi Joshua Hammerman and Cantor Katie Kaplan
Associate Rabbi, Rabbi Gerry Ginsburg
301 Roxbury Road | 203-322-6901 | www.tbe.org

- Selichot** | Saturday, September 9
Refreshments: 8:30 pm
Havdalah in the Matthew Klein
Memorial Garden: 9:00 pm
Followed by Selichot Service with
guest musicians.
Everyone welcome.

- Rosh Hashana** | Saturday, September 16
Family Service with children ages 5
and younger & siblings: 10:00 am
Family Service with children in
elementary school & siblings: 11:00 am
In the tent on the upper lawn at TBE
*Limited seating available in the tent.
Registration required to attend.
Register at www.tbe.org/family-5784.
Questions? Contact Lisa Gittelman-
Udi at eddir@tbe.org*

- Sunday, September 17**
TBE will be open to the public:
8:45 am - 1:00 pm
*Registration required to receive
complimentary tickets.
Registration online at
www.tinyurl.com/rh2free or by calling
TBE at 203-322-6901.*

- Yom Kippur** | Monday, September 25
Mincha: 4:30 pm
Yizkor: 6:00 pm
Neilah: 6:30 pm
Shofar: 7:27 pm
Followed by a Break-the-Fast
No registration required.

CHABAD AT HARBOR POINT

Rabbi Yisrael Deren
101 Park Place, Washington Blvd. and Pacific Street, Unit 110

- Rosh Hashana** | Friday, September 15 @ 7:15 pm
Saturday, September 16 @ 10:00 am
and 7:15 pm
- Yom Kippur** | Sunday, October 24 @ 6:30 pm
Monday, October 25 @ 10:00 am

*If you have any questions or want to hear the Shofar, contact Levi
Deren at Levideren@gmail.com or call 203-912-7708. For the complete
listing, locations and reservations visit www.newcanaanjewish.org*

CONGREGATION AGUDATH SHOLOM

(Modern Orthodox)
Rabbi David Cohen & Assistant Rabbi Moshe Kurtz
301 Strawberry Hill Ave. | 203-358-2200 | www.agudathshlom.org

- Rosh Hashana** | Saturday, September 16 @ 4:00 pm
at Afria (77 Third Street) led by
Rabbi Daniel Cohen
- Sunday, September 17 @ 4:45 pm**
Neighborhood Shofar Blowing
15 Revonah Circle
- Yom Kippur** | Monday, September 25 @ 4:00 pm
Yizkor Service with Rabbi Daniel Cohen

*RSVP Required by Thursday, September 21
rabbicohen@cas-stamford.org*

CHABAD OF STAMFORD

Rabbi Moshe Shemtov
770 High Ridge Rd. | 203-3-CHABAD | 203-324-2223
www.stamfordchabad.org

- Rosh Hashana** | Friday, September 15
Mincha and Maariv: 6:45 pm
Communal Rosh Hashana meal: 7:45 pm
- Saturday, September 16**
Shacharit: 9:00 am
Mincha and Maariv: 6:40 pm
- Sunday, September 17**
Shacharit: 9:00 am
Tashlich and Shofar: 5:00 pm
Mincha and Maariv: 6:40 pm
- Yom Kippur** | Sunday, September 24
Mincha: 3:30 pm
Candle lighting & Fast begins: 6:30 pm
Kol Nidrei: 6:30 pm
- Monday, September 25**
Shacharit: 9:00 am
Torah reading & Yizkor: 11:00 am
Mincha and Neilah: 5:00 pm
Shofar, Maariv and Breakfast: 7:27 pm

TEMPLE SINAI

(Reform)
Rabbi Jay TelRav and Cantor Micah Morgovsky
458 Lakeside Dr. | 203-322-1649
www.templestamford.org

- Selichot** | Saturday, September 9
Program, Service with Rabbi TelRav,
Cantor Morgovsky and Kolot Sinai: 7:30 pm
- Sunday, September 10**
Cemetery Memorial Service
Fairfield Memorial Park: 2:00 pm
- Rosh Hashana*** | Saturday, September 16
Families with Young Children Service
(ages: under 5): 1:30 pm
Creative Tashlich Service: 3:00 pm
- Sunday, September 17**
Morning Service followed by Brunch:
8:30 am
- Yom Kippur** | Monday, September 25
Families with Young Children
Service (ages: under 5): 1:30 pm
Creative Afternoon Service: 3:30 pm
Yizkor/N'ilah Services: 4:30 pm

** We gladly welcome first time attendees to join any of our High Holy
Day Services. Please contact Jayne Vasco in the Temple Office for more
information regarding tickets.*

CHABAD OF NEW CANAAN

Rabbi Levi Mendelow
www.newcanaanjewish.org

- Rosh Hashana** | Saturday, September 16
Morning Services: 9:00 am
Children's Program: 11:00 am
- Sunday, September 17**
Morning Services: 9:00 am
Shofar Sounding: 11:30 am
Tashlich and Shofar (meet at the
pond in Waveny Park): 6:00 pm
- Yom Kippur** | Sunday, September 24
Kol Nidrei/ Evening Services: 6:30 pm
- Monday, September 25**
Morning Services: 9:00 am
Children's Program: 11:15 am
Yizkor Memorial Service: 11:15 am
(approximately)
Mincha and Neilah Closing
Service: 5:15 pm
Shofar Sounding and
Break-Fast: 7:27 pm

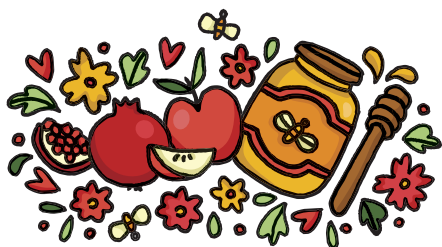
*For the complete listing, locations and reservations visit
www.newcanaanjewish.org*



Best wishes for a happy
and healthy New Year.

Shana Tova

ELLEN AND RICHARD WEBER



**L'Shana
Tova!**

Happy and Healthy
Greetings for
the New Year!

NAN AND PAUL GORDON



May your year be sealed
with peace, happiness
and good health!

MONICA AND MICHAEL SCHLESSINGER



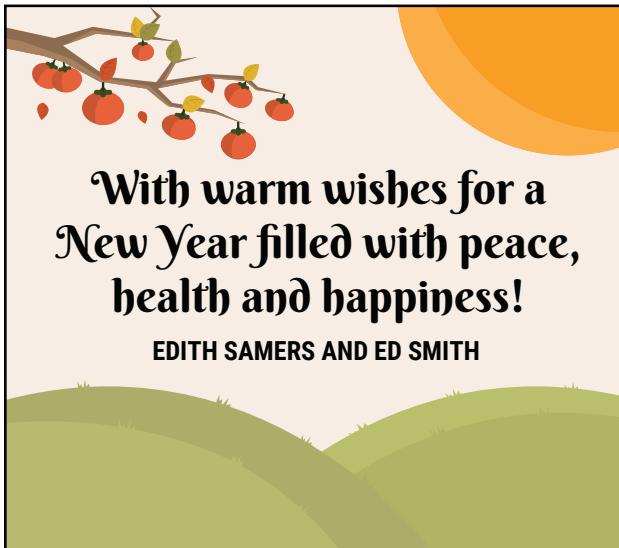
L'Shana Tovah tikatevu
from our home to yours!
May it be a sweet year
with many blessings!

LINDA HURWITZ AND RICH FINE



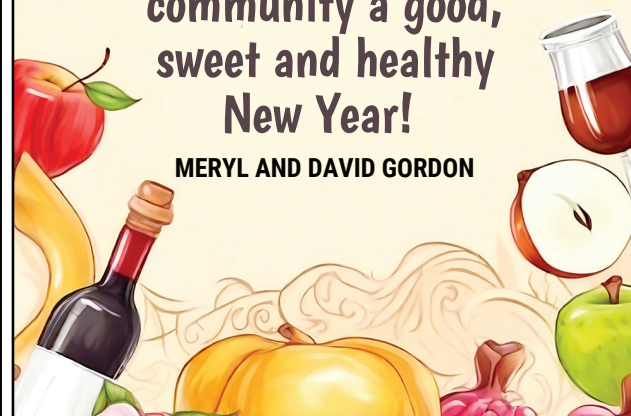
With warm wishes for a
New Year filled with peace,
health and happiness!

EDITH SAMERS AND ED SMITH



Wishing the entire
community a good,
sweet and healthy
New Year!

MERYL AND DAVID GORDON



Shana Tova to
our wonderful
community.

*Wishing
everyone
health, peace,
and joy!*

DIANE AND ELLIOT SLOYER



*May the
coming year
offer good
health and
peace to all.*

HELENE ZIMMERMAN



Shana Tova
GADI AND
NANCY MIMOUN



*L'Shana Tova
u'Metukah!*

SHARON AND
JEFFREY LEWIS



Shana Tova to all my friends in the
greater Stamford Jewish community.

*May it be a sweet and
healthy New Year*

SUSAN KOSTIN



Best Wishes
for a Happy,
Healthy and Sweet
New Year.

SANDY & FRED GOLOVE



B"H

HIGH HOLIDAYS WITH CHABAD OF STAMFORD

ROSH HASHANAH POP UP SHOP
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 9:30-11:30AM
ROUND CHALLAH, LOCAL HONEY, CAKE, KUGEL, FRUIT AND MORE

JWC ROSH HASHANAH READY
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 @ 7:15PM. COME TOGETHER TO PREPARE DISHES TO BRING HOME TO SHARE!

ORDER LOCAL HONEY
THE PERFECT GIFT FOR ROSH HASHANAH. BUY LOCAL RAW HONEY AND HAVE THE LABELS PERSONALIZED

SPONSOR OR BUY HONEY CAKE
SPONSOR HONEY CAKE FOR OUR LOAVES OF LOVE HOLIDAY PROGRAM OR BUY ONE FOR YOURSELF!

HIGH FOR THE HIGH HOLIDAYS
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 AT 5:15PM. SUSHI AND TASHLICH LAKESIDE AT A PRIVATE HOME IN STAMFORD

ROSH HASHANAH COMMUNAL DINNER
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2022 AT 7:45PM. ALL ARE WELCOME

TASHLICH AND SHOFAR
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 AT 5:15PM AT THE STAMFORD J 1035 NEWFIELD AVE

BETTEN LEKACH
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH 11:00AM - 12:00PM AT THE SHERIDAN'S HOME

SERVICES - FREE & OPEN TO ALL
INCLUDES SPECIAL CHILDREN'S PROGRAM WITH OUR GAN MORAH'S - RSVP APPRECIATED

770 HIGH RIDGE ROAD, STAMFORD, 06905
WWW.STAMFORDCHABAD.ORG
203 3CHABAD



Congregation Agudath Sholom

Agudath Sholom Welcomes You for the Holidays and Beyond!

Our growing, vibrant and inclusive community serves as a beacon of light in Greater Stamford!

Wishing you and your family a happy, sweet and joyous new year!

Rabbi Daniel Cohen, Senior Rabbi
Harvey Kaminski, President

To learn more, visit www.cas-stamford.org
or contact Rabbi Cohen (rabbicohen@cas-stamford.org)



CELEBRATE THE JEWISH NEW YEAR WITH TEMPLE SHOLOM



STAMFORD - It's not too late to join our vibrant, welcoming and inclusive community for the High Holidays!

Those who are new to Temple Sholom or new to the area may be eligible for complimentary High Holiday tickets. Contact Lori Baden, Executive Director, at lori.baden@templesholom.com if interested.



Temple Sholom 300 East Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT • www.templesholom.com

CONGREGATION
Shir Ami

We welcome you to join Shir Ami and Rabbi David Evan Markus for our inspiring in-person High Holiday Services

- ☆ With our uplifting musicians and choir ☆
- ☆ Community gathering that is both intimate and meaningful ☆

ALL ARE WELCOME - reservations required.
Live-stream will be available for those unable to attend in-person.

**2023 ~ HIGH HOLIDAYS ~ 5784
SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

☆ ROSH HASHANAH ☆		
Erev RH	Friday, September 15th	6:30 pm
RH Morning	Saturday, September 16th	10:00 am
RH Day 2	Sunday, September 17th	10:00 am
☆ YOM KIPPUR ☆		
Kol Nidre	Sunday, September 24th	6:30 pm
YK Morning	Monday, September 25th	10:30 am
HHD This is Real - Class 7	Monday, September 25th	1:30 pm
YK Afternoon	Monday, September 25th	3:30 - 6 pm
Yizkor-Neilah		
Havdalah/Break Fast		

MEMBERS - free ☆ GUESTS - \$125 in-person/\$54 virtual per person
You may register on our home page at www.congregationshirami.org | 203.900.7976

☆☆☆

May the sound of the shofar stir us to create a more just world with health and peace for all



United Jewish Federation
of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien

2023 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN for COMMUNAL NEEDS

Building a Strong & Vibrant Jewish Community in Fairfield County & Around the Globe

Community IMPACT

Where it's Needed Most | UNLIMITED

By directing your gift to "where it is needed most", you are enabling UJF's Grants and Allocations committee to fulfill the needs in this ad.

The Infrastructure of UJF | UNLIMITED

Help keep the UJF engine running so we can continue to strengthen our community.

Israel & Global Jewry | UNLIMITED

Join UJF's commitment to maintaining the continuity of our global Jewish family through social welfare needs, Jewish education, and safety.

Communal Scholarship Fund | UNLIMITED

Help provide funding to schools, camps, and more by providing scholarships to local organizations.

LIFE & LEGACY® | \$170,000

Assure our community's Jewish tomorrows with LIFE & LEGACY®. With support from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, UJF helps communal organizations promote legacy giving and build their endowments.

Community Shaliach (Israel Emissary) | \$110,000 (\$40,000*)

Help UJF host a Shaliach who works throughout our community. The Shaliach strengthens connections with Israel by working in local synagogues, agencies, and schools. *Already raised by sponsorships

New Jewish Voice Newspaper | \$80,000

Keep UJF's community publication, New Jewish Voice, free! We keep 10,000+ readers in touch with Jewish news, activities, partner agencies, and community events.

Communal Security | \$80,000

Keep our local Jewish community safe amid a growing threat of hatred and antisemitism. Money raised will help fund UJF's Regional Security Advisor who trains and advises local agencies and institutions. Gifts will be matched by a Live Secure Grant from Jewish Federations of North America.

Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) | \$78,000

Fund UJF's JCRC representing the Jewish community's interests and concerns to public officials and agencies, the media, and the community at large.

NextGen | \$45,000

Connect young Jews in their mid-20s, 30s, and 40s, from all backgrounds and affiliations. UJF's NextGen program is dedicated to building a better, stronger Jewish community with social events, volunteer programs, educational activities, and philanthropy.

Engagement & Affinity Groups | \$37,000

Provide a platform for communal engagement through UJF groups that connect community members with shared interests. Groups include lawyers, doctors, business professionals, grandparents, empty nesters, and more.

Shalom/Welcome Program | \$18,000

Ensure all newcomers get a proper "shalom" from UJF family with a personal visit. Shalom Baby also welcomes new babies in the UJF family with gifts and relevant information for parents.

Yom HaShoah Commemoration | \$12,000

Help UJF and the Board of Rabbis bring the community together annually to remember individuals and communities lost in the Shoah.



Youth & YOUNG ADULTS

BCHA Support Services Program | \$60,000

Partner with Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy to provide a Resource Specialist for both their Middle and Upper School students to assist with learning styles to succeed academically, socially, and emotionally.

BCHA Community Chesed/Tikkun Olam Program | \$50,000

Support the Community Chesed/Tikkun Olam program as Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy students participate with communal Jewish agencies and institutions in mitzvah opportunities.

Schoke JFS Mental Health Services & Wellness for Adolescents & Youth | \$35,000

Assist Schoke JFS to expand their clinical department to provide services to youth and teens experiencing depression and anxiety.

Mitzvah Makers | \$20,000

Assist Temple Beth El's efforts to engage middle schoolers in social action/social justice activities and projects. This program provides monthly mitzvah opportunities and partners with local organizations like UJF, Schoke JFS, JCC, and more.

Temple Sinai Programming & Educational Resources | \$20,000

Help enrich families with young children (5 years old or younger) at Temple Sinai's Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC) through youth programs and the new teen program, *TS Inspire*.

CAS Teen Israel | \$15,000

Assist Congregation Agudath Sholom Teens in becoming trained, educated, and inspired to advocate for Israel through monthly seminars and advocacy work.

Young Israel of Stamford Youth Program | \$12,000

Help Young Israel of Stamford expand their youth programming over the summer by hosting activities, shabbat events, and non-shabbat events for teens, free and open to the public.

One Happy Camper | \$12,000

Support UJF to offer first-time campers attending Jewish summer camp a one-time grant up to \$1000 through a partnership with One Happy Camper. Grants are available to first-time campers not currently enrolled in day school.

Friendship Circle Inclusion Fair | \$8,500

Help support Friendship Circle's teen volunteer-led educational inclusion fair for elementary and middle school students.

UConn Stamford Hillel Shabbat | \$8,000

Provide Shabbat programming and meals for UConn Stamford students. Funding will help bring Storrs Hillel students to Stamford for expanded social opportunities.

Social Services & SENIOR SUPPORT

JCC Arts & Entertainment Program | \$80,000

Designed to promote cultural engagement, the JCC Arts and Entertainment Program for community members ages 60+ offers a variety of events including health and wellness, author series, workshops and more.

Build Support Through Connections | \$27,500

Provide resources for Schoke JFS programming in areas including healthy relationships, caregiving, and bereavement support.

Schoke JFS Senior Care Navigator | \$24,000

Enable Schoke JFS to hire a Senior Care Navigator to lead care management services to Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien senior communities.

Schoke JFS Holocaust Survivor Fund | \$20,000

Help meet emergency needs of local Holocaust survivors. Funds raised by UJF are matched by Kavod Shef, a national organization dedicated to survivors.

Anachnu Holocaust Survivor | \$12,000

Join UJF in supporting Anachnu Holocaust Survivor programming all year round with survivors sharing their experiences and enjoying cultural programs, special events, and celebrations.



United Jewish Federation

of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien
Serving Greater Fairfield County

2009 Summer Street, Suite 301, Stamford, CT 06905
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Bits & Pieces



BY SANDY GOLOVE

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

Sandy Golove

MAZEL TOV TO GROWING FAMILIES:

David Bessaleli on the birth of a great-grandson.
Sarah Bierman & David Wallis on the birth of a son.
Rachel Chao & Nick Hyman on the birth of a daughter, Luna Sylvie Hyman and to the grandparents Elissa & James Hyman.
Jessica & Jason Denker on the birth of a son, Jacob Ethan Denker; and to the grandparents, Karen & Bruce Denker.
Pam Ehrenkranz & Matt Greenberg on the birth of a grandson.
Marian Freed & Robert Martino on the birth of their granddaughter, Rosalind Martino.
Adina & Elisha Fried on the birth of a son; and to grandparents, Shara & Rabbi David Israel.
Liz & Bill Gilbert on the birth of a granddaughter, Sophia Kaye Kestenbaum.
Samantha & Emry Hadad on the birth of a son; and to the grandmother, Helen Felder.
Sarit & Yonathan Hormadaly on the birth of a son.
Flora & Carl Kaufman on the birth of a great grandson.
Barr & Steven Kryger-Even on the birth of a daughter, Leora Ziv.
Liatte & David Lasher on the birth of a son.
Julie & Josh Levin on the birth of a son; and to the grandparents Susan & Mark Alswanger.
Sarah & Michael Mark on the birth of a daughter, Stella Maeve Mark and to grandparents Susan & Len Mark and Sharon & Cantor Scott Harris.
Chelsea Eisenberg Naden & Andrew Naden on the birth of a daughter, Sophie Arielle Naden; and to the grandparents,

Stacy & Dan Beyda and to great-grandparents Sandra & Joseph Barocas.
Franni & Joshua Nagel on the birth of a daughter; and to grandparents, Darona & Rabbi Tzvi Bernstein.
Rachel & Dan Rosenblum on the birth of a son.
Sarah & Marty Rubin on the birth of a daughter; and to the grandparents Sharon & Burt Rubin and great grandmother Donna Rubin.
Erica & Elliot Safar on the birth of a son.
Eliza Scheffler & Andy Granowitz on the birth of a daughter, Maya Scheffler Granowitz; and to grandparents, Loralee & Phil Granowitz and Carol & Michael Scheffler.
Elisheva & Yaakov Moshe Shmidman on the birth of a daughter; and to grandparents Diane & Rabbi Daniel Cohen.
Mihal Spitzer & David Ariyeh on the birth of a son; and to the grandmother, Cecile Minkoff.
Maya & Adam Udi on the birth of a son; and to the grandparents, Lisa Gittelman Udi & Amnon Udi.
Luba Weinroth on the birth of a great grandson, Logan Paul Weinroth.
Barbara & Ken White on the birth of a great-granddaughter, Lila Marilyn Fernberger.
Tali Winkler & Jonathan Eskreis-Winkler on the birth of twin daughter.
Nina & David Wollner on the birth of a son.
Allison Young & Alain Derderian on the birth of a son.

MAZEL TOV ON MARRIAGES/ ENGAGEMENTS:

Stephanie Becker & David Messer on their marriage.
Irene Diamond and Jim Diamond on the marriage of their daughter, Evelyn Rose Diamond to Michael Hafner.
Joshua Esses & Lauren Appelbaum on their recent marriage.
Shara & Rabbi David Israel on the engagement of their son, Yoni Israel to Shoshana Rosenzweig.

Shara & Rabbi David Israel on the marriage of their son, Ari Israel to Gavi Krinsky.
Claudine & Stuart Feurstein on the engagement of their son, Saul Feit to Sabrina Schochet, daughter of Devorah & Ben Schochet.
Judy & Howard Goldstein on the marriage of their daughter, Rebecca Goldstein to Eitan Edelman.
Ellen Luntz & Michael Jacobson on their marriage.
Jerry Regan: husband of Gail Regan; and father of Jessica Stahl and Karen Regan.
Sharyn & Richard Sarner on the marriage of their son, Bryan Sarner to Julie Kavanagh.
Juli Harris and Scott Sekuler on their marriage.
David Bessaleli on the engagement of his granddaughter, Tehila Jasper to Adar Shakked.

MAZEL TOV OTHER:

David Kaplan on receiving the Stamford Citizen of the Year Award.

MAZEL TOV B'NAI MITZVAH:

Violet Block: daughter of Edie & Myles Block.
Sophie Brand: daughter of Jessie & David Brand.
Zachary Neer: son of Amy & Jason Neer.
Lev Rubin: son of Michal & Jonathan Rubin.
Riley Scherer: daughter of Angela Mak & Aaron Scherer.
Jenny Schwartz: daughter of Rena Gelb & Tzvi Schwartz.
Bina Hannah Siscovick: daughter of Talia & Jon Siscovick.
Yoni Weiss: son of Alisa & Jeremy Weiss.

WE MOURN THE LOSS OF:

Aaron Cohen: uncle of Daniel Block.
Beatrice S. Friedman: mother of Andrew Friedman and Marcy Kurzman.
Joe Gelb: husband of Miriam Gelb and father of Marcia Rutstein and Howard Gelb.

Ronald Gold: husband of Anna Gold and brother of Carolan Lutsky.
Michael Goldberg: brother of Eric Goldberg and Fern Rhinesmith.
Herb Goodman: brother of Lois Dreyer.
John Graubard: husband of Myra Graubard; and father of Naomi Graubard and Michael Graubard.
Mary Ann Hoberman: mother of Diane Hoberman Louie; and sister of Joel Freedman.
Leslie (Henrietta) Horowitz: mother of Barnett Horowitz and Irving Horowitz.
Larry Horwitz: brother of Belle Horwitz.
Neil Johnson: brother of Barbara Orwick.
Martha Krakowitch: sister of Melanie Massell.
Bernice Lang: mother of Richard Lang, Edward Lang and Pam Lang.
Hortense Martin: mother of Jim Martin.
Hannah Piskin: mother of Scott Piskin, Brenda Piskin, Jay Piskin and Craig Piskin.
Richard Ravitch: cousin of Maggie Seligman.
David Rosenblum: husband of Elaine Rosenblum; father of Michael Rosenblum and brother of Helen Rosenblum Weiner.
Lorraine Satz: wife of Robert Satz and mother of David Satz and Tracey Satz.
Arnold Steiger: husband of Rhoda Steiger; and father of Ben Steiger, Marc Steiger, Pam Korson and Richard Korson.
Alan Steinhorn: father of Karen Conti.
Professor Emerita at UConn Stamford Nechama Tec: mother of Leora Tec and Roland Tec.
Maxine Thau: mother of Andrea Thau, Brian Thau and Steven Thau.
Henry Tindel: father of Lori Kahn.
Stuart Tobin: father of Seth Tobin.
Michael Weingarten: father of Nicole Zussman.
Susan Yellin: mother of Jason Yellin.

The Hebrew Corner

A Monthly Primer by Robert Abrams, UJF Education Committee Chair

As we know, Rosh means the head or the beginning, whether we use it for a new month, Rosh Chodesh, or a new year, Rosh Hashana. The root letters for the Hebrew word "Rosh" are Raysh, Aleph, and Shin. We're all pretty much



Robert Abrams

familiar with the word and the idea behind it.

But now let's try an experiment. Let's completely reverse the order of the root letters. Now we have SHin, Aleph, and Raysh. As you would expect, the word now means something different. How different, though, may surprise

you. The Hebrew word SHuh-AyR means exactly the opposite of the beginning of something. In English it translates into the "remainder" or the "remnant" of something. In other words, whatever is left. It is a word that is used in subtraction, but you may have heard or read the phrase the "remnant of Israel," or "SHuh-Ay-Reet Yisrael" in the *siddur* (prayer book) as well.

After the destruction of the Second Temple by the Roman Empire in the year 70 of the Common Era, the phrase "SHuh-Ay-Reet Yisrael" entered as a new idiom into the Jewish conscience and into our *siddurim* as well. We became the SHuh-Ay-Reet Yisrael. And as long as we remain aware of our history and heritage, we shall remain so.

All Around Town with UJF's Shaliach, Yoav Yaron

Yoav Yaron, who just celebrated his one-year anniversary as United Jewish Federation's *shaliach* (Israeli emissary), has spent the last twelve months getting to know the Stamford, New Canaan and Darien communities. Here are some of the many summer interactions Yoav has had with the community.



As part of UJF's "Popsicles in the Park" at Barrett Park and Chestnut Hill Park with PJ Library families, Yoav read stories, facilitated fun art projects and enjoyed cool treats.



Yoav organized a monthly Stamford's "Moishe House Without Walls" to celebrate Shabbat and the 4th of July in Stamford.



On Tisha B'av at Temple Sinai, Yoav shared his personal memories of growing up in Gush Katif, Israel.



Yoav provided insights and answered questions about communities in Israel to the residents at Waterstone on High Ridge, an adult living facility.



Brett Olson took part in one of a series of home-beer-brewing workshops conducted by Yoav, allowing him to spread his passion of making beer at home to others in the community.

A Message from UJF's Community Shaliach Blessed To Belong

BY YOAV YARON

I can't believe I live here. I have been in Connecticut for a year now. That's wild to me.

This has probably been one of the fastest and most adventurous times of my life. After arriving in Stamford last August, I remember how different everything felt. I will



Yoav Yaron

never forget the first morning. I didn't have an American phone or internet in the house yet, so I grabbed a cup of coffee from PROOF Coffee Roasters in Harbor Point and hung outside soaking up the sun while chatting with my family on WhatsApp. I kept trying to wrap my head around the idea that I finally moved from Israel to the States.

As the year grew on, and I got to know the community, I started to feel more at home. The high holidays were wonderful. I was afraid I would be homesick but

the amount of love and hospitality I received from everyone helped a lot. It made me feel good and that I belong. In the past year, I had the privilege to run so many community programs, facilitated countless conversations, developed relationships, and enjoyed

many delightful Shabbat meals, coffee dates, drinks, and the chance to come together with an incredible community.

I truly feel blessed to be a part of such a welcoming, diverse, and loving *kehila* (קהילה community).

As I look forward to the next year at UJF, I am full of dreams, ideas, and energy to create opportunities for bringing us together as a community. This is a personal invitation to join me in making the next twelve months as meaningful as this past year.

New Around Town

Eric Ross, UJF Deputy Director

(Courtesy of UJF) United Jewish Federation of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien is proud to announce that Eric Ross has joined the staff as UJF's Deputy Director. A native of Long Island, Eric has lived most of his life in Florida. Eric earned his BA in Religious Studies from the University of South Florida (USF), before completing two Masters degrees from Gratz College – one in Judaic Studies and another in Jewish Communal Services, specializing in Nonprofit Management. In 2022, he also completed a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Workplace certification from the USF Muma College of Business.



Eric Ross

Eric worked for the Anti-Defamation League for the last 8 years, most recently as the Senior Associate Director for Jewish Communal Outreach and Antisemitism for ADL's Southern Division and the 15 states it covers.

Together with his wife Jaime and their son and daughter, they are very excited to become

part of the greater Stamford community. Eric has spent nearly 20 years working in the organized Jewish community because he believes, "The most satisfied people in life are the ones who go home with a smile on their face, knowing they spent their day trying to make the world a better place for others."

Dr. Marina Zatman, Schoke JFS Medical Director

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) Marina Zatman, M.D. joins the Elayne and James Schoke Jewish Family Service of Fairfield County as its Medical Director. Dr. Zatman brings a wealth of experience to the agency as a psychiatrist at hospitals throughout Fairfield County and in her own private practice. She specializes in adult psychiatry and psychopharmacology. "I'm excited to join the team at Schoke JFS and contribute to the care of our community," says Dr. Zatman.



Dr. Marina Zatman

May the year 5784 bring peace and harmony to the community of Stamford and the family of Israel



Blake Bueckman,
President

Marshall Kurland,
Chief Executive Officer

Mobile Food Pantry Feeds Hundreds

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) Schoke Jewish Family Service partnered with the Back to School Shop for its ninth annual event on Sunday, July 30. Every year, the Back to School Shop provides hundreds of children with the opportunity to choose their very own brand-new clothes, coats, sneakers, backpacks, school supplies, winter accessories and much more. It is a volunteer-run endeavor that empowers children to start the new school year with enthusiasm and confidence.

This year, the Schoke JFS Kosher Mobile Food Pantry was there to provide food resources to the 350 families attending the event, making it the largest distribution for Schoke JFS. Leah Schechter, Schoke JFS Chief Program Officer, said, "As a community-focused organization, we look for partners throughout Fairfield County to maximize our impact. Partnering with the Back to School Shop has been an extraordinary opportunity to provide food and services to families in Stamford, and to serve as an example of how collaboration between organizations and the local school districts fulfills our mission of raising up our community to the fullest extent."

The day's events also included two in-person food demonstrations with Dr. Joseph Feuerstein of Everyday Health's Condition Kitchen. He provided food samples



Co-founder and co-chair of Back to School Shop and Schoke JFS board member, Meryl Japha, Schoke JFS Chief Program Officer, Leah Schechter, Dr. Joseph Feuerstein of Everyday Health's Condition Kitchen, and Schoke JFS CEO & President, Matt Greenberg.

while sharing healthy tips and recipes using the shelf-stable groceries and produce provided by the Schoke JFS Kosher Mobile Food Pantry. This collaboration of health professionals, Schoke JFS, and the Back to School Shop offered families unique access to support and resources free from the obstacles they might otherwise face.

To support Schoke JFS food programs, go to www.ctjfs.org/thegatheringtable



Families shop at the JFS Kosher Mobile Food Pantry.

Connecting With Israel One Mitzvah at a Time

(Courtesy of Temple Sinai) Temple Sinai recently celebrated Mitzvah Day, now in its 27th year, which continues to be about *kehillah kedoshah* (building a sacred community) and *tikkun olam* (repairing the world). As part of this annual day of doing *mitzvot* (good deeds), Federation's Community Shaliach Yaov Yaron led discussions with congregants about the importance of "tending to the needy in your gates." As is referred to in Deuteronomy 15:7 - "If, however, there is a needy person among you, one of your kinsmen in any of your gates in the land that the LORD your God is giving you, do not harden your heart and shut your hand against your needy kinsman."

To honor this principle, *tzedakah* (charity) was collected, and participants chose SparkIL as the platform to direct their philanthropy. SparkIL is a new peer-to-peer lending platform that allows individuals around the world to support the small business of their choice in Israel. Established in partnership with The Jewish Agency for Israel (a recipient of United Jewish Federation) and The Ogen Group, the platform enables users to participate in crowdfunding interest-free loans that aim to make a real, measurable, and continuing impact on Israel's most deserving entrepreneurs.

"This year, Mitzvah Day was centered on the themes of advocacy and inclusion and designed to help us think about how to care for and protect the environment, challenge economic inequality and fight for justice and civil liberties," said Lisa Silver, outgoing Vice President of Social Action, Temple Sinai. "Our ability to think about the impact of interest-free loans supporting entrepreneurs in Israel allowed us to place value on *tzedakah* and those in our own gates. SparkIL's novel platform is really the conduit to connecting us to deserving individuals."

Temple Sinai congregants made interest-



Muhammed Gaber is able to continue providing driving lessons in East Jerusalem thanks to an interest-free loan supported by Temple Sinai through SparkIL, a lending platform for small businesses in Israel.

free loans to two organizations: JB Fashion and On the Road with Muhammad.

JB Fashion was started by Yulia, age 33, who immigrated to Israel three years ago. Temple Sinai was drawn to her experience of transitioning from Siberia to Kibbutz Mashabey Sade - Negev. There she was pregnant with her second child and could not find maternity and nursing clothes made of natural and comfortable fabrics. Coronavirus, lack of work, and her loneliness as a new immigrant brought her back to her love - the craft of sewing. She turned to the SparkIL Fund for a loan to start her new business and now offers affordable and comfortable maternity clothing to other women.

Temple Sinai also supported On the Road with Muhammad, for Muhammad Goda Gaber, a driving instructor in East Jerusalem. With a failing car, he needed a loan to buy a new one to teach driving lessons. Temple Sinai was drawn to his obligation and responsibility to establish a responsible and safe driving culture and his desire to mentor and train his students.

Once these loans are repaid, Temple Sinai can choose other loan initiatives that are of interest to continue to multiply the impact of its *tzedakah*. Helping all Israelis start businesses and pursue a passion, is at the core of SparkIL. To learn more about investing, visit www.jewishagency.org/sparkil.

A New "Life Plan Community" in Stamford

(Courtesy of Mozaic Senior Life) Mozaic Senior Life, formerly Jewish Senior Services, shares that there is much progress to report on the development of a new Life Plan Community (also known as a CCRC or Continuing Care Retirement Community) in Stamford called Mozaic Concierge Living. Since purchasing the land at 210 Long Ridge Road in December 2022, the team has been working diligently.

The initial architectural design work to complete the schematic design was completed in early April, and transition into the design development phase began immediately with architects and interior designers from Perkins Eastman. The

final site plan was submitted to the City of Stamford Zoning Board in May, thanks to an enormous team effort and is now pending Zoning approval.

"This is an exciting and critical planning opportunity for our future - as we seek to offer another level of care (Independent Living) for those who are seeking to plan for their own personal futures," said Jon August, Board Chairperson, Mozaic Senior Life.

The sales center will be located in the office building next door at 260 Long Ridge Road. Great care is being taken to ensure that pricing for the entrance and monthly fees are consistent with current market rates for similar communities and support

the financial model for the long-term success of the project.

Mozaic Concierge Living is currently offering a "priority reservation program" which will give residents design input, discounts on entrance and monthly fees, higher refundability, and most importantly will help frame the final decisions for the community.

Monthly presentation luncheons for anyone interested in learning more are being held at various locations in and around Stamford and Greenwich. For



Exterior rendering of Mozaic Concierge Living by Perkins Eastman.

more information about Mozaic Concierge Living, contact Amy Ferarrie at info@mozaiccl.org, 203-396-1140, or visit mozaicconciergeliving.org.

UConn Hillel Hosts Summer Welcome for Incoming Students

(Courtesy of UConn Hillel)

On Sunday, August 6, UConn Hillel hosted its second annual Summer Welcome at the Stamford home of University of Connecticut President Emeritus, Dr. Susan Herbst.

Fifty guests, including incoming students and their parents, board members and supporters, UConn Hillel staff, and current UConn student leaders, joined together to kick-off the academic year and welcome the incoming students to UConn.

"It was a beautiful opportunity for people to gather. This past year, our Hillel has experienced tremendous growth, and we are thrilled to begin welcoming students as we plan for the fall semester. This event allows for Hillel to begin engagement with students and create that home away from home that benefits over 800 Jewish students each year," remarked Edina Oestreicher, Executive Director.

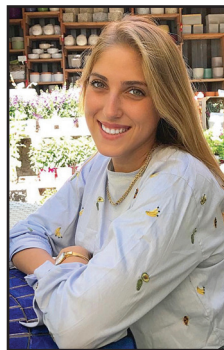
To accommodate this new growth, UConn Hillel is proud to welcome three new staff members: Jake Niefeld, an engagement fellow; Shirly Afrimi, a Jewish Agency Israel Fellow; and Jared White, the new assistant director.

Jake is from Minnesota and attended the University of Kansas (UK), where he earned a B.S.E in Spanish education. At UK Hillel, Jake worked in programming, development, and engagement as a student leader.

Shirly, the new Israel Fellow, was



UConn Hillel Board President with Lori Baden, '89, Michael Bloom, '98 and Lauren Moskowitz, '03



Shirly Afrimi



Jared White



Jake Niefeld

born and raised in Givon Hahadasha and served in the IDF as a platoon commander. She earned a B.S. in political science, international relations, and communications from the Open University and looks forward to building connections with students through Israel outreach, education, and travel to the Holy Land.

Jared joins UCONN Hillel after leading the Ramat HaNegev Regional Council Partnership programs alongside the Jewish Agency for Israel and countless Jewish communities worldwide. He earned his B.E. at David Yellin College in Jerusalem.

UConn Hillel, the Center for Jewish Life, fosters inclusive and meaningful experiential opportunities to enrich the lives of students and help them explore Judaism and Jewish values on their own terms. For more information, please email us at info@uconnhillel.org.

Chabad's Summer Barbecue



(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) At Chabad of Stamford's annual Men's Summer BBQ, participants schmoozed, put on tefillin and enjoyed a delicious meal.

JCC Campers Have Summer Fun

(Courtesy of JCC) This summer The Stamford JCC offered Day Camps@The J (traditional day camp), Stamford J Basketball Summer Camps, and Performing Arts at The J Summer Programs (theater and dance options). Campers were always busy and filled The JCC with energy!



Friends go for a relaxing boat ride on The J's lake. (PHOTO CREDIT: RYLOIE WALKER)



Rachel Steinmetz, Day Camps@The J Director, and Rebecca Hackett, Assistant Camp Director, pose with two campers on Red, White and Blue day. (PHOTO CREDIT: HALEY BLAU)



Stamford J Basketball camper focuses on form before taking a shoot. (PHOTO CREDIT: HALEY BLAU)



Midsummer Players Summer Theater campers learn a musical number for their end of summer performance of Schoolhouse Rock Live! JR. (PHOTO CREDIT: HALEY BLAU)

Focus on Nature

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) At Gan Yeladim's camp this summer, a large focus was on outdoors and nature. The children got the chance to make the most out of their "al fresco" classroom where they played, planted, learned and enjoyed the outdoors. They took full advantage of the garden to cultivate their own vegetables, from sowing the seeds to reaping the harvest. They also learned about the outdoors and trees from representatives of the Bartlett Arboretum.

Campers enjoyed an array of indoor and outdoor activities, which included bi-weekly swimming lessons, ceramics classes, gymnastics, music, Shabbat parties, cooking, basketball, soccer and more. The 'touch a truck' sessions hosted by the local police and fire departments were a huge hit among the kids, as was the dog from the K9 unit the police brought in to



Michelle from the Bartlett Arboretum taught the children at Gan Yeladim weekly about nature, bugs, earth, plants, trees and the beautiful world that surrounds them.

introduce to the children.

Once again, the camp was privileged to have several of its former campers return as both CITs and counselors, lending their past experiences to enrich the present. For further information about Gan Yeladim, please reach out to wendy@stamfordchabad.org

PJ Library and NextGen Team-Up for Morning Hike



PJ participants plan their scavenger hunt strategy.



All enjoy a cool treat.



"Newest" members of the PJ community enjoy Mead Memorial Park.

BY MELANIE VORM

Most of us have heard of the phrase "Sunday Funday" and it was certainly that for the PJ Library and NextGen communities last month.

Thirty-five participants, both children and their parents, came together for a morning hike coupled with a scavenger hunt through Mead Memorial Park's Bristow Sanctuary and Wildwood Nature Preserve in New Canaan.

Participants were tasked with searching high and low through the family-friendly

trail in search of creatures and objects such as bugs, bird houses and frogs. As the kids ticked each of their "finds" off their scavenger lists, grown-ups walked and talked with old friends and new.

As with any great summer day, it can only get better with ice cream, and that is exactly what everyone was treated to at the end of the hike. Participants got to choose their favorite frozen delight from the on-site café, The Apple Cart. Once ice creams were devoured, participants sat and had a "picnic style" lunch together (this probably

should have been the other way around, but the kids deserved a treat after all their hard work "scavenging", right?!)

"We had such a great time. It was the perfect weather, a beautiful park that I have never visited before, and great company. I enjoyed myself just as much as my daughter and it was such a fun and different thing to do on a Sunday morning. It may have been one of my most favorite events," said Wendy Siegel, a NextGen community member who lives in North Stamford.

While that was the last NextGen event of the summer, there are fun-packed programs coming over the next few months. Mark your calendars for the next "Weekday Wine Down" on September 20, featuring Rabbi Josh Rosenfeld as guest speaker. And get prepared to roll your dice with NextGen for a casino night full of fun, food, drinks, and roulette (amongst others!) on November 11. For more information, contact Melanie@ujf.org.

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JHSFC Connecticut National History Day Winner

(Courtesy of Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County) Want to learn about the "Jewish Foot Soldiers of the American Market Revolution?" This year's JHSFC Connecticut National History Day winner, Amaia Potashner, used her interest in cultural



History teacher Sean Passan with award winner Amaia.

to History Day, and to her parents for their continued support.

Aside from history, Amaia also loves drawing, playing the violin and figure skating. She thinks that viewers can learn something interesting on her website, particularly the role Jacob Schiff played.

She hopes it also helps students become more interested in the history of Jews in America.

Complete details regarding CT National History Day can be found at historydayCT.org. The 2024 theme is "Turning Points in History." All Fairfield County students in grades 6-12 interested in creating a project and developing their understanding of history are welcome to contact JHSFC-ct.org for assistance in finding appropriate materials. Entries for the JHSFC prize consideration should include Jewish history, Jewish heritage or a Jewish personality.

history and her curiosity to research the role of Jews on the American frontier. Her diligence resulted in an award-winning website that emphasizes the lives of Jews who, instead of staying in eastern cities, moved west and became businessmen or peddlers. How they expanded the West and the challenges they faced make fascinating viewing that can be seen at JHSFC-ct.org

One of the problems Amaia Potashner, a middle school student, encountered relating to her subject was locating primary sources; but she is thankful to her history teacher, Sean Passan, who introduced her

Women Connect at JWC Summer Soiree



(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Over 100 women joined Chabad of Stamford for its annual Jewish Women Connected (JWC) "Summer Soiree" in Stamford in July. The theme of the evening was growth and building connections with one another. The women enjoyed an evening of delicious food, cocktails and liquor-infused ice creams. Participants created homemade diffusers with essential oils to take home or give to others. New friendships were made in the spirit of the evening's theme.

Chabad Co-Director Leah Shemtov spoke about the hidden and revealed gifts in every experience. "Sometimes, things don't go as expected and we get stuck on what we thought would be; but if we take the time, we can often uncover and discover deep gifts and goodness," she said. She urged attendees to try to appreciate the goodness in everything.

For more information on Chabad's JWC events, please contact programs@stamfordchabad.org

This Rosh Hashana, let the 100 blasts of the Shofar bring health and peace to our friends, neighbors, and extended global Jewish family.

*Wishing you a Shana Tova
—a year of health, joy, love, and peace.*

The board and staff of United Jewish Federation,

Michael Schlessinger, President

Diane Sloyer, Chief Executive Officer

BCHA Graduate Returns to Lead Middle School

BY PAUL SILVERFARB

It's a homecoming for Gabriel Felder, as the Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy graduate is coming back to lead the middle school as its new principal. Gabe attended BCHA Kindergarten through 8th grades.

"We are so excited to be bringing Gabe back to BCHA, the institution that fostered his initial desire to pursue education professionally, and after having gained tremendous experience in a distinguished career as an educator over the past 10 years," said Rabbi Tzvi Bernstein, Head of School. "His desire to give back educationally to the Jewish community in which he was raised speaks volumes about how effective our school has been to the success of the special Jewish community that it serves."

And to say that Felder is excited about returning to the BCHA is an understatement.

"Bi-Cultural's Torah-value driven education informed so much of my own core beliefs in what strong classrooms and culture look like," said Felder. "They shaped me and so many others into successful Jewish leaders in their fields. The opportunity to return and be a part of the team of amazing educators is one that is deeply humbling and motivating for me as I hope to continue that tradition of excellence."

For Felder, one of his first missions is to build relationships with the middle school community.

"Through these relationships, I hope to find and cultivate leadership opportunities for our preteens and teens in and out of the classroom that build a holistic and well-rounded education experience," said Felder.

Gabe was previously the Dean of Language Arts and Special Services at Achievement First Apollo Middle School



Gabriel Felder, new middle school principal at Bi Cultural Hebrew Academy. (PHOTO CREDIT: PAUL SILVERFARB)

in Brooklyn, where he led many academic initiatives. He served as a member of the school's leadership team, planned and led staff professional development for over 30 teachers and over 15 staff members, and coached and managed the English Language Arts (ELA) department of eight teachers and 400 students across grades 5-8.

As a member of the school's leadership team, Gabe was responsible for creating and cultivating a vision for the ELA department and adjustments to the ELA curriculum and assessments. He led staff professional development on topics such as data-driven instruction and student data analysis, real-time feedback, classroom culture, Common Core State Standards, student-centered discourse, academic rigor, lesson planning, culturally responsive teaching, co-teaching, and adult culture.

In addition to being a proud graduate of BCHA, Gabe is also a graduate of the City University of New York: Brooklyn College where he holds a Masters of Arts in Education - Students with Disabilities 7-12 Certificate. He also graduated from The George Washington University with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Communications.

Gabe will be filling the position previously held by David Giver, who has been named the new BCHA Upper School Principal.

"We are looking forward to seeing all that Gabriel brings to the middle school," said Giver. "While it is sad to leave my home there, I am grateful to be back in the upper school, where I have been a teacher over the past seven years. It is an exciting time here at BCHA."

Inaugural Hope Day

(Courtesy of Schoke JFS) Schoke JFS was proud to join the community for Kids Helping Kids CT inaugural Hope Day. Hannah Pollack, LMSW, Associate Director of Case Management and Clinical Therapist, represented Schoke JFS with a booth promoting the organization's many mental health resources, including counseling, support groups, yoga classes, and more. It was a great fun-filled day with local community organizations, families, and volunteers!



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BCHA to Launch New Initiatives

BY PAUL SILVERFARB

Bi-Cultural Hebrew Academy of Stamford, CT has a number of new initiatives for the 23-24 academic year.

"We are so excited to be adding a number of new programs to our core curriculum in response to the requests and interests of our students and school families," said Rabbi Tzvi Bernstein, Head of School. "At BCHA we consistently work to meet the needs of our growing student population, creating a dynamic learning environment that promotes student engagement and academic accomplishment for the entire student community."

These new initiatives include:

Courtesy of the vision and financial support of Kamal Haron, BCHA will commence a three-year leadership program for upper school students. This program is in collaboration with the Israel Leadership Institute, which has pioneered leadership programs for businesses and government agencies in both Israel and Internationally. BCHA faculty members are currently receiving training for a curriculum that was designed for the school by the Institute.

In addition to the leadership program, a "Learners' Minyan" for the upper school will be implemented this year in order to help students become more comfortable with the traditional Jewish prayer experience. BCHA will also be adding Spanish as a third language for its upper school students.

"We are excited to see all of the ways in which we can give back to our students, ways that grow their experience in these moments, in ways that will impact their experiences for years to come," said David Giver, Upper School principal at BCHA. "We look forward to seeing the development of our students positively

impacted by these initiatives."

The BCHA middle school students will have the opportunity to learn computer coding and other STEAM topics such as graphic art, science, filmmaking, video game design, 3D printing, and more. All of this is courtesy of a program with iCAMP, the largest independent STEAM education program in greater New York.

The iCAMP program will also be offered for BCHA students in grades three and four. Their program will be geared towards computer literacy and STEAM topics.

In addition to Sandy Shmuelly heading the school's Hebrew music and song program, this year BCHA will host an enhanced music appreciation program in association with the Concordia Conservatory of Music. Students will learn the fundamentals of a broad spectrum of music styles.

"I am thrilled to be piloting these two new programs in several grades this year," said Tricia Hoff, Lower School principal at BCHA. "The music enrichment classes will be in addition to our Israeli music program and will give students an opportunity to explore instruments, music composition and theory, music appreciation, singing and voice. The technology component from iCamp will give students a further grasp on coding, robotics, video game design, and engineering. I think our BCHA students will be really excited about these two initiatives and hopefully after this year, we will be able to expand to more grades."

BCHA will enhance its Theatre Arts program. Led by Janice Chaikelson, the middle and upper schools will showcase three productions throughout the school year.

Chabad of Stamford Hosts "Jewish Indiana Jones"

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) In July, Chabad of Stamford hosted a fascinating presentation by biblical archaeological scholar Rabbi Avraham Stolik entitled "Jerusalem Uncovered". Hailed as "the Jewish Indiana Jones," Rabbi Stolik provided a well-researched and engaging exhibition of the historical evidence of the Jewish people's continuous connection to the city of Jerusalem. With a background in Judaic studies and a strong passion for archaeology, he founded the Jerusalem Uncovered Institute and has been delivering captivating lectures on biblical archaeology for nearly two decades.

Rabbi Stolik, a Chabad Rabbi from Florida, has been fascinated with, and done extensive investigations and studies of, the Western Wall excavations and tunnels. Developing a deep understanding of the structure of how the walls of the



Attendees listen to Rabbi Avraham Stolik's presentation at Chabad of Stamford.

Temple Mount were built and with an understanding of that whole area, he was able to impart to the audience a way of looking back two thousand years to see how it was built. He also instilled in the audience a great deal of insight into Jewish life 2000 years ago, including the Jewish connection to, and the magnitude and grandeur of, *Har Habayit*, the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

Firefighters Visit Camp



(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) Gan Yeladim summer campers enjoyed a "Touch a Truck" session hosted by the Turn of River Fire Department.

Shanah Tovah



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Temple Sinai Amidah Leadership Graduates

(Courtesy of Temple Sinai) As President Kennedy observed, "Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other." Temple Sinai has been putting this principle into practice for almost fifteen years through its "Amidah Leadership Initiative" (ALI). Every other year, a new group of prospective congregational leaders is recruited to join ALI for an intensive leadership development and training program, and the latest cohort of future Temple Sinai leaders has just "graduated." Participants typically are a diverse group, with a wide range of ages and membership tenure.

The ALI members are Lee Bowbeer, Meg Budries, Karen Conti, Rebecca Isenstein, Carin Kalt, Danielle Klein, Mered Sliwinski, and Lindsey Stolarsky. Each of them brought leadership experience from other venues, together with a deep commitment to growing and sustaining Temple Sinai. Their mix of backgrounds and expertise meant that they learned from each other as much as from ALI.

The program began with a series of Sunday morning seminars during the fall and winter led by current congregational leaders and clergy as well as two guest experts, Jonathan Fass and Michael Markovits. The group then split into two teams to work on projects that the temple wanted to pursue. One team focused on ways to maximize the implementation of Temple Sinai's "Welcoming Statement" to enhance inclusiveness and to assist Morah Erica, the synagogue's Religious School Director, in identifying and supporting special needs in the Religious School. Their work culminated in a report on "Inclusiveness in Practice" which they presented at the April meeting of the Temple Sinai Board of Trustees.

The second team focused on preparing teens to deal with antisemitism as they

advance beyond their high school years. They gathered valuable resources that temple staff and volunteers can use to address these issues with teens. If the experience of prior ALI classes holds true, both projects likely will become ongoing congregational activities with continued participation by the ALI members.

New graduate Mered Sliwinski, who was recently elected to the Temple Sinai Board of Trustees, described her time in the program, "ALI gave me the opportunity to meet other congregants and to become more involved in the Sinai community. ALI provided insight into what it means to participate in congregation leadership opportunities and set me up for success as a new trustee."

ALI was started by then-president Meryl Japha, who remembered her own "deer-in-the-headlights" moment when she joined the temple board and wanted future leaders to be better prepared for the experience. Since then, it has become an invaluable pipeline of lay leaders for the congregation.

According to current President Susan Kostin, "ALI is one of our main sources for new board members and committee chairs. We seek out new prospects to invite into the program, and historically they have become the next generation of temple leaders."

Rabbi Jay TelRav added, "Sinai is always intentional in bringing new energy and ideas into our congregational leadership, and the Amidah Leadership Initiative has been very successful in this effort."

Temple Sinai congratulates the new class on completing the program and looks forward to their continuing engagement in congregational life.

For more information on ALI, contact the Temple Sinai office at info@templesinaistamford.org.

An Evening of Inspiration



Soulful singer and musician Choni G conducts a musical evening of inspiration at Chabad of Stamford.

(Courtesy of Chabad of Stamford) In commemoration of the Lubavitcher Rebbe's 29th *yahrzeit* on the third day of the Hebrew month of Tammuz, Chabad of Stamford hosted a "Musical Evening of Inspiration" with Choni G, a South African *chazan* (cantor) and singer. Choni G sang soulful Chabad melodies, many of which had been taught and sung by the Rebbe himself.

That evening Chabad of Stamford also launched a new project. Over the past 29 years, there has been a national effort to find and record peoples' personal

experiences and interactions with the Rebbe. Elayne Dener, from the Stamford community, was inspired to start a local project in Stamford to collect stories from local community members who may not have met the Rebbe, but have been connected to and inspired by him and his teachings.

Chabad of Stamford hopes to publish these local stories starting after Rosh Hashanah. If you would like more information on this special project please contact programs@stamfordchabad.org.

Summer in Shippan



Residents of the Shippan community in Stamford gathered under the stars to meet one another and to hear from Federation President Michael Schlessinger and Federation Shaliach Yoav Yaron.

שנה טובה ומתוקה

Wishing everyone a Shana Tova Umetukah... a sweet and Happy New Year!

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Dara Horn is the award-winning author of six books, including the novels *In the Image* (Norton 2002), *The World to Come* (Norton 2006), *All Other Nights* (Norton 2009), *A Guide for the Perplexed* (Norton 2013), and *Eternal Life* (Norton 2018), and the essay collection *People Love Dead Jews* (Norton 2021). One of *Granta* magazine's Best Young American Novelists, she is the recipient of two National Jewish Book Awards, the Edward Lewis Wallant Award, the Harold U. Ribalow Award, and the Reform Judaism Fiction Prize, and she was a finalist for the JW Wingate Prize, the Simpson Family Literary Prize, and the Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction. Her books have been selected as *New York Times* Notable Books, *Booklist*'s Best 25 Books of the Decade, and *San Francisco Chronicle*'s Best Books of the Year, and have been translated into eleven languages. Her nonfiction work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, among many other publications.

Horn received her doctorate in Yiddish and Hebrew literature from Harvard University. She has taught courses in these subjects at Sarah Lawrence College and Yeshiva University, and has held the Gerald Weinstock Visiting Professorship in Jewish Studies at Harvard.

*Donors who make an annual contribution of \$5,000 or more to UJF.

Best wishes for a
peaceful, healthy,
and safe New Year
for you and your
entire family!

Love,
Marsha Kaiser Shendell
and Family

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LIFE & LEGACY Honor Roll

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

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

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

LIFE & LEGACY Testimonials

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

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

CARYN HALBRECHT & TOMMY HAENDLER TESTIMONIAL

Why did we do it?

Tommy and I are just so grateful for the many blessings in our lives, and feel inspired to give back to support the community that has been so central for us.

As we are both children of families that ran from the Holocaust, we are keenly aware of how critical it is that we each take responsibility for our people in any way we can. We want to contribute some of our legacy to the Jewish Federation to help ensure a strong, supportive community going forward, that will help provide care for the needy, education and inspiration for children and adults, and help maintain a connection between our community, Israel and Jews around the world.



In center Tommy Handler and Cayn Halbrecht with their family. (PHOTO CREDIT: AVIVA MALLER PHOTOGRAPHY)

The Stamford Jewish community has offered our family a wonderful source of enrichment, meaningful friendships and important opportunities to serve and we want to do what we can to help ensure that it is sustained after we're gone.

Study Finds AI-based Approach Cuts Mosquito Population 75%

Pilot project in Africa used Zzapp artificial intelligence to identify and help manage mosquito breeding habitats.

BY YULIA KARRA, ISRAEL21C

A pilot study of an Israeli system using artificial intelligence to detect stagnant water bodies that attract malaria-carrying mosquitoes resulted in a 75 % reduction in mosquito numbers, and a 52.5% decrease in malaria incidence, at a cost of 86 cents per person.

Malaria kills 400,000 people yearly, most of whom are children under the age of five.

The Malaria Journal recently published results of the study by Jerusalem-based ZzappMalaria in the Central African country of São Tomé and Príncipe.

The pilot, in cooperation with São Tomé and Príncipe's Health Ministry, was conducted in three of the country's six districts. Using Zzapp's technology, 50 field workers located almost 13,000 water bodies that served as mosquito breeding grounds.

The field workers then treated the identified areas to kill mosquito larvae (larvicide), guided by the Zzapp app to streamline and optimize the operation.

Managing mosquito larvae at the source was once a mainstay of malaria elimination strategy but was abandoned in Africa in favor of insecticidal nets and indoor residual spraying.

However, the study's authors write, development of new technologies and mosquitoes' growing resistance to insecticides has renewed interest in larval source management.

Digital management of larviciding using technologies such as Zzapp's system, the study concluded, should be considered as a cost-effective intervention for urban areas.

The company said the study "further solidifies the role of digitized larviciding

in malaria elimination, showing it as a cost-effective, proven technology. Zzapp's technology has already been deployed in Ghana, Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia, Mozambique, and now São Tomé and Príncipe, protecting over 500,000 people from malaria."

The study authors concluded that digitization of larval source management facilitates all aspects of the operations, "from planning, through execution to monitoring. It eases the work of managers and fieldworkers and presents a clear and reliable picture of operations' progress, expenditure and outcomes, which can easily be shared with stakeholders and



Field workers taking part in ZzappMalaria's pilot in São Tomé and Príncipe. (PHOTO COURTESY OF ZZAPP)

the community."

Zzapp is a subsidiary of Sight Diagnostics, a company that developed Parasight, an AI-based system that has accurately and cost-effectively diagnosed malaria in close to a million tests across 24 countries.

Israeli Disaster Relief Group Sends Team to Assist Maui Rescue Efforts

Specialists are set to help in search and rescue, install communication systems to facilitate coordination and help maintain energy supplies.

BY YULIA KARRA, ISRAEL21C

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Israeli humanitarian aid and disaster relief organization SmartAID has sent a team of specialists to help rescue efforts in Maui after a devastating wildfire scorched areas of the Hawaiian island last week.

The US National Weather Service said Hurricane Dora, which passed south of Maui, was partly responsible for driving the flames across the island. The fire destroyed many homes and forced evacuations. At least 96 bodies have been recovered so far in the search for those still missing.

A team of eight SmartAID specialists already landed in Maui. At least four specialize directly in search and rescue. The others are set to assist in installing telecommunication systems meant to facilitate better coordination among first responders and ensure a seamless provision of aid and various social services.

SmartAID is in the process of establishing a coordination center equipped with laptops and Wi-Fi to assist charities arriving on the island.

Two more team members are scheduled to arrive later this week to help set up solar energy installations. The systems will offer support to medical teams on the ground, who are treating injured civilians.

In order to secure uninterrupted electricity supply, the SmartAID team will also help install Tesla Power Wall Microgrids at five strategic locations.

The team is also distributing crucial relief items, such as hygiene kits, blankets, water filters and clothing.

In addition, SmartAID's German volunteers are preparing to ship to Maui essential high-end cleaning machines to local health institutions, temporary shelters and homes that were damaged but not completely destroyed by the fires.

SmartAID said the teams are working all across Maui, with locations shifting constantly due to movement of people. Many locals don't want to leave the island, wishing to stay close to their homes. Temporary shelters are now being set up by the local government and by the community itself.

"SmartAID is on the ground to support local efforts," Founding Director Shachar Zahavi told ISRAEL21C.

"We believe that the only way to come out stronger is to allow the local community to decide what is best for them, that they lead the way and decide when and where the aid efforts must be concentrated," Zahavi said.



United Jewish Federation

of Stamford, New Canaan, and Darien
Serving Greater Fairfield County

TAPESTRY, 2:0

A NIGHT OF COMMUNAL LEARNING

Saturday night, November 18 at 7 pm

Temple Beth EL, 350 Roxbury Rd.

Israel @ 75: The Past, Present and Future

Registration coming soon

Contact
Eric Ross, Eric@ujf.org for more information.

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United Jewish Federation of Greater Stamford,
New Canaan, and Darien Celebrates

Federation's *Fabulous* Fifty

Join us for a Festive Gala in Celebration of Federation's Fabulous 50!

Recognizing our Past Leadership

Sheila L. Romanowitz and Edith Samers, former Executive Directors

Highlighting Our Future Leaders

Featuring a video presentation of our NextGen Leader

Cocktails & Dinner & Dancing

Thursday, September 7, 2023

6:00pm, Temple Beth El, 350 Roxbury Road, Stamford

Music & Dancing with the Sandy Shmueli Orchestra

Event Chairs: Stephne & Kerrin Behrend, Arlene & Carl Rosen, and Tara & Richard Shapiro



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